

The Good Shepherd

Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



Access Statement

Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop our children with active and creative minds,
a sense of understanding and compassion for others and
the courage to act on their Catholic beliefs.

In our school community we celebrate our faith and we work together
to achieve our personal potential by trying to live like Jesus and become
the person that he wants us to be.

Ratified On:	February 2018
Review Date:	February 2020
Chair of Governors signature:	Mrs R. Burke
Head Teacher's signature:	Mrs M.H.B. Williams

Introduction

This statement summarises the procedures in place to ensure that Good Shepherd Academy meets its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (which replaced the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)) and Special Educational and Disability Needs Act 2001 (SENDA). The Equality Act protects pupils from discrimination and harassment for the following 'protected characteristics': Disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

To assist the school to meet the Equality Act, the design complies with Building Regulations Approved Document M 2010, British Standard BS 8300 and other access guidance such as Sport England's document 'Accessible Sports Facilities' where feasible.

Usage

Good Shepherd Academy accommodates a range of activities including education and community use therefore the access strategy seeks to meet the needs all building and site users.

Access Strategy

Many of the buildings forming the campus were built in the mid-20th century and the school recognises that this could impair access if an effective strategy was not employed. The school aims to consistently provide the best access possible to all buildings and facilities within existing resources.

Approach, Parking and Drop off

Pupils arrive via the main gate adjacent to the main school building where access is via a gentle slope. Students and adults arriving at the front entrance off Somersby Road access the buildings via the same gentle slope and a gently curving pedestrian path following the slope of the site directly to the main entrance of the school. Two disabled parking bays are located immediately adjacent to the main building. Additional disabled bays can be made available in the main car park as required.

Main Entrances and Exits

The entrances at the front of the building allow pupils, visitors and staff to congregate away from traffic before entering the school and is clearly visible on arrival at the site.

The main school entrance and reception is clearly visible from the site entrance. The main entrance door is access controlled to maintain a secure area within. Access is granted via a CCTV/ intercom system.

At the beginning and end of the school day pupils are permitted to enter the school building by way of the playground but the main entrance remains as visitor access all day. Visitors have a single, visible and safe, entrance to the building.

Circulation Routes

With the exception of the first floor rooms all buildings are linked by flat and level pedestrian routes linking visually and physically newer and older retained buildings. All pathways are at least 1.5m wide, and most are 3m wide, allowing generous provision for groups of people or wheelchairs to pass and link a variety of sedentary and active social spaces at the heart of the campus.

The topography of the site creates accessibility challenges for some desired routes (such as from the main playground to the foundation building) however ramped access is available via an alternative route. Tactile paving is installed where required to Approved Document M guidance. The hard surfaced foundation playground is also accessed via a ramp.

All external doors have either level thresholds or access ramps designed within the required parameters. Horizontal circulation on the ground floor is simple and legible to aid orientation without the need for excessive signage. A school rule, to walk on the left of the corridors and staircases, aims to reduce congestion which may otherwise occur. Main corridors have a width of 2.7m which narrows down to 2.2m in some areas on upper floors adjacent to the stairwells. Some short lengths of corridor have a width of 1.5m.

First floor access

The first floor accommodation is not currently accessible for certain access-impaired students and staff, however, arrangements are in place to provide alternative accommodation as required.

Community Use

Community use is served by the existing main entrance.

Toilet Provision

Wheelchair accessible unisex toilets are available in each building and are no more than 40m apart. Where sanitary facilities are refurbished and buildings redeveloped additional provision will be made.

Evacuation

A strategy for evacuating disabled persons is in place and all buildings are serviced by a L1 fire detection system incorporating visual and audible signalling.

Internal Wayfinding and Signage

The simple circulation strategy minimises the need for wayfinding signage, however, wayfinding and room name signage is installed to all rooms.

Acoustics

Acoustics present a challenge in older buildings, however, upon rebuild or refurbishment new buildings will comply with Building Bulletin 93 (BB93) and will be designed to this level.

Visual Requirements

Upon refurbishment or rebuild the visual requirements of colour and contrast, the avoidance of glare and manifestation to glazing will comply with the guidance in Approved Document part M for surface finishes. Surfaces will be upgraded within existing resources.

Layouts and Provision

The general layout of fixtures within classrooms provides flexibility by maximising loose furniture wherever possible to allow users to easily reconfigure their environment to accommodate changing needs. Circulation areas and teaching spaces allow wheelchair users independent access to all of the facilities in each space.

The dining area allows for wheelchair users to sit in a number of different locations. The design of the servery area ensures that a wheelchair user can safely transfer their food from the servery to their table.

The main building includes a hygiene suite.

All layouts of fittings, furniture and equipment allow for a 300mm clearance to the leading edge of all new doors to accommodate wheelchair access.