EDUCATION PLANNING AND STRATEGY

PHYSICAL ACCESS STRATEGY FOR SCHOOLS

2015-2018

A greener place   Man gwyrddach

CAERPHILLY
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
CAERFFILI

1.   Introduction

The Council has a comprehensive policy on access to Council Properties. The Directorate of Education and Life Long Learning has an Accessibility Strategy in compliance with The Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disability Act 2001 which extended the DDA 1995 to cover education. In addition to this schools and the Authority have, since 2002 had key duties under Part 4 (education) of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and from October 2010, under the Equality Act 2010. Local authorities are required to develop accessibility strategies and schools to develop accessibility plans. One of the planning duties under this heading includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and the provision of physical aids to education. This strategy document concentrates on improving the physical access to the school environment and provides an assessment of accessibility for each school within Caerphilly County Borough. Improvements to physical access to school premises are a continuous improvement objective and the status of accessibility at each school is reviewed annually and the strategy Document is reviewed every three years. this ensures that accurate information on each school is provided to officers to assist in assessing if a school is able to meet the needs of an individual pupil as well as detailing continuous improvement in line with the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

2.   Improving the Physical Environment of Schools

There has been significant investment in improving access to Caerphilly schools since 2002 to improve physical access to school buildings. Caerphilly Council has a range of school buildings from those built at the turn of the century, which due to their construction are unable to meet the current requirements for access, to modern buildings that have been designed and constructed with inclusion and accessibility a key priority. The requirement for accessible school buildings is an anticipatory one and as such there is a need for partnership working with a number of key stakeholders to further improve the levels of accessibility which have already been achieved.

3.   School Management Teams

Schools have duties under the Equality Act to develop accessibility plans. In addition to their duties towards pupils, schools also have duties (provide access to goods, services and facilities) towards non-educational users. This has particular implications for parent teacher association meetings, letting policies, school social events and governor events. In effect this means that "reasonable adjustments" are a legislative requirement in these instances.

Schools also have duties towards staff, again to provide "reasonable adjustments". Additional funds maybe available through the Department of Work and Pensions' Access to Work scheme. This scheme allocates

resources to support disabled people in maintaining, returning or starting a successful working life.

4. Disability Equality Group

The Disability Equality Group (DEG) comprises of Key Officers of the Council and is chaired by the Head of Property. Their remit is to improve access to services across the Authority. The group has access to a corporate budget to commission improvement works to Council owned premises in line with Council's Access to Council Buildings Policy. All schemes are approved by the DEG and are dependent on sufficient funds being available.

5. General Access Improvements

The following works fall under the foundation standard, which may attract Corporate funding via. The DEG:-

Parking – Clearly marked, designated, accessible bays with dropped kerbs, tactile paving and clear access routes,
Main Entrance – Level entrance and lobby doorways with accessible opening mechanisms,
Reception – clear access routes to the main reception area, with a low level counter and hearing loop system,
Accessible WC – unobstructed route to an accessible WC near to the reception area or within a reasonable distance.

In addition further improvement projects have been undertaken which include installation of hearing loops to all school administration areas as well as installation of flexi-steps to provide access to fixed stages in school halls.

6. Education & Life Long Learning

Under fair funding arrangements schools are responsible for works which fall below the capital threshold which is £10,000. Where accessibility improvement works required are over £10,000 Education will, in partnership with Inclusion Services identify those schools which are regarded as priority for access improvements to meet Social Inclusion Needs.

7. Complex Needs Improvements

New school buildings will be equipped to provide fully accessible changing facilities to ensure the school environment can accommodate a pupil with complex needs, this maybe a requirement to meet medical needs and or support a pupil with a physical disability. Increasing the number of schools which are able to accommodate pupils with complex needs, will increase parental choice for educational placement and reduce the cost of transporting

pupils to alternative placements outside of their catchment school. Accessibility is a criteria of the school rationalisation programme in line with the 21st Century Schools Project.

Complex needs provision will include the following:-

- Closomat toilet – positioned so can be accessed from both sides
- System of wall-mounted drop down rails either side of toilet
- Height adjustable sink with vanity unit
- Soap dispenser, hand towel dispenser/hand dryer that can be used from wheelchair height
- Wall mounted shower with extra length hose so it can be used from sitting on drop down bench or from lying down on a mobile changing table.
- Wall mounted drop down seat with system of grab rails to use shower from a sitting position.
- Overhead track hoist, on an XY system to cover the floor area of this room.
- 4 x wall lockers, accessible from a wheelchair.
- Wall mounted hooks (to hang up slings)

8.   Supporting Disabled Parents

The Local Authority and School Governing Body have a duty to make reasonable adjustments in order for parents with disabilities to access school services, no parent will be treated less favorably because of their disability.

