



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2021 – 2024

(In relation to the buildings physical environment)

1. Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 replaced previous discrimination law and provides a single piece of legislation covering all the types of discrimination that are unlawful. This plan is available in large print or other accessible format if required.

2. Aims of the plan

We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all students, staff, councillors, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

3. Background

The buildings layout and facilities.

Dean Trust Wigan is committed to making reasonable adjustments to allow disabled pupils to access educational provision within our building. The school building occupies three stories of a new building completed in April 2010. The area totals approximately 9900 square metres. It has two lifts, a ground floor and lower ground floor that are accessible without lifts. All outside sports and grounds facilities are accessible to all. There are 55 classrooms and each floor has a least one accessible toilet. All areas and rooms have the correct width doors to enable access for everyone. All floors have emergency refuge call points with an emergency evacuation system in place at each evacuation escape route at the end of each corridor floor. There are height adjustable furniture located in rooms throughout the building.

We plan, overtime, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to our building.

ACCESSIBILITY AT DEAN TRUST WIGAN

1. Safe traffic routes and pedestrian routes.

Access to Dean Trust Wigan is via a short street called Greenhey that leads up to the buildings entrance gates. There are two pedestrian gates located either side of the main entrance gates that are fully accessible to all. Each pedestrian route that leads to the main entrance has a zebra crossing with ramped visual impaired hatchings. Road markings and directional signage are clearly defined with a vehicle drop of point turning circle.

2. Arrangements for pedestrian access in and out of buildings.

Access to the school building is via the main entrance for students, staff and visitors and the lower ground entrance for students and staff only (due to safeguarding requirements) Each entrance is fully accessible to all with the main entrance fitted with automatic sliding doors. The main entrance reception desk is built to accommodate access for mobility impaired persons and has use of a hearing induction loop. All entrances, exits and escape routes in and out of the building are flat and level and accessible by all.

3. Designated disabled parking areas for visitors.

There are seven disabled parking areas clearly marked and signposted located at the top carpark making travel to the main entrance and public library a very short distance and easily accessible for all visitors.

There are also two disabled parking areas located at the bottom carpark.

4. Delivery vehicles.

There is one large delivery area clearly marked and signposted for deliveries to the building. The delivery area is located at the top carpark away from pedestrian routes with easy access to the main reception and school kitchen facilities.

The waste and recycle refuge is also located at the top carpark giving ease of access for refuge vehicles away from pedestrian routes.

5. Overall layout of the building.

All external and internal areas, rooms, corridors, halls and lifts are accessible to all students, staff and visitors with directional signage being clear and logical.

6. Corridors and walkways

All corridors throughout the building are of a suitable width to accommodate access for all. Corridor fire doors have hold open door closers giving ease of access only closing upon fire alarm activation. Directional and fire signage is clear on all corridors and exit doors. All doors leading to classrooms or corridors open inwards and comply with part M of the building regulations. Disabled toilet doors open outwards but are recessed of corridor travel routes so as not to cause obstruction.

7. Internal doors and stairways

All doors throughout the building are the same and comply with part M of the building regulations. All doors where required have observation panels, open the correct way and are furnished with DDA compliant ironmongery. All stairways are wide, have handrails and balustrading. Staircases have yellow step nosing's and are easily identifiable at the top and bottom steps. Emergency refuge points and evacuation chairs are located at the top of each staircase including fire evacuation staircases.

8. Passenger lifts

There are two passenger lifts located on each side of the building where there are three floors allowing easy access for all. Lifts can accommodate up to 12 persons. The lift call buttons and controls are DDA compliant.

9. Access to toilet facilities

Each floor has a wheelchair accessible toilet and a general use toilet facility. Each toilet has alarm call that when activated sounds on a control panel in the main reception advising of which toilet requires assistance.

10. Internal surfaces, walls and surroundings

All internal walls, surfaces, doors, floors, balustrading's and ceilings each have a contrast of different colours throughout all areas of the building to assist partially sighted persons when moving from area to area.

11. Directional signage

All external and internal directional signage throughout the building is clear and of the same standard, font and colour giving easy reading for all.

12. Lighting

Lighting is of the same standard in all corridors and classroom areas. Lighting faults and repairs required are recognised through the buildings BMS system. Emergency lighting is tested automatically throughout the building during evening hours via the BMS system.

13. Acoustic environment

Acoustic performance within the building, room to room is of a good standard allowing little transfer of sound between teaching and circulation areas.

14. Means of escape, sounders and alarms

The buildings fire detection system is a GENT system throughout with the main control panel located at the main reception.

The fire alarm systems smoke and heat detection are armed with sound for partially sighted persons and flashing strobe for hearing impaired persons upon alarm activation. Each room and area has a ceiling speaker system to allow messages to be transmitted around the whole building if required

The lower ground floor rooms and halls have the benefit of hearing induction loop systems.

15. Building management and maintenance of services

All of the buildings equipment and machinery are maintained and serviced on an annual basis and a record of service is kept up to date.