



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Accessibility Policy

### **Mission Statement**

Following in the footsteps of Jesus; we live, love and learn.

### **Inclusion Statement**

In this school, we are educating our children to:

- know who they are - a special and unique gift from God
- know why they are here - we all have a purpose and responsibility to look after God's world
- work hard and aim high for their future - find and use their God given talents to become everything that God intends them to be

We are a Catholic community, in a modern society, where everyone is equal. As a Catholic School, we strive to reflect the teachings of Christ and live out the Gospel Values in everything that we do. The most loving and merciful Jesus Christ is our role model, and He welcomed everyone. All children are welcome in our school; they and their families become part of our St. Joseph's family. We will love and nurture them, and do our best to help them to become everything that God intends them to be.

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to ensure there are no invisible children here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

<b>Adopted by Governors</b>	<i>(signed on hard copy)</i>
<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>March 2026</b>
<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>March 2027</b>

This Accessibility Policy is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Policy over a prescribed period.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”.

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Policy is structured to complement and support the school’s Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school’s activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

## **Objectives**

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that 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 taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school recognises and values parent’s knowledge of their child’s disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent’s and child’s right to confidentiality.

The St Joseph’s Catholic School Accessibility Policy shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Policy contains relevant and timely actions to:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as any other pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); 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 or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve and maintain 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 within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

The Accessibility Policy relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

This Accessibility Policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Behaviour Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Critical Incident Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

The Accessibility Policy for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility policy and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent policies. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this policy in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Policy for the ongoing period.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Policy will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Policy will be monitored through the Governor Premises Committee

The Accessibility Policy may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

See Appendix for action plan (reviewed annually by HT/SBM/SLT)