

## Equality Access Assessment of the Schools within the Dean Trust – Ashton on Mersey School

The following audit is designed to assist with the review of service provision for disabled pupils/staff & visitors within the built environment.

### 1) Safe traffic routes and pedestrian routes.

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	1.1	Roads around the school are congested with parked traffic during the school day. The parking issues are most notable at the start/end of the School day as pupils arrive/leave. The parked vehicles causes the issue of clear lines of sight and audibility of pupils and parents along with mobility for those persons with such impairments. Parents & carers with mobility difficulties have attended the school during the day & evening events and have reported no issues with the facilities.	Cecil Ave & Langley Rd.	Heads letter to parents and carers about parking on the zig-zags and double yellow lines.	Head	Termly
				Request support from the local police/traffic warden to patrol the area at the peak times.	VP	Termly
				Encourage a car share scheme for staff	HR	1 Yr
				Additional restrictions on parking outside the School.	Estates	3 Yr
				Provide additional parking with school grounds.	Estates	5 Yr

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

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	2.1	Access to the School is restricted to the reception desk (due to safeguarding requirements). Parents & carers with mobility difficulties have attended the school during the day & evening events and have reported no issues with the facilities.	School reception/hall 2/Drama studio	Step in to the areas listed – Provide ramp in accordance with ACoP to SEND area.	MAB	1 Yr

**3) Designated disabled parking areas for visitors and permit holders - delivery vehicles.**

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	3.1	Disabled parking provision is provided at the School.	School, 6 <sup>th</sup> Form & Training centre reception	Maintain the provision no further action required.	MAB	N/A

**4) The overall layout of the building is reasonably clear and logical.**

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	4.1	The layout of the building is reasonably clear and logical.	Whole site	Nil – To be reviewed as part of any major refurbishment or re-build.	MAB	N/A

**5) The main entrance is easy to locate and is suitably designed, installed and maintained.**

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	5.1	The Main entrance to the School, 6 <sup>th</sup> form and training school are confused by some visitors. Deliveries to the School & 6 <sup>th</sup> form are also 'dropped off' or re-directed. At the start and end (into the evening) of the school day visitors sometimes enter via the tennis court gates and the Archway gates. The Signage to direct visitors/deliveries should be improved. The entrance to the main school does not comply with the current width requirements for equality.	Main entrance	Improve directional signage in accordance with the ACoPs	MAB	3 Months
				Entrance doors should be a minimum of 1000mm wide opening and have assisted access/egress facilities.	MAB	2 Yrs
				Minimal size of the School reception means that it readily becomes over crowded – Extension to reception area recommended. Refurb needs to account for appropriate access	MAB	2 Yrs

Ensure that the following are suitably designed, installed and maintained to meet the wide range of user's needs,

**6) Approach, routes and street furniture.**

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	6.1	The approach to the main entrance to the School is off Cecil Ave for the School & 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Reception areas.	Whole site	The tarmac outside the School entrance is worn with some undulations in its finish – Recommend that this is relayed as part of the proposed reception refurbishment.	MAB	6 Mths
				There is a small step into the school reception which does cause some issues for wheelchair users.	MWT	6 Mths
				The Reception is poorly laid out with restricted seating and waiting area. The reception desk does meet the equality requirements (higher and lower desk height and knee space for wheel chair users).	MAB	18 Mths
				There is no external street furniture adjacent to the reception area. There is adequate lighting to the external areas.		

**7) Car parking.**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	7.1	Adequate parking at School, 6 <sup>th</sup> form & Training School for disabled drivers.	Whole site	Nil		

**8) External ramps and steps.**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale

Ashton	8.1	Access to all areas of the school is available – however there are a number of locations where ramps could be installed.	Whole site	Suggested ramps required from :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance to SEND area by US girls toilets</li> <li>• Outside diner – slope too steep</li> </ul>	MAB	12 Mths
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### 9) Entrances.

