



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
*To lead those in our care to grow in their faith
and to benefit from an enriching education*

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN POLICY

Principles

“You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.”

Leviticus 19:14

St Thomas More Catholic School is committed to inclusion as stated in our school mission statement: *“To lead those in our care to grow in their faith and to benefit from an enriching education”*.

As a school we are committed to providing premises that are suitable and sufficient for all educational purposes thereby giving access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all students, irrespective of special need or disability. The Governing Body supports the principles outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and is supportive of widening access. Consequently it seeks to work jointly with the Local Authority and others to:

1. Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum and take public examinations;
2. Improve the physical environment so that disabled pupils can take better advantage of education benefits, facilities and services;
3. Improve the quantity and quality of information provided to disabled pupils and their parents and carers.

As a school we will audit our accessibility to improve access to the curriculum for students with special needs and disabilities. The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of professionals working in education to ensure barriers to learning and barriers to progress are reduced and enable pupils to reach their full potential. This Plan operates alongside the school’s Special Educational Needs and Disability policy and is consistent with it in terms of principles and approaches to resourcing.

The school will actively seek to improve access to services in the ways set out below and through making reasonable adjustments. We will maintain an action plan as part of the overall School Management Plan which sets out the steps the school will take to achieve this. The Accessibility Action Plan will be reviewed annually and updated to take account of improvements made, future resource availability and changing needs.

We will ensure the curriculum is differentiated to meet the learning needs of students with SEN and disabilities and that target setting is effective and appropriate for these students. We will make available written material usually provided to all students, in an appropriately presented form to SEN and disabled students, e.g. pictorial and oral formats. We will also ensure that classroom organisation is planned to maximise learning opportunities.

We will seek to:

- Manage and improve the physical environment of the school buildings and grounds to meet the needs of a range of disabled students currently on roll and prospective students;
- Establish a culture of mutual trust and respect between all members of St Thomas More Catholic School, making reasonable adjustments to enable better access for the disabled;
- Build a community that celebrates achievement at all levels.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

This policy was reviewed on 29 November 2005

This policy was reviewed on 16 January 2008

This policy was reviewed on 22 October 2008

This policy was reviewed on 5 October 2009

This policy was reviewed on 4 October 2010

This policy was reviewed on 12 November 2013

This policy was reviewed on 29 April 2014

This policy was reviewed on 1 December 2015

This policy was reviewed on 11 December 2018

St Thomas More Catholic School is part of The Cardinal Hume Academies Trust