



Tuel Lane Infant & Nursery School

POLICY: Accessibility Plan - Access to the Building

REVIEW DATE: Summer 2021 (pending asset management and building survey Spring 2021)

Introduction

Tuel Lane Infant School is committed to offering an inclusive setting for the education of children from 3 to 7 years of age.

The school was opened in 1879 and given the local topography added to a Victorian period design the school building poses some challenges for access both internally and externally to children and adults with mobility related disabilities.

Access to and from the building

There are no issues of access to the **nursery building**. This is a relatively recent extension to the site opened in 2000.

The **Community Room** has no issues of access other than its position on Tuel Lane. A risk assessment would indicate an unacceptable risk for a single staff member to push an un-motorised wheelchair to this room because of the steepness of the hill. A motorised wheelchair would pose no such problem.

To the **front of the school** access to the building could most likely be improved by the building of ramped access to the three entrances. To the **rear of the school** and providing access to the playground it would not be possible to ramp access the entrance. This is because of the legislation requiring a 1:15 incline, there is insufficient space to provide the length of ramp required.

The **dining hall** has level access via the kitchen area, this would be acceptable.

To comply with current legislation ramped access is required to the main entrance to school. This would allow access, without further internal modifications to the school offices and the school hall. This would allow parents and guests who have mobility difficulties or use a wheel chair to meet with school staff and attend school events. If internal modifications were made to allow access through the building ramped access to the main entrance would negate the need to ramp access to the other two front entrances.

Internal access and fire escape

In main school there are two sets of internal steps in the corridors, wheelchair lifts (there are alternative means now available) could be fitted to these steps. Access to Classroom B would be very difficult to design given the space available.

Fire escape would be acceptable from R and H classrooms. Because of the long fire escape steps from the hall and F Classroom there are questions about the safety of wheelchair access to these rooms. It would not be acceptable to place a child with mobility difficulties in F classroom. Risk assessment would indicate an acceptable risk for escape from the hall if a range of measures and precautions were put in place. These would include the positioning of nominated fire wardens.

Toilets would need to be adapted through the building. A nursery toilet could be adapted for wheelchair use. The community room (HOPSCOTCH) has an adapted toilet already. If access to the building via a ramp at the main door were put in place then there would be access to the community room toilet but this would entail going out of the building. An alternative to this is to utilise the present headteacher's office and convert this into a disabled access toilet and a small storage room. A new headteacher's office could then be built using the existing adult toilet and the space above an additional playground store room in the alcove on the playground between the adult toilet and CC classroom.

A full Asset Management Survey has been commissioned by Calderdale Council during February 2021. This document will be revised in the light of new information or estimated costs of works.