

Accessibility Case Study -St Matthias CE Primary School -Malvern



The work undertaken

The school is now designated as having reasonable access to the curriculum and support accommodation. St Matthias was not fully accessible to a child with physical disabilities until the summer of 2023. Prior to this there were areas in the school that were not accessible as there were steps and no flat exit and entrances in some areas. In addition there were no designated personal care facilities.

Once it was decided that a pupil with physical disability would be attending the school from Sept 2024 the local authority began discussions with the head teacher and governors and a feasibility study was drawn up to enable the child with physical disabilities to attend and be fully included in the life and curriculum of the school alongside his peer group.

The school is now designated as fully accessible.

Key areas that were developed

The major work that needed to happen was the provision of a **bathroom management area (BMA)**. This multi-purpose facility provides school with a shower, changing bed, hoist, adjustable sink, disabled toilet and grab rails. The room is available to staff (e.g. if there are any staff who require showering facilities e.g. if they have cycled to work) and children/staff who require additional space, have personal care needs or medical needs. The BMA in St Matthias is also used to store the significant amount of specialist equipment required by the pupil.

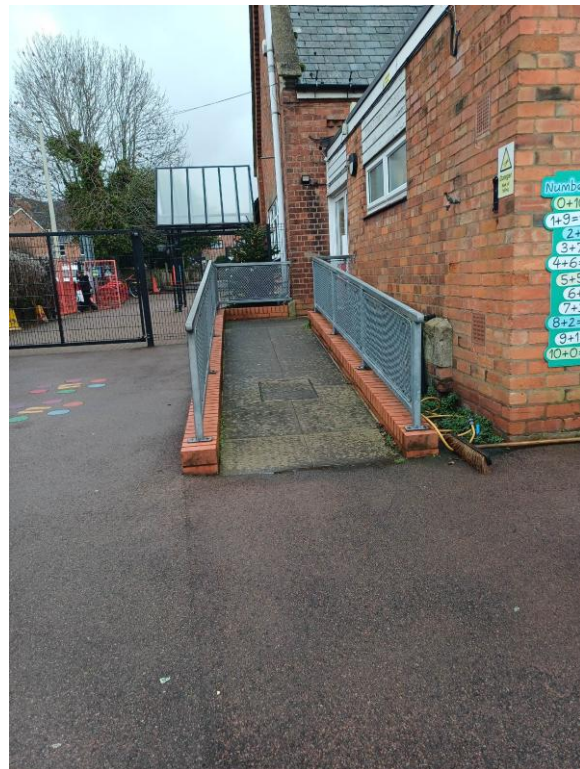
Bathroom

The toilet can be accessed from the right or left and has adjustable grab rails. The powered changing bed can be lowered or raised. The sink is adjustable. The hoist moves across the ceiling to the shower, toilet and bed. There is a lockable medicine cabinet with a trolley for medical or feeding supplies.



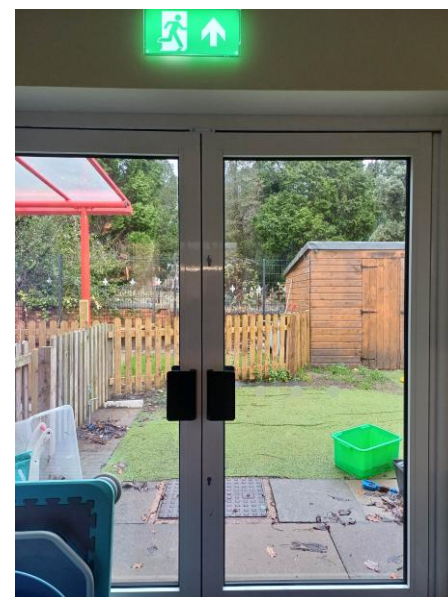
Outdoor ramps

Outdoor ramping and flat exists and entrances mean that any adult or child in a wheelchair or with a walking aid can access all areas of the school site.



Indoor ramps and widened doors

A ramp to replace a set of steps internally has meant having reasonable access to the curriculum and support accommodation inside the school. Doors were widened to ensure that equipment such as walkers, standing frames and wheelchairs could get through.



Classroom and sensory room

The classroom has been arranged to accommodate an individual work station so specialist eye gaze technology can be used.

A sensory room in school can be accessed via a portable mobile hoist that is stored in the BMA.



Equipment

Equipment such as a walker, mobile hoist, specialist seating and standing frame is stored in the BMA when not in use.





Physical Disability Outreach Support Team



In Summary

The changes to the environment at St Matthias has enabled positive inclusion of a pupil with physical disabilities. The physical environment is key as it enables curriculum access and full opportunities to learn alongside peers.

As well as this, the contribution from parents, governors, senior leadership, school staff, PD Outreach, NHS physios, occupational therapists, speech therapists, ACT Birmingham, and community nurses has provided a multi-disciplinary team around the child. This on-going support and input is essential.

Supporting children with SEND is an on-going developing process as the child moves through school. The enthusiasm, commitment and expertise of the key teaching assistants cannot be underestimated, they have embraced all training opportunities in order to fully support the pupil with learning and communication, personal care, medical and physical needs.

Angela Broadbent

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