

## Penwortham Primary School Accessibility Audit - 11 December 2015

The following people completed a full tour of the school accompanied by Lindsey Holt-Myroie, Chair of Disability Equality North West:

Mr D Wilson	Chair: Behaviour, Safety and Premises Maintenance Committee
Mr C Mitchell	Headteacher
Mrs P Jones	Chair of Governors

The aim was to examine accessibility for children with a variety of needs.

### Current Strengths

- Door widths throughout the building are wide enough for a full size adult wheelchair.
- Floor surfaces are wheelchair friendly.
- Classroom spaces, chairs and furniture are all appropriate and/or height adjustable.
- All entrances are accessible by ramps.
- The playground is smooth and safe.
- There are two accessible toilets.
- **Management solutions would easily solve issues raised by specific individual needs as they arise.**

### General Recommendations

1. Confirmation of plans under consideration:
  - a. Alterations to Y6 doorway and cloakroom arrangements would improve wheelchair access. Current situation would require different cloakroom as coats and PE bags would impede wheelchair access.
  - b. Alterations to reception class entrance and cloakroom arrangements would improve wheelchair access. The current doorway position requires a very tight turn and the doorway is very narrow.
2. Future Projects Recommended:
  - a. Disabled Access Alert to main entrance at appropriate height for wheelchair user.
  - b. Hearing Induction Loop System.
  - c. Braille signs on all exit points.
  - d. Have magnifiers and transparencies already available.
  - e. Automatic door openers on certain doors (2 were discussed).
  - f. Hand rails to certain entrance doors where ramp gradient more challenging.
  - g. Plate guards to protect walls and doors from wheelchair damage.
  - h. Fire exit threshold in Y6 classroom needs minor alteration to reduce lip height. Others should be monitored.
  - i. Contrast. Use of bright and varying colours in future re-decoration or refurbishment to mark changes from corridor to carpeted room, floor to wall, make chairs stand out from carpet....
  - j. Bold stripe along corridor as visual guide.
  - k. Coloured room-thresholds.
  - l. Straps on door handles to assist in opening by wheelchair user in absence of automatic openers.
  - m. Accessible Toilet – main block:
    - i. Staff lockers would need to move as inhibit turn and access to toilet.
    - ii. Add colour to tiles for contrast.
    - iii. Replace or repaint grab bars to make them stand out.
    - iv. Different coloured sink.
    - v. Coloured toilet roll.
    - vi. Mirror at appropriate height.
  - n. Accessible Toilet – junior block:
    - i. Problem with initial access for wheelchair.
    - ii. Not ideal turning circle.
    - iii. Mirror needed at appropriate height for wheelchair user.
    - iv. Contrasting colours needed.
    - v. Lower coat hook needed.
    - vi. Bin and hygiene bins not available at time of inspection.

- vii. NB: Do have choice of other toilet.
- viii. Management solution would be to leave the toilet door open.

3. Management Solutions:

- a. Time for child to get used to a new room.
- b. Preparation and monitoring of other children.
- c. Priority seating allocation.
- d. Priority locker allocation.
- e. Reception classroom layout/removal of obstacles.

**More Specific Management/Adaptation Concerns**

- 1. Stage access in the hall.
- 2. Changing area for incontinent older child.