

# **St Bede's Catholic College**



## **Disability Access Policy**

# **St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol**

## **Disability Access Policy**

### **Rationale**

As a Catholic College, St Bede's is committed to providing a full curriculum to as wide a range of pupils as possible. We seek to build a supportive, caring community within which all members recognise the dignity, rights, cultures and beliefs of others and work together in an atmosphere of mutual and self-respect. We aspire towards establishing a culture which encourages each one of us to realise our full potential, to make use of our special talents and to strive for the fulfilment that comes from achieving individual excellence.

In an attempt to be inclusive in our approach to our work within our community we must develop our buildings, furniture, educational equipment and books, together with our approach to teaching and learning in order that they give the widest possible access to all pupils.

This disability access plan sets out our approach to meeting our philosophical and statutory commitment to widening educational access within our college.

### **The Equality Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 brings together over 116 separate pieces of legislation into one single Act. Combined, they make up a new Act that provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. It supports schools in avoiding discrimination and promoting equality to supports the agenda of improving attainment and progression for all pupils. Good education and skills are crucial for opening up opportunities and increasing the chance of a successful life. The responsible body for the college is the Governing Body.

### **Purpose of the Plan**

The purpose of the plan is to improve access to all aspects of education in college, systematically and over a reasonable time period, and to remove existing barriers to student learning within our college.

### **To this end we will seek to:-**

- Value all pupils and staff equally.
- Increase the participation of pupils in, and reduce their exclusion from the culture, curriculum, co-curricular and enrichment life of the college.
- Restructure policies and practices in the college so that they respond to the diversity of pupils.
- Reduce barriers to learning for pupils.
- Improve the college environment for the benefit of all those who work within the college.
- Emphasise the role of the college in building community and developing values, as well as increasing achievement.
- Develop an understanding that inclusion in education is integral to inclusion in society.

## **Structure of the Plan**

The Disability Access Plan has 3 distinct but related elements:

- Access to the curriculum.
- The physical access to education and associated services
- The provision of information

## **Access to the Curriculum**

- Provide for pupils a curriculum which is appropriate to their needs and make reasonable adjustments where appropriate.
- Ensure the planning of Educational visits take account of the needs of all pupils.
- Ensure that the curriculum is delivered in such a way that all pupils benefit and learn.
- Increase the knowledge and skills of staff so that pupils of all abilities and disabilities are catered for.
- Widen access to the curriculum to the community beyond the college.

## **Physical Access to Education and Associated Services**

- Have handrails in place to improve access to the building as appropriate.
- Ensure Wheelchair access to curricular areas
- Ensure future building developments are accessible by all.
- Make accessible all aspects of the building and grounds to pupils with mobility, sensory and other impairments within the resources available to us.
- Provide appropriate educational equipment and physical aids so that educational programmes in the college can be accessed by all pupils.
- Future building plans which consist of more than one ground floor will include design for lift facilities.

## **The Provision of Information**

- Provide for pupils and their parents, information about the college and its curriculum in a format that takes account of disabilities or needs, as required.
- Develop technologies which enhance communication between college and community.
- Make available a first line of contact within College for persons who need clarity of information. Within St Bede's this will be the Pupil Support team.

This policy has been drawn up following consultation with Staff and Governors and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Updated December 2016