



Accessibility Policy

School Responsibility	Mr L Gilhooly
Headteacher	Mr L Gilhooly
Governor	Mrs Charlotte Monkman
Adopted	February 2023
Review	February 2026

ETHOS STATEMENT

The School was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The School is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Leeds in particular:

1. Religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
2. Religious worship is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;

And at all times the school is to serve as witness to the Catholic faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph is our patron saint and he inspires and guides us in our school mission:

- *Each one of us is part of God's family and we are all special*
- *As God's children and family we love one another, pray together, play together and walk hand in hand with God*
- *God is our teacher and we are his gifts. He helps us learn together, work hard and do our best to make our world a better place*
- *With fun, laughter and friendship we celebrate God's love*
- *We respect and care for everyone and for God's wonderful world*

The Accessibility Policy is based on the Catholic ethos of the school in which all members of the community are respected and valued.

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. 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 Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan will be reviewed every 3 years or where operational needs dictate and approved by the Academy Council. At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, the Plan will be monitored by the Headteacher or the SENCO and evaluated by the Academy Council. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, our mission is to offer a distinctive Catholic education for every child, with the Gospel values and virtues at the heart of all we do. Our children are part of our loving Christian school community where every individual feel valued, confident and secure.

Aims and Objectives

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs;
- To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils, staff and other members of the school community with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.
- Improve the delivery of information on different disabilities to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind. 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 adhering to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school. The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request. Our Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipates the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. Our school's complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, this procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

Legislation and Guidance

This document meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled 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 undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

St. Joseph's Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, adapting the curriculum as necessary. This includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools' visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010).

- 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;
- Where needed, adapt the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include adaptations to 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.

Current Good Practice

We gather information about any disability or health condition in early communications with parents/carers or preschool settings of children who are new to school. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided. Physical Environment There are no areas of the school to which disabled pupils have no access at the moment. There are parts of the school building where disabled pupils may have limited access to. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extracurricular activities present particular challenges, for example lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, afterschool clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible.

Curriculum

Through planning for individual need, we aim to provide as inclusive an approach as practically possible. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible. We seek advice and support from the relevant professionals in order to ensure that we have made adequate and reasonable adjustments.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available as needs are identified to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is provided in a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff as needed.

Access Audit

The school is a one storey building. All entrances to the school have doors fitted to accommodate a wheelchair. The main entrance features a secure lobby, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. The school has a staff car park and use of the church car park for visitors. There are disabled toilet facilities available in the hygiene suite in the school hall. This is fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. There is a shower in this room too. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

Management, coordination and implementation and review

- We consult with other professionals and services when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- The Academy Council and Senior Leadership Team work closely with the Local Authority.
- We work closely with parents to consider their children's needs.
- The policy is reviewed every 3 years and/or as children's needs change.
- We make links with other schools to share best practice through regular SENDCo network meetings and other communications as needed. Complaints The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. If there are any complaints relating to the provision for pupils with access needs these will be dealt with in the first instance by the Headteacher, The SEND governor or chair of academy council may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.

Action Plan

Aim 1: To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum. Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability, medical condition or other access needs.

Provision may include: Liaison with specialists, CPD for staff, a differentiated curriculum, specialist resources to support learning and access to the curriculum, range of support staff including trained teaching assistants and access arrangements in place for statutory testing.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To liaise with pre-school providers to prepare for the new intake of children into Reception each year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	May to July annually	Headteacher; EYFS Leader and teachers	Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school
To liaise with educational establishments to prepare for the intake of new children who transfer within year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	Ongoing as need arises	Headteacher SENCo	Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school
To review policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing	SLT and all teaching staff	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure
To establish and maintain close liaison with parents	To ensure collaboration and information sharing between school and families.	Ongoing	SLT and all teaching staff	Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning
To establish and maintain close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with additional needs	To ensure collaboration between all key personnel	Ongoing	SLT/SENCo, all teaching staff and outside professionals	Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning
To include pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs as fully as possible in the wider curriculum including trips and residential visits as well as extra-curricular provision	Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual children. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.	Ongoing	SLT, SENCo and all teaching staff, extracurricular service providers and educational visits settings	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made

Aim 2: To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
Improve the physical school environment	The school will take account the needs of pupils with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting and colour schemes, clear signage and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SLT, Academy Council	Evidence that appropriate considerations have been made wherever physical school improvements are carried out.
Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with disability, medical condition or other access needs	Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual pupils. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.	Ongoing	SLT, SENCo, all teaching staff	As full as possible inclusion for all pupils. Safe evacuation in an emergency.

Aim 3: Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.	Create and offer information in alternative formats Access arrangements are considered and put into place for statutory testing	Ongoing	SLT, teachers, admin team and SENCo	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made
Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for parents with a disability, medical condition or other access needs so as they can fully support their child's education	Adopt a proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of parents and make reasonable adjustments where possible	Ongoing	Whole school team	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made, so that parents can fully support their children in their education.

Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessment policy
- Equality information and objectives statement for publication
- Health and safety policy
- Special educational needs (SEN) information report
- Admissions policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

Monitoring

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored in line with the school's monitoring and reviewing of school policy procedures.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Miss Wilkinson and Mr Gilhooly who are the school's lead teachers on this issue.

Appendix 1: Accessibility Audit

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of Floors	School has an area with 4 steps leading to KS1 and Reception class. School is a single-story building.	Annual maintenance check of stairs.	SLT	Annually Summer
Corridor Access	All corridors are accessible for wheelchairs and wide enough to manoeuvre.	Corridors to be tidy and free from obstruction All s	All school staff	Ongoing
Fire Alarms	Auditory and visual alarm systems in place	Annual maintenance of alarm	SLT	Annually
Entrances	Entrance is wide enough for wheelchair access	Entrance to be tidy and free from obstruction	All school staff	Ongoing
Disabled Toilet	Disabled toilet is clear of clutter	Toilet to be checked for clearance space	Premises staff	Daily
Emergency Escape Routes	Labelled well and clearly displayed throughout the school. Fire evacuation plan in place.	Continue to ensure signs are maintained. Alarms checked	Site Supervisor/ SLT	Half term Weekly Fire Check