

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Accessibility Report



**Learning and Loving
Caring and Sharing
through
The message of Christ**



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a happy
community where we are loved and valued as
individuals.**

**As Disciples of Jesus, we learn
together, pray together and
celebrate together as one in God's love.**

**Together with parents/carers, the parish and
the wider community, we prepare our children
to live and build God's kingdom on earth.**

Description of the school

St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided school for children aged 3- 11 years. The school is situated in the centre of Wrexham and was first established in 1893.

The school comprises 5 separate buildings. Four buildings are single storey:

Top Block (Block 4)

Nursery (Block 3)

Bottom Block (Block 2)

Cool Kids' Club (Mobile Block)

with Main Block built on 2 levels (Block 1)

The buildings accommodate Foundation Phase and Junior classes, Cool Kids' Club (Wrap around Care) WCs and cloakrooms, a school kitchen and facilities for staff.

The School is a 'land-locked' town centre school, adjacent to Belle Vue public park on the north western boundary, to the east is Island Green retail park with south east and south west characterised by small retail. Recently, new apartments and retail outlets have been built adjacent to the main approach road.

The school is used solely for the purposes of primary education with no public access outside of normal school hours.

There is supervised access to all areas of the school.

There are currently no disabled members of staff employed at the school.

A. Vehicular Approach and Car Parking

The school is approached via Tenter's Square along a single lane to one of three parking areas. Car park 1 is adjacent to Top Block (Staff parking), Car Park 2 is directly in front of the Reception area/ adjacent to Junior playground (Staff/ Visitors/ Cool Kids' drop off and Deliveries) and Car Park 3 is adjacent to the Main block/ Cool Kids' Club (Staff parking). There is an insufficiency of parking so it is on a 'first come first served' basis.

The approach lane from Tenter's Square is used for both vehicular and pedestrian access. One short section of footway paving exists which is adjacent to Car Park 1.

The main access way via Tenter's Square is not lit.

There is a school gate across the main access lane which is locked during school hours and when the school/ Cool Kids' Club is unoccupied.

Presently there is no signage on Pen-Y- Bryn to indicate the presence of a school. There is a sign located near Car Park 2 directing visitors to the main reception area.

Access to Site

Vehicles can access the site from the Tenter's Square entrance only. However access is limited to staff vehicles, delivery vehicles and parents using the Breakfast club (7:30am-8:30am) and after school club (3:30pm- 6pm)

Pedestrians can access the school from Lea Road via a side gate (small step), from Tenter's Square via a gate located by Top Block or on Pentrefelin via the bus gate (flight of steps). The only suitable access for disabled persons is via the Tenter's Square access.

Gate opening/ closing times

Top Block Gate

Open: 7.40 am
Closed: 9.00 am
Open: 3.15 pm
Close: 5.45 pm

Bus Gate

Open: 8.20 am
Closed: 9.00 am
Open: 3.15 pm
Close: 3.40 pm

Lea Road Gate

Open: 8.40 am
Closed: 9.00 am
Open: 11.25 am
Closed: 11.40 pm
Open: 12.20 pm
Closed: 12.35 pm
Open: 2.55 pm
Close: 6.00 pm

B. Routes and Level Change

C. The site is mostly flat however two pedestrian access points to the school have steps. Access via the main entrance on Tenter's Square can be used simultaneously by pedestrians and vehicles.

Entrances to classes/ workspaces

Nursery (Block 3) - Entrance via outdoor classroom/ playground through a single door.

Reception class (within Main Block)- Entrance via outdoor classroom/ playground through a single door.

Years 1 & 2 The main entrance to **Bottom Block (Block 2)** is accessed via single doors.

The Robins and Wrens classes (Block 2)- may also be accessed via single doors from the outside classroom area in front of the classes. Both classes have a step.

Years 3 & 4/ Computer Suite/ Staff room occupy the first floor of the Main block (Block 1) accessed via the main Reception area through a double door, up a flight of steps located opposite Bottom block through a single door or via a single door opposite the Nursery block. A wheelchair lift is available via the Main Reception area access point.

Year 5 & 6 occupy the Top Block building (Block 4) accessed via a ramp through a single door.

Cool Kids' Club can be accessed via a ramp through a single door.

C. Entrances Including Reception

See Above

There is a reception area at the entrance to the school with a small waiting/seating area. There is access for wheelchair users, however space is limited.

D. Horizontal Movement and Assembly Areas

Horizontal movement within Nursery, Bottom Block, Top Block and in Reception class within the Main Block is possible. However, for other areas of the school, vertical movement is required.

The Fire Assembly area is located on the Junior playground so there are no level changes between the fire assembly area and the buildings mentioned above.

E. Vertical Movement and Internal Level Change

There are two changes of level within the school. There are steps/ stairs between each level and a wheelchair lift provides access to the upper floor via the Main reception entrance. Handrails are in place.

F. Doors

Within the main body of the school all single doors to teaching/ learning areas and offices are accessible to all able bodied but with some difficulty for disabled users. Within the Main Block, particularly on the first floor, there are several sets of fire doors which are to remain closed during normal operations in the school.

G. Lavatories and Changing Facilities

WCs are provided for Foundation Phase children, Junior children, Cool Kids' Club, Staff/ visitors and kitchen staff. There is no separate disabled toilet situated on the premises. All toilet areas are fitted with non-slip flooring.

H. Fixtures and Fittings

Counters/ Service Desks

There are two serveries located on both sides of the kitchen which are used to serve school dinners. Due to space constraints, the Foundation Phase servery has very limited accessibility to disabled pupils and adults, but wheelchair users may use the Junior server.

Telephone

The telephone in the Reception Office is the main means of communicating with parents and others. This is likely to exclude deaf or speech impaired people. Email details are publicised on the school website as an alternative way of contacting the school.

Lighting

Fluorescent lighting is used throughout the school, giving a good level of light in all locations. External lighting around the school is very limited.

I. Kitchens

A kitchen is used to prepare school meals for pupils. The kitchen is not adapted for disabled people, however such adaptations are not needed by current members of staff.

J. Information and Controls

Signage is adequate, given the fact that visitors are always accompanied.

Controls and switches are suitable for current staff.

K. Means of Escape

Building users are warned of the need for an emergency evacuation by an audible alarm.

Evacuation is via designated fire doors throughout the school.

An evacuation plan has been communicated to all staff and visitors. There are also signs and notices in relevant places around the school.

L. Management Issues

It is recognised that there are constraints with ease of accessibility to the site and buildings. Individual management plans have been implemented to balance the needs of access and security and control movements within the site.

M. Summary

St Mary's Catholic Primary School recognises location and access issues. There is regular consideration throughout each year to review changes to the built environment surrounding the school and its impact upon accessibility.

We review both access and egress to the school in both normal and emergency situations to continually improve access within the building.

No comment is made on the actual management of the service being provided from this building.

Further Information and Contacts

The following documents explain more about our equality objectives and how schools in Wrexham are responding to the Equality Act 2010.

- North Wales Equality Objectives - A Collaborative Project between North Wales Public Sector Organisations.
- Developing Regional Equality Objectives - summary of the regional engagement event held in September 2011.
- Equality and Human Rights Commission Report “How Fair is Wales”
- Wrexham County Borough Council Strategic Equality Plan 2012 – 2016
- How Fair is Wrexham – summary of the public engagement event held in November 2011.
- The Equality Act 2010 – Guidance for Schools (Wrexham County Borough Council)
- Equality Act 2010 – Summary action plan for schools (attached)

For further information about our plan or to request a copy of this document in an accessible format, or to obtain a copy of the documents listed here please contact:

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