

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Accessibility Plan

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 with The Equality Act 2010, require that those in education also promote equality in all aspects of their learning experience. This demonstrates a continuing but increasing challenge for local authorities and designers alike. In addition, statutory authorities have a duty to improve access and inclusion and to provide disability equality schemes outlining their intentions.

The statutory 'SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years' came into force on 1 September 2014. Separate guidance on managing the change to the new SEND support system is also available. Everyone receiving support will have transferred from the old system to the new by 2018.

An access audit was carried out at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary on 10 December 2015 with the feedback meeting being on 16 March 2017. This is a statutory requirement and is carried out in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010. It also measures the school against the Approved document M (2004) of the Building Regulations.

The audit was undertaken by Noreen Moore, NRAC Auditor for Portsmouth City Council and discussed with Jane Haywood, the School Business Manager.

The original compliance rating received in December 2015 was 70%, however with the additional work carried out the accessibility percentage has increased to 84% for Document M Building Regulations. This was noted that this was an excellent score considering that the school was built around 1900 and making reasonable adjustments for a school of this era is very challenging.

The following areas were picked up as a focus for concern and where possible have been included in the School's three year premises plan to be addressed.

Internal doors – heavy door opening force.

The internal doors were found to be too heavy for people with disabilities to manage.

Internal Stairs

To insert fillers to the open risers to prevent people with walking difficulties catching their feet.

Wheelchair Accessible WC

The decorations of these facilities need to be modified if there are visual impaired people frequently visiting or attending the school.

Able users' WC Facilities for ambulant users within Male and female toilets for adults.

The school should provide an ambulant toilet facility.

Reception Desk

It is advised that in a future project, the window feature of the desk is lowered to 800mm above floor line and deepen the desk surface in order to accommodate a wheelchair knee well.

Hearing Loops

It is a legal requirement to make provision for a hearing loop for the main information desk. A portable one should also be available for a large meeting room or hall.

This Accessibility plan has been discussed with the Board of Governor's Resources Committee and has been assigned a priority in the Schools premises plan according to Health and Safety requirements.