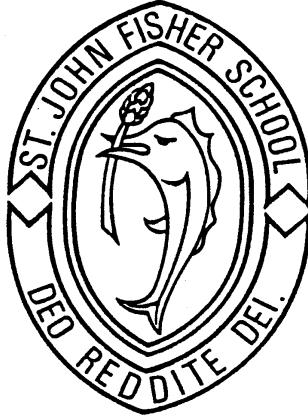


St JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

The Mission statement:

"St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally forming them through Faith, so that they can achieve their aspirations and contribute to their community."

Date of Policy: March 2023

Date of Ratification: Awaiting Ratification with Governors

Date of Review: March 2025

Owner: G. McCaughan

Introduction

St John Fisher Catholic School is committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 regarding disability and developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness.

The governors, and staff of St John Fisher Catholic School recognise their duty in complying with all disability and equal opportunities legislation and commit:

- not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and extra-curricular activities
- not to treat disabled students less favourably
- to take all reasonable steps to avoid putting students with disabilities at a substantial disadvantage
- to publish an Accessibility Plan

Since April 2011, schools have also been bound by a part of the Equality Act 2010 called the Public Sector Equality Duty (also known as the PSED, or simply the “Equality Duty”). This replaces the previous three sets of duties on schools to promote disability, gender and race equality through having equality policies and action plans for these groups and has two parts: the “general” duty and “specific” duties.

The general duty is the overarching legal requirement, which means that schools must consider how their policies, practices and day-to-day activities impact on students and staff. Schools are required to have “due regard” to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations.

The two specific duties for schools which aim to assist them to meet the general duty are:

- To publish information to show how they are complying with the Equality Duty. This must be updated at least annually.
- To prepare and publish one or more specific and measurable equality objective at least every four years.

St John Fisher Catholic School’s Accessibility Plan contains relevant actions that meet the requirements of the Equality Act to:

- Increase access to the curriculum for students with a disability, modifying the curriculum as necessary to ensure that students with a disability are as equally prepared for life as are the able-bodied students. (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010). This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits.
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school. Consider the needs of students, parents, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements to the school. The Accessibility Plan considers how access is to be improved for students with disabilities, staff and visitors to the school’s buildings and grounds, anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

- Improve the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school.

Curriculum

The SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (September 2014) underpins the identification and support of students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at St John Fisher Catholic School. This states that “All teachers are teachers of students with special educational needs.” The Code of Practice clearly acknowledges the importance allocated to the teacher with regards to SEND. That Quality First Teaching is an essential element of addressing and supporting students with SEND in their classes.

The Special Educational Needs Department staff support identified SEND students. SEND staff also work closely with curriculum staff to help differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of these individual students.

Students who may require Access Arrangements for their Public Examinations will be assessed to determine whether they have an impairment that will cause them significant and long-term difficulties. Students are offered a variety of arrangements that will create a ‘level playing field’ and allow them to achieve their full potential: e.g. provision of a Reader, Scribe, Extra Time, Supervised Rest Breaks, Use of IT, or a provision of a smaller room.

The Physical Environment

We regularly monitor and improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which students, adults and members of staff with disabilities can use the school facilities and resources. We do recognise however that the design and layout of the buildings does limit access to certain parts for individuals with mobility issues.

Written Information

St John Fisher Catholic School is committed to improving the delivery of information which is provided in writing to students, parents and other stake holders.

Views of those consulted during the development of the plan

All sections of St John Fisher Catholic Schools community are encouraged to share concerns that can be included in the development of this Accessibility Plan.

The SENCO is consulted about the very specific details of the provision in the school.

All students with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) have an annual review at which the student and their parent/carer(s) are consulted about the provision that the school offers and are able to contribute to any support that may be required.

St John Fisher Catholic School welcomes advice from outside agencies (e.g. Educational Psychologist, Counsellor) in how they may support groups and individual students.