

## Accessibility Plan Northern Counties School

This access report addresses the requirements of the Disability Discrimination act (DDA) 1995 and includes 'where reasonable' recommendations for remedial works along with other actions that will help meet the requirements of the Act and aid people with disabilities to access the services provided by the Percy Hedley Foundation. It is acknowledged that some desired modifications could not be completed due to the structure and design of the building.

The audit gives an indication of the problems that are present at the time of the review, and highlights actions that can be carried out to improve the situation, and improve the accessibility of the building for all people.

<b>Name of Venue:</b> Northern Counties School	<b>Contact Person:</b> Jo Allen	
<b>DISABILITY AWARENESS / TRAINING</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1. Do you provide disability awareness training to enable all staff to understand and recognise disability issues?	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Induction programme</li> <li>▪ Ongoing training for all staff as part of annual CPD offer</li> </ul>
2. Do you have arrangements for staff to have the necessary training support children and young people with disabilities if required?	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Managed via service leaders</li> <li>▪ Ongoing training relating to specific children and cohorts of children</li> <li>▪ Staff training in specific conditions and care strategies e.g. Gastro feeds, M&amp;H, epilepsy management, diabetes care etc.</li> </ul>

<b>PARKING AND EGRESS</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Are suitable and sufficient identified parking bays provided for disabled people? (Should be less than 50m from entrance if possible)	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified parking bays are near the front entrance, however they are situated as close to the building as possible and assistance for disabled staff and visitors is available on request</li> <li>▪ Ongoing review of accessibility</li> </ul>	

	for disabled staff	
Is there a kerb surrounding the car park?	Not in main staff car park. Yes in visitors car park at front of campus.	
If 'yes', is there a ramp or dropped kerb?	There is an access ramp (least 1:20)	
Is the approach between car park/pavement and entrance free of obstacles? If 'no', please specify the obstacle. For example, loose paving, bollards, signs, benches, surface finish, drains, gravel, etc.	No <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paved path from visitors car park has some uneven paving slabs, identified with maintenance team</li> </ul>	£100
Is there adequate access to the sports field and playground?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hard path to Forest School and field</li> <li>▪ Pathway to play area has multiple surfaces, Paved, tarmac, speed bumps and a service road.</li> <li>▪ All pupils are accompanied by staff</li> </ul>	

<b>ENTERING MAIN BUILDING</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Is there a suitable ramp (if levels require it) to Main Entrance?	Yes approximately 1:20 gradient	
If not, is there a suitable alternative entrance for visitors with mobility difficulties?	Yes – Side door access and also a rear access to dining room	
Is there adequate Signage from the car park and main entrance	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New signage Summer 2015</li> </ul>	

<b>ENTRANCE DOORS</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
If entrance doors open outwards, is there enough space for them to open without obstructing passage of wheelchair?	N/A	
Does the building have automatic doors?	Yes	
If 'yes,' which way do they open?	Sliding doors	
If 'yes,' do they remain open long enough for a slow moving person to pass though easily?	Yes	
If there are manual doors, are they easy to open?	N/A	
Do they remain open during entry?	Yes - Sensor controlled	
Are handles at wheelchair-user height? (135cm above floor level)	N/A	

Are the doors wide enough to allow an easy wheelchair manoeuvre? (84cm for single door and 168cm for double doors)	Yes	
Do the doors enable wheelchair-users to see people approaching from the other side? (Clear visibility between 90cm and 150cm above floor level)	Yes	
If the doors are mainly glass, is there clear identification warning on the door?	Yes	

<b>INSIDE THE BUILDING</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
If there is a reception desk/facility in this building, is it clearly and logically placed?	Yes	£1000
Is there adequate provision for the hearing impaired?	No <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Needs increase in red alarm lights in designated places as directed by teachers of the deaf</li> <li>▪ Increase bulb output in existing red flashing alarms</li> <li>▪ Hearing loop in main reception area</li> </ul>	
Is it of suitable height for a wheelchair user?	Yes	
If there is a waiting area, is it suitably large and laid out for wheelchair users?	Yes	
Are all internal floors level throughout?	Yes	
Is the floor surface free of any access or tripping hazard?	Yes	
Is any information available in reception and on website, suitable for those with visual impairment?	Yes	
Is there a good contrast of colour to assist access for the visually impaired?	Yes	
Is the lighting adequate?	Yes	

