



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES

Maple Walk is a purpose-built school building which opened in September 2009. It is accessed by means of a single drive with front entrance lobby. In terms of accessibility, all the disability provisions required under the Equality Act of 2010 were followed under the original specifications for the main building for which planning permission was granted in 2009; these provisions were supplemented for the further structures built or installed in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018 under planning permission obtained in 2011 and subsequently.

There are two children at the school with local authority funded EHCPs.

USAGE

The space is used by Maple Walk School to provide primary teaching education to approximately 180 pupils. The accommodation is on one site providing its own sanitary accommodation, staff and sickroom accommodation and play areas. It offers full accessibility for wheelchair users and the mobility impaired to most areas. A fully working disabled lift was installed at the time of the original building and ramps are provided for level access throughout the main building. A movable ramp is used where a ramp has not been built in at ground floor. Two additional classrooms constructed in 2018 at first floor level are not fully accessible to wheelchair users. However, as these 2 rooms represent a small proportion of the overall accessible space, they satisfy current building control regulations.

The Head Teacher and the management of The New Model School Company (NMS) are aware of their obligations to provide their services in a non-discriminatory manner.

CAR PARKING

The site offers the possibility of one disabled parking space, which meets the obligation to provide accessible parking facilities.

ENTRANCE TO MAIN SCHOOL

The front entrance to the building offers good accessibility for the mobility impaired users and is accessible for wheelchair users. There is a handrail on both sides of the steps and a ramp provides access for wheelchair users. The administrative office is manned throughout the course of the School day and access to the building will be facilitated by the administrative staff. The School telephone number is clearly signed at the main gate. Flooring throughout the School is in good condition.

INTERNAL DOORS WITHIN THE MAIN SCHOOL

The internal doors are standard width, and of adequate opening and closing weight. The door furniture provides lever handles with return ends making accessibility easy. The wooden doors contrast well against the white surround for the visually impaired.

CORRIDORS WITHIN THE MAIN SCHOOL

The internal circulation spaces are of adequate width and meet recent regulations.

WC ACCOMMODATION WITHIN MAIN SCHOOL

There are separate facilities for boys and girls on the ground floor. In addition, the School has a disabled WC which is fully accessible for wheelchair users and fitted with hand rails and emergency pull cord.

LIGHTING

Lighting was installed to meet all current regulations.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

This is in visually satisfactory order.

RECEPTION CLASSROOMS AND WC ACCOMMODATION

The reception classrooms were built in 2013 and complied with current legal legislation. A portable ramp provides access for users with certain mobility issues to the toilet facilities.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

The fire safety plan meets any concerns regarding ambulant, less able and mobility impaired users.

STAIRS

Two flights of stairs lead up from the ground floor, the stairs are of concrete and the nosing are finished in a contrasting colour. The handrails extend up at both sides and are coloured to aid the visually impaired. Additional stairs in the new first floor block constructed in 2018 meet all current regulations.

CLASSROOM AREAS

Classroom areas are easily accessible with colour contrasting doors and ancillary items for the visually impaired.

HEARING IMPAIRMENT

A portable hearing loop would be provided as necessary. One classroom and a smaller room used for intervention work have had acoustic material installed to the walls and ceiling to aid children with hearing impairment.

SIGNAGE

Wayfinding and emergency signage in and about the building is clear, concise and consistent.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Angela Sikka is the School's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) and will liaise with all outside agencies to ensure that specialist equipment and support is provided as appropriate. If additional 1:1 lessons are required by an outside Special Educational Needs (SEN) teacher, parents will be informed and individual educational, care and health plans (ECH plans) adhered to as per the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy**

Claire Murdoch
Head Teacher
August 2023

Review approved by Deborah Livsey CEO
New Model School Company Limited
August 2023

Next review date: August 2024