



Making the most of everyone.

Accessibility Policy

Policy Adopted June 2014

Policy Reviewed on 1st February 2022

Policy Valid until March 2025

Signed:

(Chair of Governors)

YSGOL PENMORFA

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Introduction

The Special Needs and Disability Discrimination Act (2001) requires that all schools should plan to increase access to school for disabled pupils. (NAW Circular 15/2004).

Our own Equality of Opportunity Policy states that “We aim to ensure that the school is a place where everyone – irrespective of their race, language, colour, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, size, religious or political beliefs, ethnic or nation origin, previous occupation or disability – feels welcomed and valued.”

We feel strongly as a school that we will endeavour to ensure that the school becomes more readily accessible to all pupils, parents, teachers and visitors who have physical disabilities.

Background

Ysgol Penmorfa, situated on Dawson Drive, was originally of a single storey brick construction under a slate roof. The school has expanded with an additional single storey detached wing and also a two storey extension. There are two internal flights of steps on the ground floor and one staircase serving the first-floor classrooms with an external fire escape stairwell. Platform lifts are provided to both sets of steps. There is no provision for wheelchair access to the three classrooms upstairs.

The single storey extension comprises four classrooms. The external hard standing area has been extended to increase playground space.

A pre-school classroom, detached from the Main School, is located on site. This provision is single storey, of brick construction under a flat roof.

Approach to Site, Access to Site and Parking

Dawson Drive is a relatively busy cul-de-sac. There are five principal entrances to the school, one vehicular and four pedestrian.

Bus stops are located along Fforddisa, public transport to site is not adequate. There are no public car parks within convenient walking distance of the school and the only provision is the on-site car park. The car park was extended in 2007 to accommodate up to 30 parked vehicles. In addition, there are fourteen drop off/short stay bays.

The route from the bus stops to site is not clearly marked, but because of their proximity to school no action is required. There is no public seating along the route and it is not practical to provide any.

An emergency vehicular access is located off Dawson Crescent, and is of sufficient width to allow emergency vehicles to access the site.

Three pedestrian access routes are served off Dawson Drive and one off St. George's Drive. The on-site pedestrian routes are marked and well defined. Pupils, visitors and vehicles do not mix freely.

Dropped kerbs are sighted on both Dawson Drive and Dawson Crescent. Road markings are in place to warn motorists of pupils crossing Dawson Drive.

The designated disabled parking bays are clearly defined. The guidance for visitors is confusing and needs to be revised to enable visitors to locate the main entrance more easily. We are currently looking at new signage which will be in place by September 2022.

Routes and Level Changes, External Steps and Ramps

The main route to the principal entrance is from the school car park to the front of the school. Locked gates prevent pupil access to the car parks during the school day.

The pedestrian routes off Dawson Drive were remodeled in 2007. Also, road crossing islands provide a visual indication to road users that pupils are likely to cross the highway.

Entrances

Main Entrance:

Both doors of the main entrance need to be opened when access for wheelchair users is required. The school has submitted a request to the LA to remodel the main entrance, improving wheelchair access. Initial plans have been received but funding is not available for the project.

The main corridors and circulation areas on the ground floor are interrupted with steps. Consideration is given to type, colour and surface finish to both floor and wall finishes in maintenance programme.

Most assembly areas have a good mix of natural and artificial light, are equipped with loose furniture and offer good circulation to wheelchair users.

The Training Room has an external door with a ramp leading to the entrance. This room is therefore, wheelchair compliant.

There are no electronic hearing aids provided at the school. Induction loops are not provided. There is no portable loop provided at the reception desk for independent use.

Internal Ramps, steps, Stairs, Lift

Handrails are in place next to all internal steps and stairs. The platform lifts, manufactured by TAURUS, are serviced annually.

Internal Doors

All internal doors have been replaced and are now compliant.

All doors are regularly maintained, door closers adjusted, missing or defective ironmongery replaced and class identification signage is evident.

WC Provision

The school have recently installed 2 handrails to the accessible WCs, which are situated off the corridors. All WC areas have been upgraded recently and are of very good repair.

Communication with stakeholders

All written documents are written in a minimum font size 12. There is currently no provision for parents or governors with visual impairment. The school website needs to be regularly updated with newsletters and documents that users can enlarge on the screen if necessary.

Monitoring the Impact of the Policy

Governing Body will review the equality impact assessment for this policy to monitor the outcomes and impact of the policy in line with equalities legislation.

YSGOL PENMORFA ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Target	Current situation	Strategies	Timeframe	RAG Goals achieved	Cost
1. MAIN FOYER To remodel the main entrance to facilitate easy access by disabled persons to building.	Both doors need to be opened in order to allow wheelchair access. The height of the counter is inappropriate for wheelchair users. Access to the main corridor is restricted by a second security door which leads to a narrow corridor.	Applications have been submitted to the LA. Initial plans have been received. Need to re-submit an application for improvements to the foyer to the LA.	LA to decide on timeframe.		LA Funded.