

Access Statement

Introduction

This statement summarises the procedures in place to ensure that Christ the King Academy meets its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (which replaced the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)) and Special Educational and Disability Needs Act 2001 (SENDA). The Equality Act protects pupils from discrimination and harassment for the following 'protected characteristics': Disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

To assist the school to meet the Equality Act, the design complies with Building Regulations Approved Document M 2010, British Standard BS 8300 and other access guidance such as Sport England's document 'Accessible Sports Facilities' where feasible.

Usage

Christ the King Academy accommodates a range of activities including education and community use therefore the access strategy seeks to meet the needs all building and site users.

Access Strategy

Many of the buildings forming the campus were built in the mid-20th century and the school recognises that this could impair access if an effective strategy was not employed. The school aims to consistently provide the best access possible to all buildings and facilities within existing resources.

Approach, Parking and Drop off

Most pupils arriving by bus will arrive via the gate adjacent to the Regis building where access is flat and level. Students and adults arriving at the front entrance off Darlton Drive access the buildings via a gently curving pedestrian path following the slope of the site directly to the main entrance of the school. This route also leads to the sports building, the entrance to which is on the same level. Three disabled parking bays are located immediately adjacent to the main building and sports building. Additional disabled bays have been made available in the main car park to specific staff. The main car park area is controlled by a roller gate creating a secure area beyond.

Main Entrances and Exits

The entrances at the front of the building allow pupils, visitors and staff to congregate away from traffic before entering the school and is clearly visible on arrival at the site.

The main school entrance and reception is clearly visible from the site entrance. The main entrance door is access controlled to maintain a secure area within. Access is granted via a CCTV/ intercom system. A single lift is provided to serve the raised area immediately after the main entrance. The lift is specifically designed to accommodate access impaired persons. It is fitted with access control to ensure it is used only by those who need it and meets the guidance in Approved Document M for visible and audible information, heights of controls etc.

At the beginning and end of the school day pupils are permitted to enter the school building by way of a number of other entrances in order to minimise congestion but the main entrance remains as visitor access all day. Visitors have a single, visible and safe, entrance to the building.

Circulation Routes

Signage around the campus reinforces the circulation routes. With the exception of the first floor accommodation all buildings are linked by flat and level pedestrian routes linking visually and physically newer and older retained buildings. All pathways are at least 1.5m wide, and most are 3m

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wide, allowing generous provision for groups of people or wheelchairs to pass and link a variety of sedentary and active social spaces at the heart of the campus.

The topography of the site creates accessibility challenges for some desired routes (such as from the playground to the grass pitches) however ramped access is available via an alternative route. Tactile paving is installed where required to Approved Document M guidance. The hard surfaced netball and basketball courts are also accessed via steps and a ramp.

All external doors have either level thresholds or access ramps designed within the required parameters. Horizontal circulation on the ground floor is simple and legible to aid orientation without the need for excessive signage. A one-way system is in operation in the Emmanuel building to reduce congestion. Main corridors have a width of 2.7m which narrows down to 2.2m in some areas on upper floors adjacent to the stairwells. Some short lengths of corridor have a width of 1.5m.

First floor access

A single lift is provided to serve the first floor accommodation and this is located adjacent to the Family Support Workers office. The lift is specifically designed to accommodate access impaired persons. It is fitted with access control to ensure it is used only by those who need it and meets the guidance in Approved Document M for visible and audible information, heights of controls etc. Stair treads (risers and goings) comply with Part M for use by mobility impaired students and staff. Handrails are between 900mm and 1100mm from the stairs and 1100mm on landings.

Community Use

Community use is served by the existing access road and the main car park. The main vehicular and pedestrian access off Darlton Drive has been developed to allow coaches and lorries to enter and exit the site in a forward direction by means of an on-site access road. The access road operates a one-way system.

Toilet Provision

Wheelchair accessible unisex toilets are available in each building and on every floor no more than 40m apart. An ambulant WC cubicles installed with the recommended support rails are also provided in the Emmanuel student toilets.

Evacuation

Refuge spaces are provided within each enclosed staircase. These refuges provide relatively safe waiting areas for short periods of time. A strategy for evacuating disabled persons, such as by use of an 'Evac-chair', have been prepared by the school management. All building as serviced by a L1 fire detection system incorporating visual and audible signalling.

Internal Wayfinding and Signage

The simple circulation strategy minimises the need for wayfinding signage, however, wayfinding and room name signage is installed to all rooms.

Acoustics

Acoustics present a challenge in older buildings, however, upon rebuild or refurbishment new buildings will comply with Building Bulletin 93 (BB93) and will be designed to this level.

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Visual Requirements

Upon refurbishment or rebuild the visual requirements of colour and contrast, the avoidance of glare and manifestation to glazing will comply with the guidance in Approved Document part M for surface finishes. Surfaces will be upgraded within existing resources.

Hearing Impaired Requirements

Emergency evacuation systems incorporate visual alarm signal appliances in common use and circulation areas. Individual site users are assessed with regard to personal accessibility requirements and suitable, personal alarm signalling devices are provided. Suitable training will be provided to front-line staff.

Layouts and Provision

The general layout of fixtures within classrooms provides flexibility by maximising loose furniture wherever possible to allow users to easily reconfigure their environment to accommodate changing needs. Circulation areas and teaching spaces allow wheelchair users independent access to all of the facilities in each space. Height-adjustable tables are provided within each department across the school.

The dining area allows for wheelchair users to sit in a number of different locations. The detailed design of the servery area (by the catering consultant) ensures that a wheelchair user can safely transfer their food from the servery to their table.

The sports building design includes an integrated accessible shower cubicle for each male and female changing area and a unisex shower and changing facility. In addition a number of private shower and changing cubicles are provided to provide privacy for individuals who require or prefer it.

All layouts of fittings, furniture and equipment allow for a 300mm clearance to the leading edge of all new doors to accommodate wheelchair access.