



## St Mary's Catholic School Accessibility Plan 2025 - 2026

St Mary's Catholic School is housed in newly built accommodation for around 1,400 students. The site and school were designed and built to meet the needs of all students, staff and visitors, ensuring accessibility to all areas and appropriate physical provision for learning.

### Rationale

This plan has been created and adopted to meet national regulations as stated in the Equality Act 2010 and the SEND Code of Practice.

### Definition

A disability is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as follows:

"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". Physical or mental impairment includes sensory impairments and also hidden impairments. 'Substantial' means 'more than minor or trivial'. 'Long-term' means has lasted or is likely to last more than 12 months.

The broad definition includes students with a wide range of impairments, including learning disabilities, dyslexia, autism, speech and language impairments, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), diabetes or epilepsy, where the effect of the impairment on the student's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities is adverse, substantial and long-term. All those with cancer or surviving cancer; HIV or Multiple Sclerosis are now included from the point of diagnosis.

A significant number of pupils are therefore included in the definition.

St Mary's Catholic School understands and fulfils its duty:

- Not to treat any disabled students or students with a special educational need less-favourably or unfairly.
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled students at a substantial disadvantage.
- Not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions, exclusions and/or provision of education and associated services.
- To publish an Accessibility Plan.

### Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to ensure that the needs of all students are understood and addressed to ensure that all students and staff here at St Mary's are included in all aspects of school life. We aim to ensure inclusivity throughout our school community, including access to all areas of our building and full access to all areas of our curriculum and wider programmes of opportunity. We want all students and young people to be happy and fulfilled here at St Mary's. We recognise that students who have special educational needs and disabilities can be disadvantaged if needs are not successfully met. Therefore, meeting needs well will develop the rate of progress, involvement and inclusion within society. This will help students with special educational needs and disability achieve more as individuals. By narrowing the gap in achievement this will in turn reduce inequality and allows our community to benefit from the significant contribution that all students and their families make to society as a whole. We are proud of all students who attend St Mary's and we strive to develop all students' God-given gifts and talents within a nurturing and inclusive environment.

## **Our Plan**

St Mary's Catholic School aims to:

- Continue to develop the physical environment of the school to ensure disabled students have full benefit to education, facilities and services provided. Due to the design and build of the school, disabled students have full access to all areas of the school site, with lift access to the first and second floor, suitable access to all classrooms, corridors and yards as well as disabled toilets within each wing of the school. St Mary's Catholic School will take into account the needs of all students and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises.
- Continue to ensure all students will be provided with a broad and balanced curriculum which fits their needs. There will be appropriate scaffolding of the curriculum to take into account different learning styles and preferences. Any barriers to learning will be overcome so the curriculum is accessible to all.
- Continue to develop the availability of accessible information to students, parents and visitors with special educational needs and disabilities. The school will continue to work with external agencies, the Local Authority and other relevant stakeholders to ensure accessibility of information remains suitable and appropriate.

## **Review**

Accessibility action planning forms part of St Mary's Catholic School's annual development planning. It will be updated to take account of improvements made, future resource availability and changing needs in the target areas. Accessibility action planning aims:

- To continue to review St Mary's Catholic School's Accessibility Plan.
- To continue to review St Mary's Catholic School's SEND Policy.
- To review St Mary's Catholic School policies, procedures and facilities when they are likely to affect both current and prospective students who are disabled/have special educational needs.
- To make decisions with a view to continuing to develop the accessibility of education in its many aspects, for current and prospective students with special educational needs and disabilities, by means of reasonable adjustments and to implement, evaluate and continue to review the effectiveness of any measures taken.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring is essential to ensure that students with special educational needs and disabilities are fully able to access the curriculum and all aspects of school life.

We will monitor the following:

- Admissions
- Achievement
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Celebration of Student Success
- Curriculum
- Transition between different Key Stages.
- Sixth Form Provision and Post-16 Destinations
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Pastoral Support

*The above Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy and SEND Policy which can all be found on the school's website.*