



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Accessibility Plan Policy

Accessibility Plan Policy 2016-2018

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the plan is to show how Holy Cross Catholic High School (HCCHS) intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for all pupils, staff, parents and visitors, regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

- This Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
Improve access to the **physical environment** of the school, adding any specialist facilities where possible. This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
- Increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary, to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as able-bodied pupils are. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in extra-curricular activities, leisure or cultural activities, or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors, including those who speak English as an additional language

This plan will recognise the need to continue to raise awareness for staff and Governors on disability issues, with reference to the Equality Act 2010. HCCHS aims to treat all stakeholders favourably and, wherever possible, takes reasonable steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage. The school aims to work closely with disabled pupils, their families, and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove or minimise any potential barriers to learning. The school is active in promoting positive attitudes to disabled people in the school, and in the planning to increase access to education for all disabled pupils. Information about our Accessibility Plan will be available on the school website and / or on request from the Headteacher's PA. It will also be monitored by the Governing Body.

Contextual Information

Currently, the majority of the school building is inaccessible for a person in a wheelchair. The playground and outside areas are mostly flat and accessible, although the playing fields may prove problematic for some wheelchairs/ specialist equipment.

The school is currently undergoing a significant development, with an extension to incorporate new classrooms and dance and drama facilities. By September 2017, this block will be completed and will be fully accessible. A new lift was installed in the autumn term 2016, which provides access to one half of the first floor.

The current range of disabilities at HCCHS:

The school has children with a limited range of disabilities, including Autistic Spectrum Condition and serious medical conditions such as Diabetes and Asthma. When children enter the school with specific disabilities, the school contacts relevant professionals for assessment, support and guidance. Staff are offered training from a school nurse in supporting these children. All medical information is collated and available for staff. We have competent First Aiders, who hold up-to-date First Aid certificates. All medication is kept in a central safe and secure place, which is accessible by First Aiders and staff members. Medicines are administered on the advice of the GP, in consultation with parents.

Curriculum Access

Item/Area	Recommendation	Impact	Timescale	Review
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement the preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support learning in an individual classroom	Increased access to the curriculum	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Extra-curricular/ Enrichment activities	Staff running clubs to ensure access is available through the appropriate provision of resources and adequate forward planning	All pupils able to access extended services and to participate in school clubs	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
School trips and residential visits	Thorough planning and risk assessments to ensure trips/ residential visits are accessible for all. Advanced visits by trip visits as necessary	Trips and visits are accessible for all pupils with learning or physical difficulties	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Differentiation in teaching	Director of Additional Needs to monitor quality and provision of SEND pupils Staff training needs to be identified and access CPD as and when necessary Whole staff training and regular updates through Pastoral Briefing	Equal curriculum access for all pupils	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
		Staff competent and confident to meet the needs of all learners	Ongoing	Sept 2017
Teaching and Learning resources, methods of communication	Teaching staff and DOAN to ensure use the use of resources which enable all pupils to fully access the curriculum	Curriculum is fully accessible and meets the needs of all learners	ongoing	Sept 2017

Written Information/Communication

Item/Area	Recommendation	Impact	Timescale	Review
To ensure that all stakeholders in the school community can access information	The school will strive to be aware of the services available through the LA, for converting written information into alternative formats	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats, when required, for individual purposes	Ongoing/ as required	Sept 2017

Physical Environment

Item/Area	Recommendation	Impact	Timescale	Review
Many areas within school are not suitable for the use of a wheelchair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Widen door to Science Lab 4 2. Widen door to Languages Room (adjacent Lab 6) 3. Widen door to 2nd Ground Floor Languages Room 4. Widen external door to Workshop 5. Widen internal door between Workshop and adjacent ICT Room 6. Widen door to 1st Floor ICT Room 7. Widen two doors from corridor to 1st Floor Art Room 8. Convert 1st Floor Staff WC to Disabled WC 9. Provide carpet to existing ramp at First Floor 10. Convert Staff WC's at Ground Floor to Disabled WC 11. Provide hold open devices to six pairs of double doors in corridors at Ground Floor 12. Provide electronic door opening releases to 12 external fire exits 13. Provide electronic opening controls to front entrance doors 14. Provide ramps to 10 external doors including fire exits 15. Provide drop down work stations to Food Tech and Technology Room 16. Install 2 EVAC chairs at RSLA 1st Floor stair cases 17. Provide temporary moveable ramp to flight of steps to Sports Hall 	Bottom floor of school buildings will be accessible	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
First floor of building is inaccessible to wheelchair users	Provide lift to first floor (LCC)	Subjects taught on the first floor will be accessible	Nov 2016	Sep 2017