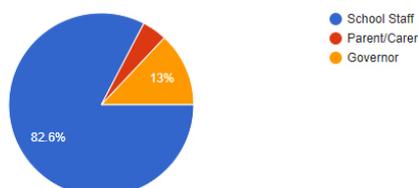


Accessibility Consultation August 2021 Comments and School Response

Your Role
23 responses



Do you have any comments or suggestions on how we can make our physical environment more accessible?

Comment or Suggestion	School Response
Install lifts so all floors are accessible	The only inaccessible floor is to Hazel Class. We know that it is impossible to put a lift in this stairwell and so the only opportunity to install a lift would involve a major building works and considerable cost.
Lower switches	All light switches that have been installed in the new build areas are DDA compliant (at a height – between 0.75m and 1.2m). This will be considered in older areas of the building where needed and appropriate and works taking place.
Lower counters e.g reception dining room	This will be looked into for reception windows on both sites. We will add this to our 5 Year Site Plan.
Lower cooking room counters, sinks, etc.	We already have adjustable height counters, low level cookers and sinks in our food tech rooms on both sites.
The curved entrance railing gates adjacent to the windmill suite, has 'shifted' and needs adjusting.	This has been recently mended and should now be easier to open and close.
Add a ramp to the main hall stairs.	This is included on our 5 year site plan but it is difficult to see how a ramp could be installed as there is no enough space to obtain the required gradient. A lift could be installed but this would take up a lot of space and would prevent using the upper hall as a stage area and would impede PE in the hall. This may not be feasible and an alternative could be an outdoor covered walkway linking upper to lower floor levels.
Large hole in grass area leading onto grass.	This will be looked at and rectified.

<p>New surfacing on grass area so it can be accessible all year round. Wheelchair access around field area</p>	<p>Planning permission would prevent this as we are not allowed to add concrete areas across the field. This would also mean that the field on the main site cannot be used for football. Pathways would only give access to a particular area of the field/grass area, not full access everywhere. The play areas and solar domes are however fully accessible with concrete pathways to each one. This could be discussed further to identify which areas are inaccessible on both sites.</p>
<p>Some doors self-close and are difficult to hold open whilst allowing room or access for wheelchair users.</p>	<p>On the main site all exit doors have auto opener/closer except the door opposite the PPA room (because this has steps to/from it). This could be made into a ramp to the lower school playground and this will be put onto the 5 year site plan with the addition of an auto opening/closing door.</p> <p>On the Avelon Site the main entrance doors and the double opening doors in the corridor are auto opening.</p> <p>Classrooms do not have auto opening/closing and this will be considered on a needs basis. Ash Class entrance door will be considered first as this is the only ramp access to this block and the door is very narrow. We will get quotes for this.</p>
<p>Have more areas with disabled changing areas.</p>	<p>On the main site, we have changing beds in the large DDA toilet with a hoist, the medical room, the first floor Orchard toilet and the outdoor changing block. We will look into getting one installed in the toilet next to the soft play room.</p> <p>On the Avelon Site there is a large DDA toilet with hoist and changing bed on the first floor.</p>
<p>Have more secure calm rooms available.</p>	<p>We have no extra space for these. On the main site, we have used the medical room, the office next to the soft play room and a small room on the upper floor of the Orchard department. It is difficult to see where else we could put any more.</p>
<p>Have more friendly play equipment for pupils</p>	<p>This will need more detail.</p>
<p>All doorways should be wheelchair accessible (900mm) The current doorway in Ash class is narrow and difficult to navigate in a wheelchair.</p>	<p>It would not be possible to make all doors on both sites 900mm wide. However we will consider on a needs basis. Ash Class entrance door will be considered first as this is the only ramp access to this block and the door is very narrow.</p>
<p>Corridors should be as free of obstacles as possible ie coats on hooks, chairs etc. on regular routes that wheelchair users use. There should also be plenty of room for wheelchair users to turn (turning circle) in classrooms and any other areas they frequently use.</p>	<p>The Avelon corridors are already very wide. We will remind staff to keep corridors and classes as clear as possible. Health and Safety checks will be carried out.</p>

