



# Accessibility Policy 2020-2021

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## Statement of Intent

The Catholic High School, Chester is committed to taking all steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage and works closely with pupils with disabilities, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove any potential barriers to their learning experience. The school is active in promoting an inclusive positive environment by ensuring that every pupil is given equal opportunity to develop socially, to learn and to enjoy school life. The school continually looks for ways to improve accessibility within the school through data collection, parent questionnaires and discussions.

This policy must be adhered to by all staff members, pupils, parents and visitors.

Signed by:

Headteacher

Date:

Chair of Governors

Date:

# 1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education Act 1996
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- DfE (2015) 'Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years'

This policy will be used in conjunction with the following school policies and procedures:

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy Equality Statement objectives

Admissions Policy

Behaviour for Learning Policy

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy Anti-bullying Policy

Health and Safety Policy

## 2. Definition

A person is defined as having a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Equality Act 2010 means that schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership.

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

Staff members will act in accordance with the school's Accessibility Policy and at all times.

The headteacher, in conjunction with the Trustees and Governing Body, will create an

Accessibility Plan with the intention of improving the school's accessibility.

The Trustees and Governing Body will be responsible for monitoring the Accessibility Plan.

The full governing board will approve the Accessibility Plan before it is implemented.

All staff members are responsible for ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any pupil, parent or colleague.

The headteacher will ensure that staff members are aware of pupils' disabilities and

medical conditions where necessary.

During a new pupil's induction, the headteacher will establish whether the pupil has any disabilities or medical conditions which the school should be aware of.

The headteacher is responsible for consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding pupils with disabilities arise.

The SENCO will work closely with the headteacher and governing board to ensure that pupils with SEND are appropriately supported.

Designated staff members will be trained to effectively support pupils with medical conditions.

## 4. Accessibility Plan

All our pupils, staff and visitors should feel valued, cared for, listened to and encouraged to challenge themselves to be the best they can. It is our aim to reduce and eliminate barriers to the curriculum, fuller aspects of school life and the school environment for pupils and prospective pupils, staff, parents and visitors with a disability. Whilst we are aware that our building is over 60 years old and presents certain restrictions and constraints with regard to disability access, it is our aim to be as inclusive as possible. The Catholic High School, Chester has adopted this Accessibility Plan in line with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy with the aim of ensuring that our school is socially and academically inclusive, that all pupils have access to a full curriculum and that all pupils are appropriately challenged.

Here, we outline how we will endeavour to promote disability equality for all disabled pupils, staff, parents, trustees, governors and visitors to our school, over the next three years.

The Accessibility Plan will be structured to complement and support the school's Equality Statement objectives, as well as the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy.

The school's Accessibility Plan demonstrates how access will be improved for pupils with disabilities, staff, parents and visitors to the school within a given timeframe. The plan has the following key aims:

- To increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum
- To improve and maintain the school's physical environment to enable pupils with disabilities to take advantage of the facilities and education on offer
- To improve the availability and delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities

The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three-year period ahead of the next review date, which will be in March 2024

It is not feasible to undertake all the plans / works during the lifespan of the Accessibility Plan, some items will roll forward into subsequent plans.

The Accessibility Plan will be used to measure the necessity of making reasonable adjustments in order to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan will be used to advise other school planning documents and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes.

Both the Accessibility Policy and the Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The school will provide adequate resources for implementing plans, ensuring pupils are sufficiently supported.

## 5. Equal Opportunities

The school strives to ensure that all existing and potential pupils are given the same opportunities.

The school is committed to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness.

Staff members will be aware of any pupils who are at a substantial disadvantage and will take the appropriate steps to ensure the pupil is effectively supported.

The Accessibility Plan will detail any barriers which are hindering the opportunities for pupils with SEND. The aim of the plan is to take appropriate measures in order to overcome these barriers, allowing all pupils equal opportunities.

Wherever possible, teaching staff will adapt their lesson plans and the curriculum to allow all pupils to reach their full potential and receive the support they need.

The school will ensure that all extra-curricular activities are accessible to all pupils and make reasonable adjustments to allow pupils with SEND to participate in all school activities.

## **6. Admissions**

The school will act in accordance with the Admissions Policy.

The school will apply the same entry criteria to all pupils and potential pupils.

The school will support pupils with SEND by making any reasonable adjustments necessary during entry exams, e.g. publishing exam papers in a larger font.

The school will strive not to put any pupil at a substantial disadvantage by making reasonable adjustments prior to the pupil starting at the school.

All pupils, including those with SEND, will have appropriate access to all opportunities available to any member of the school community.

Information will be obtained on future pupils in order to facilitate advanced planning.

Prospective parents of pupils with an EHCP and other identified SEN students have an enhanced transition programme.

## **7. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or when new legislation or guidance concerning equality and disability is published.

The governing board and headteacher will review the policy in collaboration with the SENCO.

