

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN – St Thomas More RC College

Section 1: Vision statement

- It is a legal requirement under the Equality Act 2010 that all schools have an accessibility plan.

The purpose of the plan:

- Aims to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the college's curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment of the college for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the college.
- Improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily available to pupils who are not disabled.

The delivery must be:

- Within a reasonable time.
- In ways which are determined after taking account of the pupils' disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

The plan must be:

- In writing.
- The governing body must keep its accessibility plan under review during the period to which it relates and, if necessary, revise it.
- The governing body must implement its accessibility plan.

Definition of disability under The Equality Act 2010:

- To be protected under the **Equality Act**, you must meet the legal **definition. Disability is defined** as: 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.'

Our values:

- St Thomas More RC College is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions and disabilities.
- We aim to provide all pupils with any medical condition or disability the same opportunities as others at college. Pupils with medical conditions and disabilities are encouraged to take control of their condition and feel confident in the support they receive from the college to help them do this. We aim to ensure parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions and disabilities feel secure in the care their children receive at this college.

How the plan will be shared:

- The accessibility plan will be shared via our college website.
- The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following college policies and documents:
 - Medical Policy
 - First Aid Policy
 - Pupils on crutches Policy
 - SEN Policy
 - Inclusion Policy
 - Equality Plan
 - Complaints Procedures
- It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing.

Internal and external monitoring procedures:

- The plan will be monitored internally by the governing body.
- OFSTED inspections may include a school's accessibility plan as part of their review.

The plan's focus on the physical environment, curriculum, and written information:

- The accessibility plan focuses on three specific areas: how the physical environment of the college can be improved for pupils with a disability, how to improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils and, how to increase the extent to which a disabled pupil can participate in the college's curriculum.

Training:

- Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.
- All college staff, including temporary or supply staff, are aware of the medical conditions at this college and understand their duty of care to pupils in an emergency.
- This college will make sure that there are several members of staff who have been trained to administer the medication and meet the care needs of an individual child. This includes escort staff for home to college transport if necessary. This college will ensure that there are sufficient numbers of staff trained to cover any absences, staff turnover and other contingencies. This college's governing body has made sure that there is the appropriate level of insurance and liability cover in place.

Helping to develop and implement the plan:

- This college works in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parent, college’s governing body, all college staff, employers and healthcare professionals to ensure that this plan is developed, implemented and maintained successfully.

Complaints procedure:

- The college’s complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.

Approved by:

Date:

Section 2: Aims and Objectives - St Thomas More RC College September 2025 – September 2028

The Accessibility Plan below sets out how the college will achieve these aims.

Aim	Current good practice/proposed strategy	Objective			Outcome	Timescale	Success Criteria
		Access to curriculum	Improving access to information	Improving the environment to promote increased access			
Individual healthcare plans in place for all identified students with a medical condition.	Relevant form compiled following course attendance of 'Managing Medication in Schools and Child Care Settings' 3 day OCN Accredited course (NVQ Level 2 equivalent) . Completed with parent/carer. Attached to student's medical file on SIMS.	✓	✓	x	Students with medical conditions are able to have full inclusion and any specific medical needs are met.	Ongoing	Completed individual healthcare plans in place for identified students.
Risk assessment, either long term or short term, for all identified students.	Relevant form completed and signed by parent/carer. Attached to students' medical file on SIMS.	✓	✓	x	Students are aware of their risk assessment, allowing them to access the curriculum and college	Sept 2025 and ongoing.	Completed risk assessments in place for all identified students.