<b>IN THE CORRIDOR</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Are corridors maintained in good repair	Yes – Adequate though narrow in places	
Do all corridors used by visitors have enough room for reasonable passage?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some corridor space is narrow due to the original building design</li> <li>▪ Pupils are accompanied by staff</li> <li>▪ Appropriate storage with sliding, not hinged, doors where storage</li> </ul>	

	is required.	
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<b>CLASSROOM (All)</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Is the door wide enough for a wheelchair?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where children who use wheelchairs are based.</li> <li>Not feasible to widen all doors to a minimum of 84cm, however estates review will include updating regulations.</li> </ul>	
Are the spaces into which the door opens unobstructed?	Yes	
Is there level access into the room?	Yes	
If 'no', could access to the room be made easier? e.g. a ramp, wider door.	N/A	
Library – are books easily accessible?	Yes	
Is there a selection of "large print" books?	Yes	

<b>Furniture</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Is Classroom furniture designed to meet user needs?	Yes (Budgeted on an annual basis to ensure suitability)	
Could a wheelchair-user move between the desks/ workstations?	Yes	
If storage is required for mobility equipment, is this adequate?	No <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some corridor spaces taken up as storage.</li> <li>Staff accompany children at all times to minimise risk</li> <li>In new PMLD dept two upstairs classes have enough storage</li> </ul>	
Are there any chairs/seats with arms for those requiring extra upper body support?	Yes	

<b>TOILETS</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Is there a designated and properly equipped accessible toilet in the building?	Yes	
If 'yes,' is the facility adequate?	Yes.	
If 'yes,' is there clear access for users? e.g. not used for storage	Yes	
If 'yes,' are emergency and lighting cords easily distinguished ?	N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal 1.1 carer support in disabled bathrooms.</li> </ul>	
If there is no accessible toilet, is	N/A	

there one that could be used by a wheelchair user ? (220cm long x 160cm wide)		
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<b>EMERGENCY ACCESS / EXIT</b>	<b>Result and Recommendation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Are emergency exits clearly indicated?	Yes	
Are fire escapes for use by people with disabilities?	Yes	
Are emergency procedures made clear to all ?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Half termly Fire drill practice</li> <li>▪ Staff take responsibility for managing children.</li> <li>▪ Clear signage in place for exits throughout school</li> <li>▪ Increased number of red warning lights required</li> <li>▪ Reviewed termly</li> </ul>	

## Conclusion

Northern Counties School is an old building and therefore not ideal in design. However, it requires relatively little in terms of modification to fulfil the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act. Many original features have complicated the layout of the classrooms etc. including the limited ground floor area leading to areas for children with physical impairment who need to use a lift for access to the classroom. To attempt to rectify this would be impractical and the costs deemed unreasonable. Some small modifications to improve external pathway access and visual alarms throughout the building can be completed in the near future.

Advice has been provided on areas where there is need for updating and modification including improving outdoor signage. Costings included in this report are approximate. This report reflects the schools intention to comply with legislation as far as is reasonably practicable bearing in mind the intractable geographical difficulties of the site.

The table below gives a brief indication of the areas to be addressed in order to improve the level of compliance to the law and has included a suggested set of priorities; however there is no clear legislative guidance to indicate a time limit. Work will be included in the maintenance schedule.

## Priority & Cost Summary

<b>Section</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>		
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>
Parking & Egress (signage)			
Main Entrance			
Entrance Doors			
Inside the Building		£1000 (HI)	
Corridors			

Class rooms			
Furniture			
Toilets			
Emergency Access/Exit			
Total	Approximately £1000		