## The Catholic High School Accessibility Plan 2021-2024

### 1. Improving access to the curriculum

Current good practice:

- There are established procedures for the identification and support of pupils with SEND in place at the school
- Within our school, teachers deliver lessons that are differentiated, varied in pace and content and suited to the needs of the students
- All students follow a broad and balanced curriculum, with regularly reviewed intervention sessions to minimise reductions
- Successful development of the year 7 nurture group, with a focus on providing year 6 catch up support in literacy and numeracy
- Academic progress is tracked for all pupils, including those with a disability
- Teacher knowledge and understanding about disabilities is good, with continued CPD for all staff
- Pupil passports for students with an EHCP or for specific higher need SEND students which outline specific areas of need, support strategies and targets for students with an EHCP or high need SEND students. This is shared with teaching staff
- Pupil voice is used for students with SEND to gather information about specific needs and support strategies on an individual basis
- Effective target setting using pupil passports or intervention logs, reviewed on a termly basis
- Resources are tailored to the needs of pupils who require support to access to the curriculum, for example large print reading books, enlarged worksheets, access to coloured overlays, specialist resources such as subject specific equipment for VI students
- Excellent pastoral care, including effective SEMH support ensure pupils make academic progress
- Educational activities are attended by all students in school, including those with SEND
- Use of ICT resources to support specific curriculum areas e.g. literacy packages
- Classrooms are organised so that they promote the participation and independence of all students
- Alternative learning environment provided for students with specific needs (trinity and the Autism Resource Base)

- Advice from outside agencies is followed, where appropriate, to allow all pupils to reach their full potential
- Physical Education lessons will be adapted, wherever possible, to allow pupils with disabilities to participate in lessons.
- Teaching Assistants are deployed to work primarily alongside the classroom teacher to support students with SEND, although will implement specific literacy, numeracy, speech and language and social skills programmes to suit the needs of students
- Effective, well established communication links promotes positive parent - school relationships



Objectives – what needs to be done	How will this be achieved?	Person responsible	When	Cost	Success criteria	Review date
Curriculum is reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of all students	<p>Curriculum audit and review by CLLs' to ensure that it is accessible for all students</p> <p>Department meeting agenda and planning time</p> <p>Sharing good practice from differentiation INSET within department meetings</p>	SENCO CLLs AHT	By July 2021	Low	<p>Curriculum continues to meet the needs of all pupils</p> <p>SLT and teaching staff are aware of the accessibility gaps in the curriculum</p> <p>Specific tracking of EHCP / SEN K pupils to monitor progress to ensure students make progress in line with their abilities</p>	July 2022
Examples of curriculum resources including people with disabilities	<p>New resources to incorporate examples of people with disabilities or with consideration of disability</p> <p>Assessment of curriculum plans</p> <p>Development of displays within the student support area to promote equality</p>	CLL SENCO	By July 2022	Low	People with a disability are represented as equal throughout school	July 2022

<p>A CPD programme is regularly reviewed to ensure that all staff have an awareness of a range of SEND needs and the impact of these conditions on health, learning and emotional well-being, including strategies that can be used to support such pupils</p>	<p>Whole school staff awareness training as appropriate including supporting students with autism, ABI, differentiation and supporting students with SEMH needs, supporting students with HI needs and use of associated technology</p>	All staff	Ongoing	Low - medium	<p>Pupils and their families feel supported and their needs understood</p> <p>Pupils with SEND continue to achieve in line with their ability</p> <p>Teachers and support staff are confident in meeting the needs of pupils with healthcare needs and know how to support them.</p> <p>Staff are aware of the importance of mental health in supporting pupil progress.</p>	Annually
	<p>Induction programme for new staff to inform school specific procedures to support students with SEND</p> <p>Pupils with healthcare needs will continue to be supported with an Individual Healthcare Plan in line with the 'Supporting pupils with a medical condition' policy</p> <p>Individual student cases will be identified and strategies shared. This includes support from external agencies and professionals</p> <p>TA's invited to attend department meetings to share good practice</p> <p>SISE observations and learning walks focuses on SEND progress and support, including the effective use of TA's</p> <p>Continue to regularly update and share the SEND register and Medical Needs registers (combined to form the Disability Register)</p>	<p>SENCO</p> <p>SENCO</p> <p>SENCO / TA</p> <p>CLLs</p> <p>SENCO</p> <p>SENCO</p>			<p>Updated provision map and resources shared effectively with pastoral staff</p> <p>Use of EBSN toolkit to identify and support students who are at risk of low attendance and to support mental health needs</p> <p>Use of Boxall profile to identify pupil SEMH needs and provide tailored support</p>	