PEEPs in place for all identified students with long term/temporary disability.	Tameside approved form completed. Signed by parent/carer. Attached to student's medical file on SIMS.	✓	✓	X	environment safely. Identified students are aware of their PEEP.	Sept 2025 and ongoing.	Completed PEEPs in place for all identified students.
'M' codes in place for identified students: M1- allergy/anaphylaxis M2- asthma M3- diabetes M4- epilepsy M5- toilet access.	SENCO compiled relevant codes. Cards given to identified students.	X	✓	X	Identified students and their teaching staff are aware of their 'M' code.	Sept 2025 and ongoing.	'M' codes in place for all identified students.
College medical register for all identified students with a medical condition/disability.	SENCO compiled relevant document. Whole college list.	X	✓	X	Staff are aware of medical register.	Sept 2025 and ongoing.	Completed medical register in place for all identified students.
Lockable steel drugs cabinet in college office for safe storage of students' medication plus register for each student requiring medication during college hours.	Cabinet purchased. Register compiled for administration of medication which meets criteria of 'Managing Medication in Schools and Child Care Settings' 3 day OCN Accredited course.	✓	✓	✓	Compliant with the Misuse of Drugs Regulations. Only named key holders have access. Names of relevant staff lodged with Health and Safety Officer. Students' medication requirements are met.	Sept 2025 and ongoing.	Students' medication stored safely and accessed easily.

Suitable supportive high back chair stools for identified students to use in Science and Technology.	Purchase of specialised supportive high back chair stools to assist students' access to curriculum.	✓	X	✓	Students with specific need requirements are met.	2025 and ongoing	Identified students are able to be seated with correct support during lessons.
Laptop provision for VI students.	New laptops and cases purchased.	✓	✓	X	VI students' specific visual requirements are met.	2025 and ongoing	Students are able to access, adapt, and magnify the same visual information as their peers.
Use of AV1 robot to support students who are unable to attend school due to medical reasons/disabilities.	Rent AV1 robot as and when required.	✓	X	X	Students with specific need requirements met.	2025 and ongoing	Students are able to access the curriculum to the same level as their peers.
PDF electronic textbooks on disk for VI students.	Purchase electronic versions of any textbooks, novels etc.	✓	✓	X	VI students' specific visual requirements are met.	Sept 2025 and ongoing.	
Bathroom storage facilities for disabled students.	Storage facilities for use in disabled toilet facilities.	X	X	✓	Students with specific need requirements are met.	Sept 2025 and ongoing	Students are able to access the curriculum to the same level as their peers.
Clinical waste to be disposed of safely and in accordance	PHS contract.				Students' specific medical needs are met.	November 2025.	Improved facilities for

with health and safety regulations.		X	X	✓			disabled students.
Guide dog concrete/gravel pen and toileting area.	A gated steel enclosure has been built, with concrete base, gravel bed and chemical toilet in line with Guide Dog Association's specification.	X	X	✓	'Spending' pen compliant with Guide Dog Association specification.	Completed August 2015.	Safe and hygienic facilities for all students.
Marking all steps, kerbs and posts with appropriate high visibility paint or tape.	Site staff to implement.	X	X	✓	Steps, pathways, posts, more easily visible to VI students.	August 2025 and ongoing.	Guide dog's welfare met ensuring VI student's improved access.
Outdoor access to selected areas of college to be improved by upgrading to tarmac.	Employ approved contractor.	X	X	✓	Level ground	Completed August 2025.	Steps, pathways and posts are appropriately highlighted. Reduces risk of accidents. Improved safety for VI students.
Upgrade of student toilet facilities. Wide, open access entrance and	Employ approved contractor	X	X	✓	All students enjoy a more favourable environment.	Completed 2012.	Anyone with mobility issues, e.g. wheelchair user, frame, crutches, able to

central hand washing station.							access the college more easily.
Specialist provision for students with ASD.	ASD resource base located on college premises. Specialist staff employed by C.L.A.S.S.	✓	X	✓	Students with specific need requirements met.	Provision in place prior to 2012.	Improved access and environment for all students, including those on crutches, frames or in wheelchairs who do not wish to access the disabled facilities. Students with ASD have access to both specialist and mainstream curriculum.
Anti-slip flooring with no polish improves safety for all students, including those with visual impairment and mobility needs e.g. on crutches.	Newly refurbished dining area fitted with new anti-slip flooring. Anti slip flooring also fitted on some floors in Roper and Chancellor buildings.	X	X	✓	Noise levels reduced, glare reduction for VI students, slip hazards reduced.	Dining area completed Sept 2015 and ongoing as funds permit. (Current corridor flooring not anti-slip, but unpolished and only buffed with water).	Improved environment and safety for both students, staff and visitors alike.

