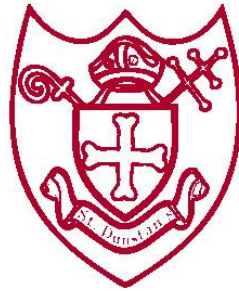



St Dunstan's Catholic School



Accessibility Plan – 2021 - 2025

Policy St D 000 	FGB Next Review	September 2025
	Review Period	4 years
	FGB Ratification	March 2021
	Review Committee	Finance & Resources
	Website Published	March 2021
	Staff Owner	Mr Tehan
	Government/DfE Requirement	Statutory

As a Catholic school, we believe that meeting a child's needs reflect gospel values. The respect for the gifts and needs of each individual pupil is essential, combined with a flexibility of approach.

This is embodied in our mission statement

“As we grow with God, we learn from each other.”

St Dunstan's Catholic School is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children, staff and visitors, and promoting a climate, where children and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.

The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Governing Body every four years. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Headteacher. At St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, the Plan will form part of the Finance and Resources committee and will be monitored by the head teacher and evaluated by the Full Governing Body. The current Access Audit is appended to this document (appendix 1).

At St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

1) The St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. Other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three-year period ahead of the next review date.

2) The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

3) St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

4) St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be continually developed for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to-

- 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 are the able-bodied pupils; (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 schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

5) St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

6) Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

9) Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

10) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Resources Committee

12) The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

13) The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability,
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils,
- Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

Good Practice

We aim to capture any disability or health condition information in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of a survey of parents' views, or in conjunction with a letter home about a parents' evening.

Physical Environment

Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with medical need; there are no parts of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment, following the building redevelopment in 2013.

Curriculum

There are no areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment. In some cases, modifications are made so that children with a physical impairment can participate safely.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff such as school council, parent questionnaire, conversations with parents, conversations with teaching assistants, parent link-worker etc.

Management, coordination and implementation

We will consult with outside agencies for advice when new situations arise regarding pupils or staff with disabilities.

The Governors and Senior Management Team will work closely with the Local Authority and Diocesan advisors.

Appendix 1

Access Audit

- St Dunstan's Catholic school is a 1.5 form entry primary school and nursery built on two levels. Facilities include classrooms, school hall/dining hall, kitchen, meeting areas and working areas for staff.
- The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes that are clearly marked.
- There is an evacuation refuge area on the first floor for wheelchair users and staff/pupils/visitors with impaired mobility.
- Location
- St Dunstan's Catholic School is located on Drayton Road in King's Heath. This is a side road off the High Street where public transport is available.
- Drayton Road does not have a gradient that would make walking difficult.
- The nearest railway station is Yardley Wood Station, which is situated on Highfield Road, a 30-minute or 3-mile walk. Highfield Road has a slight incline.

Parking

- St Dunstan's Catholic School has a small carpark that is not generally available to parents or visitors.
- There is one designated disabled bay inside the school carpark. Parents or visitors that have accessibility issues should telephone the school to advise that they will need to access one of these spaces (0121 4644648). If you have a blue badge this should be displayed inside the car park.
- The car park has a tarmac surface; care should be taken to avoid tripping.
- Wheelchair access is available from the car park into the main school building (via ramp) if we have notice to gain access.
- There is limited on street parking available on Drayton Road. Care should be taken to not park on the school warning signs (yellow lines and zigzags) and since this is a busy road at all hours of the day, care should be taken when accessing or exiting parked vehicles.

Outside Access (Main Entrance)

- The main school entrance is wheelchair accessible.
- Entrance via the main school door allows access to all areas of the ground floor and the passenger lift/staircases.
- All doors allow wheelchair access.
- The front door is electronic, opened using a push button. The internal door from the foyer into the school corridor is opened by hand - if you need assistance, someone from the office will assist you.
- There is no level change from the pedestrian access/car park to the main school entrance.

Outside Access (Car Park)

- We have an accessible entrance from the school car park.
- This entrance has a ramp into school and allows access to the ground floor.
- The door is wide enough to allow wheelchair access.
- The internal door is be opened by hand - if you are unable to do this, someone in the office will assist you.

- There is a level change from the car park into this entrance.

Outside Access (School Hall)

- There is a slight decline from the carpark to this door, accessible by ramp.
- There are double doors from the school hall to the car park that can be opened for wider chairs.
- There is access to the ground floor of the school after accessing the building through this door.

Inside Access

- There is access to the second floor of the school building by passenger lift, for wheelchair users or those with mobility issues that find use of stairs difficult.
- If accessing first floor using passenger lift, all classrooms are on a single level with no steps.
- We have limited capacity for motorised scooters etc inside the building, please telephone the school before your visit for advice, if access is required.
- There are two staircases from the ground floor to the first floor.
- We do not have an installed Hearing Support System for the hearing impaired at St Dunstan's Catholic School.
- Lighting levels are constant and the school is slowly changing all light fittings to be more user friendly.

Classrooms

- Classrooms in St Dunstan's School have single width doors that allow wheelchair access.
- We have no braille signage in the building.
- Classroom furniture is appropriately sized for the age group accommodated in that room.
- Classrooms at St Dunstan's vary in size from large to average size. Pupils and visitors with mobility issues may need assistance.
- We do not have Assistive Listening Devices in school to support pupils with hearing impairments.
- There is an accessible toilet on each floor.

Stairs

- The entire building is accessible by two staircases (two floors).
- There are small sets of 7 - 10 steps and some larger sets. There are landings between each set of steps on both sides of the building.
- All staircases have reflective strips to aid those with visual impairments.
- All staircases have vinyl floor covering.
- All staircases have handrails to support ease of movement.
- All steps are standard depth.

Accessible Toilets

- There are accessible toilets designated for pupil/staff and public use. These are unisex toilets.
- These toilets are not for the sole use of disabled people.
- There is pictorial signage on or near the toilet door.

- There is level access to the accessible toilet from the ground floor and from the first floor.
- A key is not required for the accessible toilet and the door opens outwards.
- There is a standard, level access shower available in the toilet located near the school hall, on the ground floor.

Standard Toilets

- Standard toilets are located on the ground and first floor of the building.
- Staff and visitor toilets are not easily adaptable.
- Pupil's toilets on the ground and first floor, are single sex, there is no door to the toilet area, wash hand basins and cubicles may not be suitable for pupils with additional needs.
- There are no baby changing facilities at St Dunstan's Catholic School.