



CORPUS CHRISTI

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Accessibility Policy

Introduction

Corpus Christi Catholic College is committed to excellence in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, staff members and visitors, including those with disabilities. The experience provided by the College is directed towards the principles of independence, dignity, integration and equal opportunity for all.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

- Not to treat disabled pupils 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.

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'disability' has the same meaning as that given in the DDA and SENDA, reiterated under the Equality Act (2010): 'A person suffers a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal daily activities.'

This Policy sets out the proposals of the School to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

1. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.
2. Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.
3. Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

It is a requirement that the School's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary.

1. OVERVIEW OF CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC COLLEGE

As a secondary level educational establishment, it is the purpose of the School to meet the social, emotional, educational, behavioural, physical and spiritual needs of each child or young person.

Each student admitted to the School may expect to be assisted in developing in these areas to the best of their ability, whatever their needs or disabilities. The School is committed to making reasonable adjustments to the physical environment, curriculum and activities to allow this to happen.

Staff and visitors can also expect to be treated with respect for their individual abilities or disabilities and to have reasonable adjustments made for their needs.

2. REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Reasonable adjustments needed for each student are assessed as/when an individual's personal circumstances or physical or mental abilities become known to the School, or as and when they may change.

3. PHYSICAL BARRIERS

The physical environment of the majority of the School has been assessed in-line with DDA requirements and recommendations undertaken as part of the BSF Project Build 2010-12, with prime consideration given to ensuring all new build areas are fully DDA compliant, including entrances, paths, doorways and corridors, disabled parking areas, disabled lift and toilets.

However, several legacy areas of the School would currently be challenging for students with mobility problems, notably Performing Arts, upper classrooms in Art & Design, and the sub-gym PE area. These are the main areas that require addressing and will be the focus of work in the next three years.

All future physical developments, plans and processes will be monitored to ensure they comply with DDA physical accessibility requirements.

4. ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Staff members are trained and familiar with various assistive devices we have on site or that may be utilised by users with disabilities while accessing our school. These include hearing induction loops and similar audio equipment; toilet and washroom facilities; and emergency alarm systems, evacuation chairs etc.

5. SERVICE ANIMALS

We welcome people with disabilities and their service animals. Service animals are generically allowed in most areas of the school, with the exception of food preparation areas, specific workshops and plant rooms, and some laboratories. Specific arrangements should be made and permission granted by the Head Teacher before access is permitted to these areas.

6. SUPPORT PERSONS

A person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person will be permitted to have that person accompany them on our premises.

7. COMMUNICATION

We will notify users of the Schools accessibility arrangements through an information leaflet available upon entry to the premises.

8. TRAINING

During period 2013-16 the School will develop a programme of relevant training in the needs of people with different disabilities for all staff members.

We would also consider providing more specialised training if it were necessary to meet the specific needs of a pupil or staff member.

Training will include:

- An overview of the DDA and associated legislation.
- How to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities
- How to interact with people with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a service animal or a support person.
- How to use the portable hearing loops, Hygiene Suite, assistance support alarms etc., available on-site that may help with providing support to people with disabilities.
- What to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty in accessing Corpus Christi Catholic College or any part thereof.

9. FEEDBACK PROCESS

Anyone who wishes to provide feedback on the way the School supports people with disabilities can do so via email or telephone, or in person when visiting site.

All feedback requested from the College, including complaints, will be provided in the first instance by the relevant senior teacher or manager, within 21 days.

10. MODIFICATIONS TO THIS OR OTHER POLICIES

Any existing or new policy of Corpus Christi Catholic College that does not respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities will be modified or removed.

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Policy produced by | Kieran Sykes |
| Role | Premises Manager |
| Date last reviewed | June 2018 |
| Date of next review | June 2019 |