Seating facilities with back support in dining room, replacing existing stools. Tables with central pedestals to allow wheelchair users to sit with friends.	Newly refurbished dining area fitted with high back chairs. A range of square and round pedestal tables. College council and pupils were consulted on their preferred designs for the dining area.	X	X	✓	Supportive seating provided and tables which allow wheelchair user access.	Completed Sept 2015.	Students able to be seated correctly. Wheelchair users able to sit at tables with ease.
Wider access for students to food service area.	Newly refurbished dining area with service area access opened up and made wider. Ramp fitted to side fire exit in the hall.	X	X	✓	Easier access for all students, including those with mobility needs.	Completed Sept 2015.	Improved access and safety for all students.
Specialised desks and chairs for student with mobility issues/disability.	Purchase 5 desks/utilise chairs from Learning Support.	✓	X	✓	Student with specific disability need requirements met.	Purchased October 2021.	Student is able to be seated correctly to improve posture.

Section 3: Access Audit

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	Several buildings, Chancellor, Roper and Charterhouse, consist of two storeys. Tower Science block, ASD resource base, the sports halls and the pre-fabricated buildings are single storey.	None	N/A	N/A
Corridor access	Corridors are of average width and will accommodate a walking frame/wheelchair. Bariatric wheelchairs would pose difficulties with access.	None	N/A	N/A
Lifts	Due to the age of the building there is no lift system and no scope to install one.	None – unable to install lift system as restricted by age of building.	N/A	N/A
Parking bays	Limited parking facilities with average sized parking bays. (Govt. recommendation 4.8m x2.4 m)	Disabled parking bay prohibitive (Govt. recommendation 6m x 3.6 m) When notified of visitor requiring disabled access, the main gate to be opened by site staff, allowing vehicle entrance directly to college reception.	Office/Site staff	Ongoing

Entrances	Chancellor, Roper, Tower and Charterhouse buildings all have double door entrances. Pre-fabricated buildings have single door entrances.	None, due to age of building.	N/A	N/A
Ramps	There are two ramps: one leading into the foyer in the Chancellor building and one at the fire exit of the Community Learning Centre.	Ramp at rear of CLC - gradient too steep and length too short for wheelchair users. Investigate extending ramp along the side of building to create a shallower gradient. This is being addressed and a new ramp will be built under the new construction due to be finished March 2021.	Health and Safety officer/site manager	Within timescale of current accessibility plan 2021-2024
Toilets	Female and male pupil toilet facilities on the ground floor and staff toilets on the first floor in Chancellor building. Toilet facilities in the resource base. Staff toilets on the first floor of Roper Building and a disabled toilet on the ground floor. Staff toilets in Tower building. Disabled toilet in Learning Support building. Toilet in Music building. Pupil toilets and disabled toilet in PE department.	Ensure that disabled toilet facilities are clear of any obstructions.	Site staff	Ongoing
Reception Area	Small reception area with limited seating.	None, restricted by size of building.	N/A	N/A

Internal Signage	Limited internal signage.	Review of internal signage to ensure ease of access for students, staff and especially visitors to college.	Site Manager	Within timescale of current accessibility plan 2021-2024
Emergency escape routes	Emergency escape routes are displayed in all buildings. There is a tarmac route leading up to the assembly point on the yard, thus avoiding the concrete steps adjacent to PE department. There are two safe haven points: one at the top of the staircase in Chancellor, adjacent to Rooms 33 and 34; the other at the top of the staircase adjacent to rooms 24 and 25. With fire doors closed, it would be safe to wait approximately 20 minutes if waiting for emergency services. This information was supplied by the fire safety officer at Tameside Council.	None- fire exit signage displayed throughout college buildings.	N/A	N/A