With regards to physical access to school sites, reasonable adjustments will be made where possible to ensure that safe access is provided.

Each School in partnership wit the Local Authority will endeavor to provide the following adaptations to support parental access to school sites:-

Parking – Clearly marked, designated, accessible bays with dropped kerbs, tactile paving and clear access routes,
Main Entrance – Level entrance and lobby doorways with accessible opening mechanisms,
Reception – clear access routes to the main reception area, with a low level counter and hearing loop system,
Accessible WC – unobstructed route to an accessible WC near to the reception area or within a reasonable distance.

Some school sites may not have parking facilities on site for parents and therefore a disabled parking bay cannot be provided. Where a level entrance cannot be provided a suitable alternative entrance will be identified. In older schools accessible toilets may not be to the current Building Regulation Standard, due to the size and nature of the school building.

8.1   Parents Using Mobility Scooters

Mobility scooters are classified by The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988 as either Class II or Class III Invalid Carriages. A Class II scooter must be limited to 4 mph for use on a footway only, while a Class III scooter must be limited to 8 mph for road/highway use and have an additional 4 mph limiter for footway use. The law states that Mobility scooters should be driven only by someone "suffering from some physical defect or physical disability". Motorised scooters are classed as slow moving vehicles and as such, while on primary school sites, should be segregated from children on footpaths and playgrounds. Access for disabled parents using mobility scooters must be safe and reasonable adjustments may be required in order safeguard children on the school site.

Reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled parents using mobility scooters should be reflected in the transport risk assessment for the relevant school site.

9.   Current Position in CCBC Schools

9.1   Primary Sector

Currently twelve English medium primary schools are fully furbished to meet the needs of pupils with complex physical and medical conditions.
Two Welsh medium primary schools are fully furbished to meet the needs of pupils with complex physical and medical conditions.

Thirty nine English medium primary schools are able to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities with limited adaptations being required.

Five Welsh medium primary schools are able to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities with limited adaptations being required.

Eight English medium primary schools, due to their location and construction are not able to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities and are not able to be easily adapted due to these restraints.

Two Welsh medium primary schools, due to their location and construction are not able to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities and are not able to be easily adapted due to these restraints.

9.2   Secondary Sector

Two English medium schools are fully furbished to meet the needs of pupils with complex physical and medical conditions.

One Welsh medium school is fully furbished to meet the needs of pupils with complex physical and medical conditions

Nine English Medium and One Welsh Medium Secondary school are able to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities with limited adaptations being required.

Three English medium secondary schools due to their location and construction are not able to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities and are not able to be easily adapted due to these restraints. Two of the three schools identified are due to be replaced by a new school building which will be fully accessible.

10.   Forward Planning to 2018

Annual plans for accessibility improvements will depend on availability of funding, invariably schemes will progress with joint funding between Education and Life Long Learning and DEG. The 21st Century schools project will improve levels of accessibility where inaccessible schools are replaced or upgraded to modern standards.

A greener place   Man gwyrddach

Primary School	Parking Bay	Ramp to main entrance	Accessible Toilet	Standing Change	(Room for) Bed change	Shower	Fixed Hoist	Internal steps	Comments
Aberbargoed Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Abercarn Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Abertysswg Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓*	*Only to Headteachers Office
Bedwas Infants	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Bedwas Juniors	X	✓	✓	X	X	X		X	No on-site parking
Blackwood Primary	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Bryn Awel Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Bryn Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Cefn Fforest Primary – Juniors	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	Split site – road between
Cefn Fforest Primary – Infants	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓		X	
Coed y Brain Primary – Infants	X	X	X	In KS2 Bldg	X	X		X	No on-site parking. Steps down yard of KS1
Coed y Brain Primary – Juniors	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	No on-site parking. Steps up to main entrance
Crumlin Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	Ramped entrance to rear
Cwm Glas Infants	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Cwm Ifor Primary (NEW)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	1 in Trinity Satellite Base and 1 in toilet
Cwmaber Infants	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓		X	Steps to yard – not accessible site
Cwmaber Juniors	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓		✓	
Cwmcarn Primary – Juniors	X	✓*	✓	✓	X	✓*		X	* Ramped alternative entrance
Cwmcarn Primary – Infants	X	X	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Cwmfelinfach Primary	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X		✓	
Cwrt Rawlin Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Deri Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓*	*Only to Headteachers Office

