

Sacred Heart RC Primary School



Kingsway, Rochdale
Lancashire
OL16 4AW



Accessibility Plan – April 2015

- L**earning and living by following Jesus' example in the Gospels.
- O**ffering a safe, healthy and stimulating environment in which to grow.
- V**aluing and respecting everyone, including our wider community.
- E**mpowering children to achieve and to meet life's challenges.

Introduction:

The SEN and Disability Act 2001, extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, (DDA) and was further enhanced and modified by the Equality Act 2010 to cover education. These acts were introduced with the aim of ensuring that all disabled people have an opportunity to participate equally in society. Under the Equality Act, Disability is a specific, “Protected Characteristic”.

Responsibilities for the school under these acts with respect to disability are largely as follows:

- Not to treat disabled pupils/adults less favourably for a reason related to their disability
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils

As well as our pupils and staff we must make sure that other people who visit or use Sacred Heart RC Primary school can use our facilities with ease. We want to provide an accessible and comfortable pace for everyone who uses it.

This Plan sets out the Schools proposals to increase access to education for disabled pupils in three areas and is valid for the period April 2015-April 2018.

- To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum

- To improve the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.
- To improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

Current

Arrangements:

Sacred Heart RC School Accessibility Policy – Working together

We will not presume to understand the best way to provide for different needs. Our Accessibility Policy encourages people to discuss with us disability consideration with respect to their child or themselves, such that individual plans can be put in place. This will ensure that they can be given the most effective opportunity and access. However, it remains our policy to have due regard to accessibility for all with respect to any decisions made affecting accessibility and the policies therein.

Physical Access to buildings and classrooms

The physical access to Sacred Heart RC School is eased as it is a single level building and has ramps to the entrance and rear. The building also incorporates an accessible toilet.

The garden area and playground are also fully accessible with no restrictions as these are level with the main school building.

Evacuation Procedures

The school's fire and evacuation policy lays down basic procedures for the safe efficient evacuation of the school buildings. These procedures can be adapted to meet the specific needs of an individual. Such procedures will be discussed with the pupil and parents and could be set out in the individual plan for the pupil and for those adults with specific needs.

The current evacuation assembly on the school playing field, via an easily accessible tarmac area

Curriculum Access – Teaching and Learning

Our aim is that pupils with disabilities should, as far as possible, have access to a full and broad curriculum, similar to that followed by their peers.

We do everything in our power to support pupils with a range of disabilities including, sight and hearing, physical disability as well as learning difficulties of varying degrees. Decisions are to be taken on an individual basis with due regard for a child's needs. Such assessments are carried out within the terms of the schools SEN policy and guidelines on assessing children with Special Educational Needs.

Our teachers understand that pupils have different ways of learning and adapt their lessons to the needs of the individual. The staff are aware that the school can seek additional support for individual children who need specialist help.

Pupils at Sacred Heart RC School have always been able to participate fully in the wide range of activities offered beyond the classroom. This has included:

- Outdoor Education
- Residential visits
- Sports
- Music
- Clubs and activities
- Excursions and trips

Arrangements for play, recreation and other aspects of a child's social development are incorporated into the child's individual education plan. The suitability of any event and the need for additional support is discussed fully with the parents/carers in advance.

Access of Written information

We currently have a varied methodology for communicating the parents, carers and pupils, these include:

- Repeating the information whilst speaking at parent/carer attended assemblies and parents evenings
- Notes we send home with pupils about specific events and projects
- Newsletters each term
- Information from our Web site
- Phoning/texting parents/carers, arranging for translation/translators/parents United worker/other agencies to support when appropriate.

Action Plans:

Item/Issue	Action to be taken	Date planned for completion
Improve car park facilities at present people with disabilities given coned space	Extend car park at front of school	Part of Governor's building plan 2015-2018 Resubmit to Diocese for approval and funding
Continue to review needs of staff who are registered disabled on an annual basis	Ask advice of mediscreen re needs of an individual	Annual review and interim follow up

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