

# Accessibility Policy and Action Plan

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School



*Excellence for All  
Service to Others  
Inspired by Christ*

<b>Date of last review:</b>	June 2026	<b>Date of next review:</b>	June 2027
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<b>Approval:</b>	Full Governing Body Panel		

## **Accessibility Policy Statement**

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School promotes a positive attitude towards diversity and is committed to providing a service that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the diverse community it serves. This commitment is therefore reflected in the school's accessibility strategy. The strategy encourages a proactive approach to improving access for pupils with disabilities. The strategy regards the duties as outlined in the SEN and Disability Act 2001 amended Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the main duties including:

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils so they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan should also be read in conjunction with and will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, strategies, documents and plans:

- Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policies
- Kier Facilities Policy
- SEND Information Report
- School Development Plan
- Staff Handbook and Mission Statement

The accessibility strategy outlines the steps the school is taking to improve access for pupils with a disability. The strategy aims to promote a proactive approach to improving access by:

- Ensuring that the rights of pupils with disabilities are upheld.
- Supporting the aims and aspirations of pupils with a disability.
- Improving access to information, curriculum and the environment.
- Creating a positive attitude towards disability and challenge negative perceptions.
- Developing a culture of awareness, acceptance and inclusion.
- It is recognised that many of these steps will benefit all school users.

Disability is defined in law as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on the ability to do normal day to day activities. Pupils with learning difficulties are likely to be protected by the act as well as those with conditions such as autism or ADHD, physical disabilities, mental health conditions and difficulties or impairments with hearing and sight.

## **Consultation, Implementation and Review**

The accessibility action plan has been produced by St John's Catholic Comprehensive School in consultation with staff, young people and children, and specialist advisors. The action plan sets out how we plan to:

- improve the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
- improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils and their families.

The Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility, are attached below. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.

## 1. Action Plan - Environment

### Increasing access to the physical environment

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School will aim to improve access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education. The school will take account of the needs of pupils and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

	Priority	Action	Person Responsible	Outcomes
1.1	Continue to assess the environment for safe mobility for our VI students.	Review Signage and classroom names	SENCO/VI Team/Operations Manager /Kier Facilities	Braille signage reviewed and updated.  Enlarged print signage reviewed and updated
	Application made to ensure large separations in Heart Space have visible Safety edging to ensure the environment has safe mobility for our VI students.	Apply for Yellow Visibility edging on Heart Space	SENCO/VI Team/Operations Manager /Kier Facilities	Application ongoing
1.2	Continued maintenance of the Lift Access.	Review the Lift Access systems including maintenance and appropriate levels of usage and access.	Operations Manager/ Kier Facilities  R2L Team	Maintenance is now completed on the day of fault.  R2L circulate updated student usage of Lift system when changes occur

## 2. Action Plan - Curriculum

### Increasing access to the curriculum

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School will aim to increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum, providing staff training and the way the school prevents SEND based bullying and harassment.

	Priority	Action	Person Responsible	Outcomes
2.1	Continue to review and monitor the effectiveness of Enrichment options	Yearly Consultation with Dept Leaders at KS4	SA/JG/DW	Enrichment activities have widened with greater offer of L1 courses to Year 9.  *Review will continue.
2.2	Sixth Form Foundation Pathway to be reviewed to ensure equal access to all.	Review Foundation Pathway subjects-  Ensure that all Walkways in the EP Computer rooms are accessible to all students.	AR/MS/TS  AR/DW	General numbers of students have increased so offer has expanded to: 2x English Lang GCSE 2X Maths GCSE Finance L2 Travel and Tourism L2 Public Services L2 Employability Skills L2 Extended Project offered
2.3	KS4 Option Pathway to include access to Functional Skills, targeted and personalised accessible qualifications.	SA and DW to review time table allocations and begin the formulation of Access Pathway for all Pre-Key Stage students.	DW/SA/RG	Functional Skills trialled with SET 4 Year 11 students Adaptive offer with students on Reduced TT and EHCPs.
2.4	Careers Pathway to prioritise students in receipt of EHCP	Completion of Supported Employment Training	TS/RGI/ JP/JV	Training completed. Embedded plan for SEND priority of Career meeting and WEX Access Review in Year 9.  Talk for Work Intervention fully embedded into SEND programme.

2.5	Literacy Programme to be reviewed and refined to ensure that all students in KS3, including those with SEND, those who are CiC, PP and others who are disadvantaged, are closely monitored and supported to make progress.	Bedrock whole school Intervention programme purchased and trialled LSA and KS3 Team	SK/RGI/TFI/FH	SK/FH to continue tracking and monitoring.
	Reading and Spelling Programme to be reviewed and refined in our Transition Provision	Spelling and Reading age programme to be researched and agreed specific to Early Readers and Low Prior attainment groups	SK/RGI/TFI/EC	ECH new in Head of Transition post to be supported with her development through meetings and visits booked with STLS and Primary partners.

### 3. Action Plan - Information

#### Ensuring the availability of information to disabled pupils and their families

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School aims to improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. This information should be available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe and be provided by individual schools and the local authority.

	Priority	Action	Person Responsible	Outcomes
3.1	Parent App to be used to continue to improve the effectiveness of communication between school and parents. This may change as and when we join the Trust as it may be that we will migrate to 'Arbor'.	JS to continue review of App and how use can be widened	JS/MB	Use of the APP to be embedded across the school and accessed by all parents.
3.2	Website to be continually reviewed for accessibility in line with Ofsted requirements and Academy guidelines	Website audit to be completed by academy.  Website audit to be completed	MB/DW/JS	Academy review completed.  School improvement

		by school improvement partner.		partner audit completed.  Working party created to action changes.
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