



The English Martyrs School & Sixth Form College

Accessibility Policy

Mission Statement:

The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College is:

Founded On Truth

To learn and live the Gospel values on which our faith is rooted.

Built on Justice

Whereby we judge with integrity and wisdom, and act with mercy and compassion.

Animated by Love

Living in community with each other in fairness and with equality as Jesus teaches us.

The Accessibility Policy supports our Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion Policy by ensuring students can access all aspects of the buildings and are fully included in the life of the Academies.

Legal Framework:

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against students, staff and other stakeholders with a disability. The Act brings together several different equality laws, including the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Legislation places an anticipatory duty on schools to consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to improve access to their facilities and services for any stakeholder with a disability, whether the stakeholder is a student, a member of staff, a parent, a carer or any other visitor, without waiting until the adjustment is actually needed.

A disabled person may have difficulties in relation to one or more of the following:-

- Mobility
- Physical co-ordination
- Manual dexterity
- Continence
- Ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects
- Speech, hearing, eyesight
- Memory or ability to learn, or to understand perception or the risk of physical danger
- Certain health conditions, e.g. cancer, muscular dystrophy, degenerative conditions, diagnosed eating disorders, disfigurement.

The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College is committed to fair and equal treatment for all individuals whether able-bodied or disabled and, on an on-going basis, will work towards improving access to the physical environment, to the curriculum and to the provision of information in order to provide access for all.

Policy Statement:

The school estate consists of 6 buildings, including several demountable classrooms. The buildings vary from single storey to three storey levels. All areas are accessible apart from one suite of computer rooms, although access to some buildings can be challenging for students who are disabled or wheelchairs users. In particular the St. Bede's block has two lifts but access to some rooms requires passing through a number of other classrooms using narrow doorways, which can prove challenging. The external areas of the school

estate are a mix of hard and soft landscaped areas, which form specialist sports areas, roadways, footpaths and car parks. The majority of level changes throughout these areas are sloped or ramped to allow for easier access but there remain some steps. There are designated disabled car parking bays in the main car park and a number of disabled toilet facilities in buildings at ground floor level.

The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College recognises its duty not to discriminate against students with a disability and also the need to make reasonable adjustments to ensure students with a disability can play a full part in the social and academic life of the School.

Reviewing/Monitoring

The school is actively improving accessibility as and when building improvement schemes are considered and completed. The Accessibility Policy will be reviewed annually and monitored through the appropriate committee of the Governing Body.