Language Resource Centre doorway is not level access for wheelchairs.	The threshold will be examined to see if it is possible to make the threshold lower or to ramp up and down each side.
If we were to remain in bubbles the disabled toilet in aqua zone may need to be developed further if we were to have students with more complex physical disabilities	There is no space in this toilet to make it completely DDA compliant. There is a large DDA compliant toilet along the corridor with changing bed and hoist so this may not be required if zones/bubbles are no longer needed.
Love the idea of the fire alarms to be visible as well as audible.	We will look into this but it isn't really necessary for our school as there will always be a hearing adult to supervise students when the fire alarm sounds.
Access around the building to exit if there was a fire at the Avelon.	Exiting students and staff can walk along the pathway around the building as the windows all have safety glass installed. The fire safety officer confirmed on his last visit that in the event of a fire there is no reason to have to exit on the field and the pathway next to the building can safely be used.
Improve the overflow carpark.	This is not actually a car park and we have no planning permission to turn it into one. When this was explored a few years ago the cost of making it into a proper surfaced car park would be in excess of £100k.
Fence the school field so that children cannot access overflow carpark.	This would require planning permission and it is unlikely that it would be granted as some of the field is green belt and a conservation area. It would also prevent the use of the field as a football pitch if we wanted to fence off both ends where cars are parked.
Encourage staff to cycle to work. Access to the school grounds from London Close?	On the main site, to make London Close into a through road to the school may be challenged by the local residents and could destroy our good relationship with them. Therefore the only access to the school is along very busy roads. On the Avelon site, there are more rural areas and therefore this is much safer.
Ramps for wheelchairs, consider hoist use for some classes, access in swimming pool for some pupils	This has mainly been covered above. The swimming pool is accessible and has a hoist. We have mobile hoists for use in classes that need this.
Car park could have painted zones to show people where they should park so there is enough space for everyone	We are in the process of obtaining quotes to re-surface the main school car park and then we will remark the parking zones. This should be complete during the October half term. This unfortunately won't mean that there will be enough space for everyone unless staff begin to car share or find alternative ways to travel to work.

Do you have any comments or suggestions on how we can make our curriculum more accessible?

Comment or Suggestion	School Response
A wider range of trips and after school or lunch clubs	This will be dependent on COVID-19 cases and advice from health and safety regarding trips. Lunch clubs will depend on available and willing staffing and could only be considered within zones/bubbles until the restrictions can be lifted.
Replace some laptops	We have a number of new laptops that are currently not being used as Chromebooks or iPads are more accessible and appropriate for our student population. Any issues with laptops can be reported to the IT technician and can be replaced with newer devices.
More support for staff around how to best work with deaf or hard-of-hearing students.	We can request support from the local authority hearing impairment support teams. Requests for support can be made for particular students. Please advise SLT if this is needed.
Adapt it for learners who might not find curriculum accessible or even manageable	
Ensure changing places toilets available on school trips for students who need them.	Teachers do ensure that facilities are available to meet the needs of all students when planning school trips. All trips are fully accessible to all students.
Consider how some classes/ students need more expensive resources than others to enable greater access to the curriculum. Funding available to ensure we can purchase the most robust, safe yet accessible furniture/ storage for each learner.	All classes have a yearly budget allocated but any extra requests are supported for specific resources needed for particular student learning need. We have sourced stronger more robust chairs and tables for students that are likely to be heavy handed.
To have staff available to support classes who need extra support when accessing the community	Adequate staffing is considered when planning school trips and would only be able to go ahead if the staffing levels are approved as appropriate to ensure safety.
More training on devices involving parents more	This may have been offered less to parents during COVID-19. Class staff have previously provided individual training for parents in using AAC apps so that they are able to use at home. This is expected to continue again when the restrictions on face-to-face meetings are lifted. If needed this could be offered remotely using Google.
All of the above should be encouraged but will require a considerable amount of fundraising and awareness. Local Councils and National Government should be sent a very clear message that they are not doing enough to enable these facilities to be available.	We do raise funds from external benefactors when possible to supplement the school budget.

Do you have any comments or suggestions on how we can make our written information more accessible?

Comment or Suggestion	School Response
I'm sure if I needed large print or easy read this would be made available for me.	This is correct.
There is already a great deal of information on the website, which could be hard to navigate. Perhaps. in lieu of a drop down menu, the introduction of simple 'click here' buttons on the opening page for, say, Existing Parents/Prospective Parents/Other (professionals/facilities enquiries) with the buttons directing visitors to the most appropriate data/information for that suits their user category needs.	This is a very good suggestion. We will look at how the information on the website could be categorised according to the type of audience.
Audible formats of various items such as newsletters, letters etc for our parents who struggle to read	This could be achieved through using Widgit online or via Microsoft Immersive Reader. Also audio versions of communication could be created. We would be happy to explore this method of communication. Mote could be used to provide audio support for written communication.
Off the top of my head, all I can think of is looking into Braille	At the moment we are not aware of any parents or students that use Braille
Sharing of information between school and home via a paper communication book and/or Evidence for Learning.	We have moved away from paper based communication books because of COVID-19. Teachers/Tutors have been communicating via email and many parents prefer this. Evidence for Learning will begin to be introduced to all parents during the Autumn Term.
Could letters or important written information be read aloud or video recorded to enable greater access for all before sharing?	Also audio versions of communication could be created. We would be happy to explore this method of communication. Mote could be used to provide audio support for written communication.
Could textures/ items linked to certain activities or areas around the school be an idea for visually impaired?	We could explore this idea more fully once we are all back using the full site again once restrictions are lifted.