Derwendeg Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
Fleur de Lys Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Fochriw Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	Split level site
Gilfach Fargoed Primary	X	X	X	✓	X	X		X	
Glyngaer Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Graig y Rhacca Primary – Jnr	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X		*	Split site – steps between
Graig y Rhacca Primary - Inf	✓	✓	?	✓	X	X		X	Level lower building
Greenhill Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Hendre Infants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		✓*	* Leading to rear yard
Hendre Juniors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		X	
Hendredenny Park Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
Hengoed Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Libanus Primary	X	✓	✓*	✓	X	X		✓	* Accessible toilet KS2 area. # Steps to main entrance, ramp to extension entrance
Llancaeach Juniors	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	Ramp and steps between buildings
Llanfabon Infants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Machen Primary	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
Maesycwmmer Primary	X	X	X	X	X	X		✓	
Markham Primary	X	X	X	✓	X	X		✓	
Nant y Parc Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Pantside Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Park Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Pengam Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Penllwyn Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		X	
Pentwynmawr Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
Phillipstown Primary	X	✓	X	X	X	X		✓	
Plasyfelin Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		X	
Pontllanfraith Primary - Infants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		X	
Pontllanfraith Primary - Juniors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*		✓	*in SRB
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		✓	
Rhydri Primary	X	✓	✓*	✓*	X	X		✓	*In demountable
Risca Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	Lift also
St Gladys Primary	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
St Helens RC Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
St James Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Lift also

Primary School	Parking Bay	Ramp to main entrance	Accessible Toilet	Standing Change	(Room for) Bed change	Shower	Fixed Hoist	Internal steps	Comments
Tiryberth Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X*	Into quadrant play area
Trinant Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*		✓	* Shower cubicle in Nursery
Twyn Primary	X	X	X	✓*	X	X		✓	* Nursery
Ty Isaf Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	X		X	*In SRB
Ty Sign Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
Tyn y Wern Primary	X	✓	✓	✓*	X	X		✓	* Not Nursery (in main bldg. only)
Tynewydd Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Lift also
Upper Rhymney Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	
Waunfawr Primary	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	*X		X	*Can be added
Whiterose Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓		X	
Ynysddu Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Ystrad Mynach Primary	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓*	*Lift also

Welsh Medium Primary Schools	Parking Bay	Ramp to main entrance	Accessible Toilet	Standing Change	(Room for) Bed change	Shower	Fixed Hoist	Internal steps	Comments
Ysgol Bro Allta	✓	✓*	✓	✓	X	X		X	*Alternative entrance
Y G Cwm Gwyddon	X	✓	X	X	X	X		✓	
Y G Trelyn	X	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓		X	4ft bed only
Y G Caerffili	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
YG Gilfach Fargoed	X	X	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Ysgol y Castell	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Y G Bro Sannan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓*	*Lift also
Y G Cwm Derwen	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	
Ysgol Ifor Bach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X	
Ysgol Penalltau	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X		X	
Ysgol y Lawnt	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X		✓	

Secondary School	Parking Bay	Ramp to main entrance	Accessible Toilet	Standing Change	(Room for) Bed change	Shower	Fixed Hoist	Internal steps	Comments
Bedwas High	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Blackwood Comp	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Cwmcarn High	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Heolddu Comp	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Lewis Girls	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Lewis Pengam	✓	✓	✓					✓*	*Lift also
Newbridge Comp	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Oakdale Comp	✓	X	✓					✓	
Pontllanfraith Comp	✓	✓	✓	✓*		✓*		✓	*In SRB
Rhymney Comp	✓	✓	✓					✓*	*Lift provision in part of bldg
Risca Comp	✓	✓	✓					✓	
St Cenydd Comp	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓*	*Lift also
St Martins	✓	X	✓					✓	
Ysgol Cwm Rhymni	✓	✓	✓					✓*	*Lift also

Special School	Ramp to main entrance	Accessible Toilet	Standing Change	(Room for) Bed change	Shower	Fixed Hoist	Internal steps	Comments
Trinity Fields	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	

HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION QUERIES ON FACILITIES (please e-mail):

Gail Lever, Health & Safety Officer - leverg@caerphilly.gov.uk
Lisa Cornish, Manual Handling Assessor - cornil@caerphilly.gov.uk

The information in this table should be used as an aid when considering the placement of children who have identified needs, eg physical disabilities, assistance with toileting etc. and should only be used as a guide to assist parents and professionals when considering a school placement. Assessments should always be made on an individual child's needs – generic recommendations without regard to individual needs are to be avoided. This document is accurate as of 5 January 2015, but is subject to change as modifications and alterations are made to school premises. Professionals using this document are to be mindful that "changes of use" to areas/facilities within schools may occur without the knowledge of the Health and Safety Division.