



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Accessibility Policy

Mission Statement

To grow strong in God's love as we "Learn, Care and Pray".

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School:

- We believe that everyone is a child of God
- We place prayer, in its various forms, at the heart of the life of the school community.

The aims of our school are:

- To provide a safe, caring and happy environment, where everyone is nurtured and respected.
- To develop a learning philosophy that will enable our pupils to experience "the beginning of a great educational adventure" with us and continue the journey through lifelong learning.
- To promote mutual respect and positive relationships so that children and adults within the school develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially.
- To create a mutually supporting community which engages governors, staff, parents and pupils in self-evaluation to improve our own performance and that of our colleagues.
- To promote effective and supportive links between the school and home, parish and the wider community.
- To achieve the five outcomes of "Every Child Matters" for all children.

St Mary's Accessibility Policy

1. Introduction

This Policy is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by The Special Needs (SEN) and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in 'Accessible Schools: Planning to Increase Access to Schools for Disabled Pupils', issued by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in July 2002.

2. Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Act 1995 as follows.

'A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.'

Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight and hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions, when they have long term and substantial effect on pupils' everyday lives.

3. Key Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers in accessing the curriculum and to promote full participation in the School community for all pupils and prospective pupils with a disability.

4. Principles

- Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act is consistent with the values of our school and the operation of the School's Special Needs Policy.
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School recognises its duty under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Not to discriminate against pupils in admission or exclusion and provision of education and associated services.
- Not to treat pupils who are disabled less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting pupils who are disabled at a substantial disadvantage.

- In performing their duties, Governors and Staff will have regard to the Disability Rights Commission.
- The School recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effects on his/her ability to carry out normal activities and respect the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School aims to provide all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles. It endorses the Key Principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:
 - Setting suitable learning challenges
 - Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
 - Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

5. Education and Related Activities

Here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School we will take into account the needs of the pupils and visitors 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. We always take advice from outside agencies to ensure that all pupils/staff and visitors can fully participate and engage with all opportunities.

6. Provision of Information

St Mary's Catholic Primary School will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the Local Authority, for providing information about accessibility when requested.

7. Linked Policies/Documents

SEN Policy

Admission Policy