



# Accessibility Plan

# 2016

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The aim of this document is to inform staff of our school's accessibility plan to reduce and where possible eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and participation in the Harrytown Catholic High School community for students and prospective students who have a disability. School will make reasonable adjustments wherever possible to meet the needs of students with SEND.

Accessibility Plan.  
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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Catholic school we intend to put Jesus Christ at the centre of everything we do.

*'I have come that they have life and have it to the full' John 10:10*

Therefore we will strive:

- To live the Gospel.
- To promote excellence and achievement for all.
- To nurture partnerships.

This will be done by;

- proclaiming and living out the faith of the Catholic Church, supporting each other in the shared endeavours of teaching and learning, prayer, worship and charitable works,
- promoting and practising just and caring attitudes and actions towards all persons,
- respecting the unique value of each individual and seeking therefore to respond to the talents and needs of all its members in an environment of praise and celebration, nurturing self-esteem and mutual encouragement,
- ensuring that the most effective opportunities for the education of Pupils are established in all areas of the curriculum,
- pursuing the highest Standards in all we do and by constantly seeking improvements,
- developing and maintaining close co-operation with the Parents who entrust their children to us, with the parishes who also seek the spiritual and religious formation of our young people, with our local associated schools and colleges and with the wider community.

The aim of this document is to inform staff of our school's accessibility plan to reduce and where possible eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and participation in the Harrytown Catholic High School community for students and prospective students who have a disability. School will make reasonable adjustments wherever possible to meet the needs of students with SEND.

This Accessibility Plan considers provision for disabled students as stated in the Equality Act (2010) and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (2014). This plan operates alongside the SEND Policy and is consistent with it in terms of principles and approaches to resourcing

### Definition of Disability

The Equality Act (2010) states that a person has a disability if:

**They have a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.**

Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight and hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions when they have a long-term and substantial effect on the everyday lives of children and young people.

### Principles

Compliance with Equality Act is consistent with the ethos and Mission Statement of Harrytown Catholic High School. In the operation of the School's SEND policy we affirm our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 in the following ways:

1. Not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions or the provision of education and associated activities
2. Not to treat disabled students less favourably
3. To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled students at a substantial disadvantage
4. To publish an Accessibility Plan

In performing their duties and formulating Policies Governors and Staff will give due regard to the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) Code of Practice dated 2014. Harrytown Catholic High School fully recognises and values the unique parental knowledge of their child's disability and the effect of that disability on the ability of their child to carry out some activities commonly and readily carried out by other children of the same age. Harrytown Catholic High School also recognises and respects the right to confidentiality for parents and children. The School provides all students with a broad and challenging curriculum, differentiated and adjusted in accordance with the needs of individual students and their own learning styles. The key principles are:

1. That teaching will set learning challenges that are suitable and demanding
2. That teaching will respond to the learning needs of those being taught
3. That barriers to learning will be identified and addressed positively and directly. This will involve the active participation of staff, students and also parents where necessary.

### **Actions a) Education and Further Activities**

Harrytown Catholic High School seeks support SEN advisers, specialist teaching advisers and health professionals and will continue to seek their advice in supplementing our own specialist staff. b) School

### **Environment**

In planning and implementing improvements, building developments or site improvements Harrytown Catholic High School will take account of the needs of students, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairment.

### **Information Services**

In the design and production of literature and information packs Harrytown Catholic High School will ensure that such publications can be produced in an alternative format when requested or required.

1. A clear arrangement should be known by all staff to ensure that if a disability, specific learning difficulty or significant medical condition is disclosed to them they should then contact the SEND coordinator. They would accurately record the information and within the limits of confidentiality would be responsible for ensuring that it is disseminated to those other staff colleagues who may require it.
2. Staff should be made aware of the resources within the School that are available to them should they feel that a student requires additional assistance.
3. It is helpful to plan for teaching material to be prepared in electronic format so that it can be produced in alternative formats if required.
4. The needs of disabled students should be borne in mind in the planning of curricula and consideration might be given to alternative forms of presentation and assessment.
5. Staff development opportunities will be made available to ensure the teaching practice can meet the learning requirements of individual students.

Policy last reviewed May 2016 Next review date May 2017  
SENCO is Mr Seamus Mannion  
SEND governor is Geraldine O'Sullivan