



St Thomas More Catholic First School

Learning, loving and living together with Christ

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

With the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in October 2005, St Thomas More Catholic First School, in common with all premises offering access to the public in England and Wales, assumed a mandatory obligation to provide easy access to all parts of its premises for people with disabilities, wherever reasonably practicable.

The Act recognises however, that full access is not always reasonably achievable in older existing buildings and therefore states that in these cases people with disabilities should be able to gain easy access into the premises and that the services they require should be made available to them in close proximity to their entry point.

St Thomas More Catholic First School comprises a single story building dating back to the 1970s, with a steep gradient from the main gates up to the entrance of the school and with three changes in floor levels within the main building.

To meet the requirements of the legislation, St Thomas More has:

- Marked a disabled parking space at the top of the main drive by the front entrance.
- Installed an accessible lavatory facility in the main entrance hall.
- Installed a low level reception desk in the main entrance hall.
- Installed a lift to access the hall from the main entrance hall.
- A portable ramp in-situ to exit the hall through the Fire Exit in the event of an emergency.

St Thomas More has a service level agreement with Chadsgrove Outreach to support pupils with physical disabilities and recommendations by them are actioned to ensure inclusion and access to the curriculum, i.e. lower height grab and handrails, changing bed, contrast bands or paint to rails, steps and walls to highlight changes in levels.

Pupils with additional needs have a tour of the school to familiarise them with the layout of the building and to identify any risks.

In 2017/18 the school was successful in securing LCVAP funding to increase accessibility to the school, with the addition of external lighting columns for the car park and handrails to three pathways around the school, i.e. main entrance path, internal footpath and playground path. The work was completed in the spring term 2018.

We plan to further improve accessibility and inclusivity by:

- Installing a single platform-type stair lift at two adjacent flights of steps to link the two lower levels of the building with the majority of the class and other rooms.
- Reconstructing the existing ramp and steps external to the hall.
- Increasing the existing Nurture Room to increase its' area and thereby its' capacity.
- Altering a room to provide suitable accommodation to include accessible toilet, wash hand basin, shower and age-appropriate changing bed facilities for intimate care.
- Providing an induction loop facility to three class bases (one in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2), together with a similar installation in the school hall.