



Eastcombe Primary School Accessibility Strategy

The governors and staff of Eastcombe Primary School recognise the need to consider the requirement to provide access and facilities for as wide a range of users as practicable/possible. Such considerations include emergent needs from existing pupils, parents/guardians and staff as well as potentially new pupils.

Eastcombe Primary School is situated on a small and steeply sloping site, the building is of substantial Cotswold stone construction dating from 1878 and structurally little has changed since then. As a result the school unfortunately presents a number of features that significantly restrict the ability of the school to provide suitable and safe provision for disabled people:

- The only external access to the Visitor Reception area and to Class 1 is via a sloping/stepped path (currently accessible to pushchairs).
- The entrance door to Class 1 is not suitable for wheelchair access.
- There is a narrow internal staircase.
- The existing internal doors do not permit wheelchair access.
- Emergency access out of Class 1 and out of the staff room is via 3 steps, through a narrow doorway.
- There is no toilet accessible by wheelchair.
- Although Classes 2 and 3 have direct access at a higher level, there are currently steps into classrooms that need to be negotiated.
- There are no toilet facilities on the upper level of the school.
- Entry to the school premises is directly from a road through the village and that poses a safety risk to both able bodied and disabled people.
- There are no disabled toilet facilities and no specifically designated intimate care facilities.

Significant modifications to the building would be prohibitively expensive given current financial constraints.

Whilst recognising the responsibility to address potential requirements, the governors judge that Eastcombe School cannot feasibly provide suitable and safe accommodation for people with significant physical disabilities. Should a disabled pupil wish to join the school, the reality of the accommodation limitations will be constructively explained to parents/guardians in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Where applicable, prospective parents will be advised that there is a modern (1980s) primary school situated about ½ mile away and, if appropriate, discussions will take place with the Local Authority Admissions office about the suitability of placing such a child at that school. Every effort will be made to provide support.

In the event of an emerging need to support an existing Eastcombe pupil, parent or staff member, the governors and staff will strive to develop and fund appropriate access/support arrangements.