

BISHOP ULLATHORNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Accessibility Plan

2022 to 2025

Review Date: Summer 2025

1.0 Purpose of this plan

- 1.1 Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School was opened in 1953. It is a three storey brick built school based in two teaching blocks and a separate sixth form. This plan reflects the purpose of our mission:

MISSION STATEMENT

**Our Mission is to be an active
Christian community of love and service,
where all feel they belong and are valued.**

**We will help each other to recognize the
Gift of God within us,
to search for Excellence and
foster the development of our true self.**

To ensure all members of our school community feel they belong, we propose the following infrastructure and building changes that will be undertaken to increase accessibility to Bishop Ullathorne for all individuals.

Background.

The school was comprehensively surveyed as part of the "Building Schools for the Future Programme". The architects appointed by Coventry City Council concluded that the school would need considerable investment to be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

They concluded that the main issues to be addressed were:

- Unsecured open access to the school site
- The number of external doors with steps.
- Accessibility to all areas above the ground floor
- No corridor/circulation space above the ground floor
- The floor levels within the existing school
- Internal classroom sizes (some are small) and door frame sizes for wheel chair access.

To address these major issues, the school was scheduled to be part demolished in 2016 with a new teaching block and sports hall, disabled access to all curriculum areas with up-to-date toilet and wet room facilities. Unfortunately this programme was cancelled in 2010.

2.0 Work completed from 2018 - 2020

- Creation of better access for disabled and vulnerable students to toileting facilities. In the summer of 2018 all student toilet blocks were refurbished. This included an additional disabled toilet in A Block and an enlarged toilet cubicle in the A Block boy's toilets for students with mobility issues such as use of crutches etc.
- Parents' evenings and other meetings were moved A Block Hall rather than B Block as there were already existing ramps which allow disabled people access to school meetings / events. Plus the additional disabled toilet.
- The minibus includes wheel chair access.

- Basic disabled ramps were installed to improve access to B Block including:
 - External door by Room 34
 - From Art to the quad
 - From the Quad to the main B Block Corridor
- The school has purchased an evacuation sled to assist students/staff with walking difficulties evacuate the building
- Creation of an additional ground floor classroom (Room 7)

3.0 2021/2023 Plan

- Creation of new purpose built 4 court sports hall with new changing rooms and wet room / showers and with full disabled access.
- Repairs to Music Department ramps
- Refurbishment and relocation of textiles and catering classrooms to the ground floor to allow better access to the curriculum.
- Relocation of the Drama and Music departments to A Block gym and changing areas including disabled access.
- Expansion of Maths classrooms currently too small by removing stock cupboards and repurposing circulation areas.
- Relocation of sixth form common room to part of the old drama studio including disabled access.

- 4.0** This plan is a living document. It will be reviewed bi -annually and priorities for the following years may be adjusted depending on resources and funding available to the school and the MAC.

Revised Summer 2023