



ASHBROOKE HOUSE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 3 TO 11

Disability Policy

Accessibility plan in the light of the Disability Discrimination Act 2002.

Ashbrooke House is a three storey building dating from approximately 1875. It was designed as a gentleman's residence and with very limited modification opened as a school in 1953.

The front entrance has two small steps. Access at the rear is almost level but here there are currently a variety of surfaces – asphalt, stone slabs, bark and concrete. There are two changes of floor level on the ground floor. On the first and second floors there are various landings at different levels on each floor. A well designed fire escape leads from the top floor at the rear of the premises. The present building is therefore not ideal for the use of children who have difficulty with mobility. It could become more accessible but realistically only at ground floor level. On this floor are three classrooms Nursery (3-4), Reception (4-5) and year 1 (5-6). There are two w/c's linked to the Reception class and one boys urinal. Year 1 girls therefore have to use the girls w/c on the top floor landing and boys use the w/c on the first floor.

The school has obtained planning permission for the erection of a single storey two classroom building in the rear garden. These classes would simply replace the existing Nursery and reception classes whose present rooms are rather small.

Permission has also been granted for demolition of an old toilet block and replacement with a new one containing a disabled toilet.

Since the present proprietors of the school business are leaseholders the construction of such improved facilities will have to be rigorously costed before any construction if any, takes place.

The variety of path surfaces leading towards the rear entrance are adequate for the present fully ambulant intake. It can be appreciated that upgrading of the surfaces would be best left until development started of the classroom and toilet blocks.

However during this school year 2006-7 steps will be taken to extend the asphalt of the front drive so that an even surface path extends to the rear door and also up to the playground.

Two ramps will also be constructed for the ground floor during 2007-8.

If the two new buildings are constructed then full access for the disabled has already been built into the design.

Summary

1. Ashbrooke House School has realistically limited accessibility for disabled children except on the ground floor.
2. During this school year improvements will be made to make the ground floor more accessible.
3. If new developments of classroom and toilet blocks take place within the planning time of three years (from 15th November 2006) then these areas together with the ground floor of the existing building will be fully accessible for disabled children and adults.

