



St Bede's Catholic High School

Accessibility Plan

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.” John, 15:5

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher, and Governing Body of the School. No amendments can be made without their express instruction and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review date: March 2024

Next review date: September 2026

Reviewed by: Leadership team

As a school we are committed to providing premises that are suitable and sufficient for all educational purposes and give access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all students, irrespective of special need or disability. St. Bede's School's Governing Body supports the principles and aims of the Local Authority's Access Strategy for Schools and Colleges and will work jointly with the LA and the Arch Diocese to implement agreed objectives to meet targets for improving access to schools and colleges.

This Plan underpins the LA's Strategy for planning to improve access at a local level, by committing the school to a programme of actions, evaluation and review which will improve access to the curriculum for students with special needs and disabilities. This Plan operates alongside the school's SEND 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 will maintain an action plan which sets out the steps the school will take to achieve this. The action plan will be reviewed annually and updated to take account of improvements made, future resource availability and changing needs in the target areas:

- Ensure the curriculum is differentiated to meet the learning needs of students with SEND and that target setting is effective and appropriate for these students. Make available the written material usually provided to all students in an appropriately presented form where necessary, including pictorial and oral formats. Ensure that classroom organisation is planned to maximise learning opportunities. These objectives will be reviewed annually by the SENCO.
- 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. Annually, steps and handrails will be painted to support the needs of our visibly impaired visitors and pupils. A rolling programme of classroom refurbishment will continue, taking into account the DDA requirements of pupils, visitors and staff.
- Resources will be provided to stakeholders where necessary to enhance their working environment to help deliver the curriculum in a way that supports their disabilities.
- A programme of refurbishment on the ground floor will continue to enhance the provision for pupils and stakeholders who are wheelchair users. Additional disabled access is now available to the canteen for internal and external users. A Learning Support Base has been created on the ground floor to support pupils with additional needs and mobility issues.
- A Disabled toilet is available with access from the main hall and drama studio. This will enhance provision for disabled stakeholders and visitors to the school.
- The catering department will continue to update Allergen information to all stakeholders both in school and on the school website. Stakeholders will be able to check ingredients in accordance with food standards.
- Software will be purchased to enhance the learning of specific students when required in order to encourage progress, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Our ICT Network manager is readily available to support requests to research suitable software.
- Continue to enhance the facilities within our Sports Hall to meet the needs of disabled users both on the first and ground floor levels. A lift provides access to a first floor viewing platform and air conditioned classroom facilities. These facilities are available to community users outside of school hours.
- A ground floor Science classroom and associated prep room enables staff and users to work on one level to support the needs of staff and pupils.
- A food and technology classroom on the ground floor provides facilities which will be accessible for all stakeholders and available for community users outside of school.

- Enhance the security of the site offering a safe environment for all stakeholders to include updating and extension of the CCTV system. Areas of entry and exit will be painted as required to indicate pupil footpaths, disabled parking, and reserved areas to drop off for deliveries and parcels.
- To establish a culture of mutual trust and respect between all members of the St Bede's community.
- To build a community that respects the celebration of achievement at all levels.

Date: March 2024

To be reviewed: September 2026