<p>All out of school activities need to be planned in advance to ensure that all pupils with a disability are able to take part</p>	<p>Ensure all school staff are aware of the duties on schools set out within the Equality Act 2010 and the need to provide reasonable adjustments</p> <p>Review all upcoming out of school activities ensuring that sites are suitable for all children with a disability wherever possible. Consider any reasonable adjustments required to enable pupils with a disability to take part in the out of school activities, including travel requirements.</p>	<p>SENCO SLT</p>	<p>Beginning of each academic year</p>	<p>Low - Medium</p>	<p>No out of school activities are planned without consideration of how pupils with a disability will be included</p> <p>Pupils with a disability have access to all school activities such as trips out, residential visits, extended schools activities and sporting events</p> <p>Pupils and their families feel included in out of school activities.</p> <p>Where it is deemed that this is not possible, it must be shown that a thorough risk assessment has been completed and a suitable alternative is offered</p>	<p>Annual review</p>
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## 2. Improving the physical environment

Current good practice:

- The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff members, parents and visitors have equal access to areas and facilities within the school premises.
- The school has 3 toilet facilities suitable for people with disabilities which are fitted with a handrail and an emergency pull cord.
- Where entrances to the school are not flat, a ramp is supplied for access.
- Wide doors are fitted throughout the school to allow for wheelchair access.
- The corridor flooring and lighting is designed to support those who are visually impaired.
- Two disabled parking bays
- Highlighting tape has been added on all thresholds and steps and yellow paint on edges of pathways for pupils with reduced vision there is good lighting throughout school, making use of natural light where possible and reducing glare through the use of blinds in classrooms
- All floor spaces are kept uncluttered where possible
- The plumbing and heating are regularly serviced and are not too noisy where possible
- Structured and supportive break time and lunchtime activities available for students

Objectives - what needs to be done	How will this be achieved?	Person responsible	When will this be completed?	Cost -low, medium, high	Success criteria	Review date
<p>The environment is adapted to the needs of pupils as required</p>	<p>Continued maintenance of site to allow access by students with a physical disability, including ramp access, paving quality, disabled toilet maintenance, textured staircase surfaces and illumination strips and hazards denoted for the visually impaired. Ensure all adjustments to current building is DDA compliant, where achievable</p> <p>Ensure that when future refurbishments are undertaken actions are considered which</p>	<p>Site staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p>Increased access for pupils with a disability across the whole school, including specialist rooms where applicable</p> <p>School kitchen to be fully utilised by students to support life skills,</p>	<p>July 2024</p>

	<p>would improve access for people with disabilities</p> <p>Consideration of lift access to first floor in main building and electronic door pushes</p> <p>Staff awareness of seating position, clutter free classroom environment to suit the needs of a student with a physical disability</p> <p>Purchase of specialist equipment to suit the needs of individual students e.g. padded chairs with arm rests and stable padded science stools</p>	<p>All staff</p> <p>SENCO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing through professional advice</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>possible relocation to the student support</p> <p>All staff aware of how to support students with a physical disability within the school</p> <p>All students with a disability have equal access to all subjects where possible</p> <p>Evacuation plan for specific students in the event of a fire alarm</p>	<p>Annually</p>
Continued environment for students with a visual impairment	Continued site improvements as detailed on the environmental audit supplied by the VI team including	Site staff SENCO	Annually	Medium – High	School is accessible for students with a Visual Impairment	Annually

### 3. Making written information more accessible

Current good practice:

- Our website is compatible with W3C accessibility recommendations.
- Modification of materials in large print for students as required
- Regular communication, training and implementation of advice from outside agencies e.g. hearing and vision support services
- Where appropriate, social stories are used to explain school rules to students
- Large print versions of all school information is available by request
- Use of ICT resources to enlarge information and support learning
- Use of 'blue screen' setting on the computer screen, coloured exercise books, worksheets and overlays for children with visual stress or dyslexia
- Use of reading rulers in class
- Use of dyslexic friendly font by staff
- Visual timetable available for specific students

Objectives – what needs to be done	How will this be achieved?	Person responsible	When will this be completed?	Cost – low, medium, high	Success criteria	Review date
Ensure that written information is accessible to students with visual impairments	<p>Provide written information in alternative formats where required using a clear layout, suitable font and colour</p> <p>Install and maintain window blinds to reduce glare in classrooms</p> <p>Use of specialist equipment to support students in lessons</p>	<p>Teachers, support staff</p> <p>Site staff</p> <p>SENCO, TA's</p>	<p>Ongoing July 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>All advice from VI team continues to be actioned with the necessary equipment purchased and training implemented where necessary</p> <p>Students with a VI make good progress in lessons, in line with their ability</p>	<p>July 2021-4</p> <p>July 2022</p> <p>July 2021-24</p>
The availability of written information in accessible formats needs to be reviewed, starting with content on the school's website	<p>Audit of delivery information procedures, including website information seeking advice from external professional where appropriate</p> <p>All written information available to pupils and their parents will be considered in detail by the SLT, parent links and the school council.</p>	SENCO AHT	Ongoing	Medium	<p>All future written information is designed with the specific needs of disabled pupils, parents, staff and visitors in mind</p> <p>Provision of 'easy to read' website</p>	July 2022

Approved by the Trustees and Governing Body:

To be reviewed March 2024, unless legislation changes dictate