



ST MICHAELS' CATHOLIC COLLEGE KEY STAGE 3 ASSESSMENTS ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

In formulating this policy, the college has complied with JCQ guidance and principles:

- 1) Access arrangements and adjustments must not be allowed to interfere with the integrity of the assessment or to give credit for skills, knowledge and understanding which cannot be demonstrated by the candidate.
- 2) The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage due to persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate.
- 3) Although access arrangements/adjustments are intended to allow access to assessments, they cannot be granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the [subject] in question. For example, the use of a practical assistant will not normally be allowed when practical skills are being tested.

In keeping with these requirements, the following arrangements will therefore apply to KS3 assessments:

- Access arrangements will be put in place only for the summer assessments.
- The only access arrangement that will be put in place during the summer exams at KS3 is extra time.
- Where extra time is provided, KS3 students will need to follow the system of the Year 10 and 11 exams and complete work in green pen in the extra time provided.
- If specified in EHCP laptops may be used and extra time will be provided.
- Only students with an EHCP are automatically eligible for access arrangements of extra time and not all students with an EHCP will require access arrangements, or access arrangements in all subjects; the final decision on eligibility will be made by the SENDCO: JCQ: SENCOs must consider the need for access arrangements/reasonable adjustments on a subject-by-subject basis.
- Where students do not have an EHCP but do have an Ed psych recommendation or diagnosis that suggests a high likelihood of qualifying for Extra time, they may be allowed extra time at the SENCOs discretion.
- Being provided with extra time at key stage 3 does not guarantee the right to extra time in the GCSE examinations. JCQ requires access test results of 'At least two scores of 84 or less relating to two different areas of speed of working; or one score of 84 or less and one score between 85-89 relating to two different areas of speed of working'. These tests are undertaken in Year 10 and the students are selected for testing based on Teacher feedback.



In addition:

- The college is required to err on the side of caution in the provision of access arrangements at KS3: according to JCQ guidance:

4.2.11 Failure to comply with the regulations contained in this document has the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on the candidate's result(s). Examples of failure to comply include: • putting in place access arrangements/adjustments that are not approved;

- permitting access arrangements/adjustments within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence;
- Should students not make use of the access arrangement of extra time, this may damage their eligibility for this access arrangement in the actual GCSE since it will not be evidenced as their 'usual way of working'.