

Our Lady's Catholic High School

SEN and Disability Local Offer

Accessibility and Inclusion

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Physical Environment:** Our school buildings are spread over three floors. We have a designated disabled parking space near the front entrance. Due to the nature of our buildings, there is disabled access to parts of the ground floor only, and corridors can be narrow. There is one toilet with disabled access.
- **Visual Support:** To aid visually impaired students, we have installed visual strips on staircases throughout the school. We can also create bespoke timetables using symbols for students who would benefit from them.
- **Auditory Support:** We have a designated member of staff responsible for supervising and maintaining auditory equipment for students with hearing aids.
- **Accessible Information:** All school policies are available in a print-friendly format on the school website and can be adapted into different formats upon request.

Teaching and Learning

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Identifying Needs:** We typically identify students with SEND during the comprehensive transition work we do with primary schools in Year 6. Upon entry, all students sit Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) and are assessed using standardised reading and spelling tests to establish a baseline. Further testing may occur if teachers raise concerns, and we will always consult with parents/carers before referring to external agencies for specialist assessment.
- **Classroom Support:** We believe in high-quality teaching for all. Our teachers are responsible for making lessons accessible and engaging for every student. This is supported by our experienced team of Teaching Assistants who provide classroom-based support in one-to-one, small group, or whole-class settings.
- **Interventions:** We offer a range of interventions which can take place before, during, or after the school day. Subject-specific intervention is usually delivered by specialist teachers. We also have a whole-school focus on literacy and oracy to promote curriculum access for all students.
- **Staff Expertise:** All staff receive relevant SEND training at the start of the school year, with regular updates provided by the SENCO. Our Learning Support Team has a range of specialist skills and expertise, including in Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Visual Impairment (VI), Hearing Impairment (HI), Specific

Learning Difficulties (SpLD), and Speech and Language. We work closely with specialist nurses, teachers and external agencies who provide advice and strategies to support students with SEND and medical conditions.

- **Exam Access Arrangements:** We work within the official guidelines of the examination boards to put appropriate access arrangements in place for students who require them. This ensures that every student can perform to the best of their ability in formal assessments.
- **Alternative Provision:** For a small number of students, we offer access to courses from external providers which lead to Key Stage 4 vocational qualifications.

Reviewing and Evaluating Outcomes

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Annual Reviews:** All students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have their provision reviewed annually, in line with statutory guidance. We work collaboratively with parents/carers, the student, and any involved external agencies to review progress towards outcomes. All documentation is shared in advance, and we always encourage students to participate in their review meetings.
- **Regular Monitoring:** For students on SEN Support, progress is monitored half-termly in line with our whole-school assessment procedures. We use internal tracking systems to monitor individual progress against targets.
- **Reporting to Parents:** We formally report on progress to parents three times each year in writing. This is complemented by face-to-face discussions at parents' evenings. The SENCO is also available to discuss individual students at any point by appointment.
- **Measuring Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of our SEND provision is measured by the academic and personal progress that individuals and groups of students make over time, benchmarked against nationally agreed standards.

Keeping Children Safe

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Risk Assessments:** The safety of our students is paramount. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out for each curriculum area and for all off-site school trips. Our safeguarding policy is inclusive and specifies additional requirements for students with SEND.
- **Anti-Bullying:** Our anti-bullying policy is available on the school website. We actively promote kindness and respect, including a whole-school focus during Anti-Bullying Week.
- **Safe Spaces:** To support a smooth transition, we have a designated break area for Year 7 students only. For students who find unstructured times challenging, our Learning Support department runs a lunchtime 'Games Club'.
- **Pastoral Support:** All staff receive statutory safeguarding training. We also have a school chaplain, a school counsellor, and a school nurse who offer drop-in sessions to support student wellbeing.

Health and Wellbeing

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Medication:** For the safety of the whole school community, all medication is kept securely in a central location. It is clearly labelled, and designated staff have access.
- **Care Plans:** For students with medical needs, care plans are drawn up by the school nurse and shared with relevant staff. Staff are briefed by the school nurse or other specialist nurses at the start of the year regarding specific student needs.
- **Medical Emergencies:** We have clear procedures for medical emergencies. A first aider will assess the situation and decide on the appropriate course of action, which may include calling for an ambulance and contacting the emergency contact adult immediately.
- **Visiting Professionals:** While we do not have therapists in residence, we facilitate appointments for external professionals to see a child on-site with parental permission. This includes regular visits from the school nurse, Speech and Language services, CAMHS, and the Educational Psychology Service.

Working in Partnership with Parents

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Open Communication:** We believe strong partnerships with parents are vital. Key staff contact details are available on our website. We encourage parents to get in touch if they have any concerns or celebrations to share.
- **Regular Updates:** We formally report on progress three times a year, and our staff will routinely make additional contact if there is an area for concern or celebration.
- **Parental Feedback:** We actively seek feedback from parents through report slips, school planners, and questionnaires at events like parents' evenings. We value your views and adjust our practice in light of this feedback.
- **Parent Governors:** We have a strong representation of parents on our school's Governing Body, ensuring your voice contributes to the strategic direction of the school.

Transition Support

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Primary to Secondary:** Our transition work begins in Year 5, as we start to build relationships with feeder primary schools and families. We hold an Open Evening in the autumn term, with follow-up one-to-one meetings available with the SENCO. For students needing extra support, we offer additional transition visits starting in the spring term and a Summer School focused on numeracy and literacy.
- **Post-16 Pathways:** We provide impartial careers advice and guidance for all students. Local colleges attend parents' evenings from Year 9 onwards, and we host a specialist Post-16 Evening. The Learning Support Manager works closely with students and parents to ensure a smooth transition, providing support with applications and sharing information with post-16 providers (with family consent).

Extra-Curricular Activities

At Our Lady's, we provide:

- **Inclusive Activities:** All clubs, activities, and trips are available to all students, subject to a risk assessment. We offer a wide range of activities, including sports, music, drama, and animal care.
- **Support Beyond the Classroom:** A breakfast service is available from 8.15 am daily. The Learning Resource Centre and Learning Support Hub is open after school for students to complete homework.
- **Social Development:** The Learning Support Department runs a 'Games Club' 3 lunchtimes a week to help students develop social skills and build friendships in a supportive environment.

Name and contact details of the SENDCo

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