

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ST IVES PARISH

DISABILITY PLAN 2009

Definition of Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) defines a disabled person as "someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activity".

Source: Disability Rights Commission

Parish Principles re: Disability

- All parishioners (less-abled and able-bodied) to be provided with the same level of welcome in the parish regardless of age. (This relates to access to services/sacraments/social events/pilgrimages and all aspects of parish life.)
- Disabled parishioners to be supported with roles in the parish (eg volunteering/lay ministry etc.) on an individual basis.
- The needs of disabled visitors to be met whenever possible.
- A disabled person's right to privacy (regarding their disability) will be respected at all times, and their needs met on an individual basis where required, and where reasonably possible.
- The Parish Disability Plan will be made known to parishioners and other relevant parties (eg funeral directors, tourist information agencies etc) to ensure its success.
- The plan will be reviewed on a regular basis and amended as required.
- The Disability Discrimination Act requires "reasonable" action be taken to meet the needs of disabled individuals. The parish will work with the Diocese and the Historic Churches Committee to meet the needs of parishioners wherever possible.

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