



St Mary & St Joseph

Accessibility Plan

Introduction

At St Mary and St Joseph VC Academy, we are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes toward disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the 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 DFE in July 2002.

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

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

Planning Duty

The school recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by SENDA)

- Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in its admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably.
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- To publish an Accessibility Plan

- St Mary & St Joseph VC Academy is committed to an inclusive curriculum and increasing access to the school's facilities for all by:-

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school

curriculum, expanding the school and wider curriculum as necessary, to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as are pupils without disabilities.

Improving the access to the physical environment of the school, increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated activities.

Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of written information, which pupils who are not disabled receive in written form (this should be done within a reasonable period of time and in formats that take account of views expressed by the pupils or parents about their preferred means of communication).

Principles

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's Equality Plan and SEND policy;
- The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality;
- The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum, 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.
 - ✓ Providing a range of intervention programmes
 - ✓ Encouraging all to take part in physical activity and access to school clubs.

Activities

a) Education & related activities

The school seek and follow the advice appropriate health professionals when necessary.

b) Physical environment (building and grounds)

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises.

School Site

The school has disabled toilet facilities, shower facilities, wheelchair access, disabled car parking

c) Provision of information

The school will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Linked Policies

This Plan is read in conjunction with the following

- ✓ School Development Plan
- ✓ SEND policy
- ✓ Equal Opportunities policy
- ✓ Curriculum Policies.