



Penwortham Primary School Accessibility Audit
Originally completed 11 December 2015
Reviewed November 2019

In December 2015 the following people completed a full tour of the school accompanied by Lindsey Holt-Mythroie (email: lmholt2011@gmail.com), 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.

The outcomes have been reviewed in November 2019 and any updates made accordingly.

Current Strengths – Reviewed Nov 2019, all still applicable

- 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.

Recommendations - Confirmation of plans under consideration: (Colour-coded Nov 2019)

- 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. Update: Completed during Summer 2017 – new doorway implemented, giving much easier access. Additional hook added at rear of classroom to allow for open cloakroom function for any relevant pupils
- 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. Update: Completed during Summer 2017 – new doorway implemented, giving much easier access and also easier cloakroom access.
- c. Fire exit threshold in Y6 classroom needs minor alteration to reduce lip height – completed.

Future Projects Recommended (Updated Nov 2019) – It is felt that the vast majority of these are easily implementable in short timescales in direct response to any particular needs that arise over time.

- 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.
- f. Hand rails to certain entrance doors where ramp gradient more challenging.

- g. 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 carpets.
- h. Bold stripe along corridor as visual guide.
- i. Coloured thresholds.
- j. Straps on door handles to assist in opening by wheelchair user in absence of automatic openers.
- k. 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.
- l. 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.

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 to be considered

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