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	9.1	Entrance to comply with part M of the Building regulations.  Doors into the conservatory pond courtyard do not comply with the minimum width requirement.	Sports centre	The entrance into the sports centre (during the school day) does not comply with the regulations, however the double doors which are not used are available (tumble bar barrier access).  Ironmongery to door needs up-grading to DDA standard. Suggest doors need replacing to conform		6 Mths  12 Mths

### 10) Reception areas and lobbies.

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	10.1	Hearing induction loop not fitted to the School reception, training school and sports centre reception desk & Sign.  Inadequate waiting area for the volume of pupils & visitors at peak times.  6 <sup>th</sup> Form reception satisfactory.		Fit hearing induction loop and sign.  Increase the size of the School reception area.		6 Mths  2 Yrs

### 11) Corridors and walkways.

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	11.1	Several of the doors within the courtyard areas have doors which open out into the corridor – potential collision hazard.  The corridors within the school are narrow given the volume of pupils who undertake a class change every 50 minutes throughout the day.	Across Site	Suggest we replace doors which open into the classroom to the correct door size and DDA ironmongery.  The corridors could be widened to facilitate the flow of pupil traffic during class change (only where we have space to move out into).	MAB	3 Yrs  3 Yrs

### 12) Internal doors, ramps and stairs.

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	12.1	Many of the older doors within the school don't comply with the current standards (Observation panels, opening outwards worn and no DDA ironmongery)	Across Site	Funding dependant suggest we adapt doors to have observation panels, open the correct way and fit DDA ironmongery.	MAB	1 Yr

### 13) Lifts: Passenger lifts, platform lifts and stair lifts.

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	13.1	Passenger lifts are fitted to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training centre</li> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> Form</li> <li>• Stair lift to CR 51 – 53</li> <li>• Stair lift to CR 1 - 3</li> </ul>	Across Site	The stair lift to CR 1 – 3 is not operational, ensure new passenger lift provides access to CR 1 – 3.  The stair lift to CR 51 – 53 is in and out of repair- suggest replacement	MAB	6 Mths  3 years

**14) WCs (both for general use and for wheelchair users).**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	14.1	Adapted WCs for able body and mobility pupils, staff & visitors provided.	Across Site	Nil  Hoist required in SEND disability toilet to provide appropriate support for pupils who require physical support	MAB	1 year

**15) Internal surfaces.**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	15.1	Differentiations between the colour, texture and contrast of floors, walls and fixtures should be given to assist partially sighted persons.	Across Site	To be considered during refurbishment and new build projects.	MAB	On going

**16) Seating in waiting areas.**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	16.1	Consideration to be given to designated areas for pupil, staff & visitors with wheel chairs – evening events etc.	Halls, drama studio etc.	To be considered during events and activities.	HOY SLT	On going

**17) Reception counters and service desks.**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	17.1	Satisfactory to most areas, however sports centre reception counter could be improved.	Sports hall	Review of sports centre reception counter desk.	MAB	1 Yr

**18) Way finding.**

<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time Scale</b>
Ashton	18.1	Signage within the school is none standard with a mix of sizes fonts and colour differential.	Across Site	Signage to be standardised in accordance with the RiBA/RNIB code of practice.	MAB	1 Yr

**19) Lighting.**

<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time Scale</b>
Ashton	19.1	Lighting levels and quality within the school is not to the current standard with a mix of colours controls.	Across Site	Lighting and controls to be standardised in accordance with the CIBSE/RNIB code of practice.	MAB	3 Yr

**20) Acoustic environment.**

<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time Scale</b>
Ashton	20.1	Acoustic performance within the Jackson building is poor – transfer of sound between teaching and circulation areas.	Jackson	Acoustic performance to be improved in accordance with the DfES/BRE code of practice.	MAB	3 Yr

**21) Means of escape and alarms.**

	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time Scale</b>
Ashton	21.1	Current fire detection and warning system within the main school, Jackson &	Across Site	Nil action required	Head	

		Sports centre does meet the current requirements of the Fire Act.				
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**22) Ensure that all building management services are checked on a regular basis.**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	22.1	Satisfactory	Across Site	The in-house estate's management team maintain the estate.	MAB	On going

**23) Adaptations for SEN pupils across site and in specific classrooms and SEND area**

	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	23.1	Satisfactory	Across Site	Review undertaken at the start of each year on new pupil intake and current pupil needs.  Adaptions undertaken depending on emerging needs of the cohort including fall and rise desks, access to areas, specialist SEND resources required etc	SENCO	On going

**24) Adaptations for Staff & Visitors**

Ashton	Ref	Observation	Location	Action	Who	Time Scale
Ashton	25.1	Satisfactory	Across Site	Review undertaken at the start of each year on new staff intake and current staff needs. Visitor feedback following events provides a steer on necessary adaptions.	Head	On going