



Accessibility user survey by Ash Field Academy

Location: Knighton Fields Primary Academy

Surveyed by:

Students – Ashley Sheppard and Jodi Read

Staff - Ranjeet Gangar and Mechalla Sanders

Date of Survey: Wednesday 9th April, 2014

Context:

On Wednesday 9th April 2014, we visited Knighton Fields Primary Academy to complete a 'Disability User Survey'. This was our first visit to the school.

Two wheelchair users attended the survey. The wheelchairs were adult sized electric chairs and one of the students has a visual impairment.

We arrived at the school on Wednesday morning, and were greeted by Clare Moore, who introduced us to the school, and also accompanied us on our tour. This report is our feedback on what we found.

What we were impressed by:

- Knighton Fields Primary Academy is a well sign posted school and was easy for our visually impaired student to locate the main gates and identify the reception area.
- Good drop kerb for wheelchair users to gain access to the main reception door.
- The security of the school is extremely good. We were impressed by the two sets of secure doors before entering the school. In between is a lovely reception area.
- The reception desk is at a great height, low enough for wheelchair users to speak with the receptionist and sign in independently.
- All the floors within the school are very smooth making it easy for wheelchairs.
- There is great use of VI tape around most of the school on the staircases which pre-warns everyone of a change in floor levels.
- The majority of the main doors within the school are good sized double doors allowing our wheelchair users to gain access. All doors had metal kick plates running along the bottom which makes it easier for wheelchair users to push open the doors.
- Great width of corridors which were clutter free which made travelling around the school very easy.
- We challenged one of our wheelchair users to open a classroom door independently; he was able to open the 'Space' room door very well which shows that the doors are easily accessible.
- Classroom and corridor displays- these were very impressive. It showed great insight into what pupils had been learning about, with eye catching images and text.
- The hall is extremely spacious and multifunctional- used for assemblies, PE and lunch. The stage could do with an interchangeable ramp in order to allow wheelchair users to access the stage for future performances.
- Good size classrooms- easily accessible for wheelchair users to manoeuvre

independently.

- Year 6 classroom- lower levelled sink area is accessible.
- Interactive whiteboards within the classrooms are levelled at the right height for wheelchair users.
- Girl's toilet is accessible to wheelchair users.
- The exit situated near to the girl's toilets is great. The ramp and the yellow railings allow anyone to access these doors.
- The library is very spacious. The book shelves are all at a good level for pupils to gain independent access and the tables proved to be accessible to our wheelchair users as they were able to manoeuvre and sit comfortably around the table.
- All coat and bag pegs are lower levelled so that all pupils are able to place their belongings away independently.
- The disabled toilet- everything in it is in the correct place in terms of light switches, sink, grab rails and emergency pull cords.
- Clear fire exit signs.
- Good standard of daylight throughout the school.
- Great use of outdoor space which provides inclusive play opportunities for all pupils. Our students were able to manoeuvre easily and gain access to the different play activities, such as the chalk boards and the basketball net.
- All staff and pupils were very welcoming towards us.

What we found hard:

- As we pulled into the car park, we noticed that the disabled bay located right by the main school reception entrance was already in use. We had to seek advice from the reception team to figure out where was best as well as safe for us to park. It was identified that a maintenance man was parked in the disabled bay but kindly moved his vehicle so that we were able to park our school bus there. We would advise that the disabled parking bay is kept free for blue badge holders only.
- The intercom buzzer was identified to be too high up for our wheelchair users to reach independently. We would advise that you lower the level of the buzzer slightly.
- The radiators blend in with the walls which could pose a risk to somebody with a visual impairment. We would suggest that they are painted a different colour so that they are more easily distinguishable.
- The radiator situated outside the 'Space' room was extremely hot! We would suggest that the temperature is turned down in order to prevent the risk of burns.
- No wheelchair access into the boy's toilets due to the narrow turning.
- The parents drop off and pick up point, which is also used as a fire exit, is not accessible for wheelchair users. We would suggest that the outdoor step is replaced with a ramp in order to allow wheelchair users to be able to use the same door as their peers. In the mean time, we would suggest that the edge of the step is clearly marked in a contrasting colour to pre-warn anyone of a change in floor level and prevent a tripping hazard.
- The set of internal double doors which open inwards (located right below the 'Infants' sign) were too heavy for our wheelchair users to open independently. The doors which open one way can be easy for wheelchair users to push open but tricky

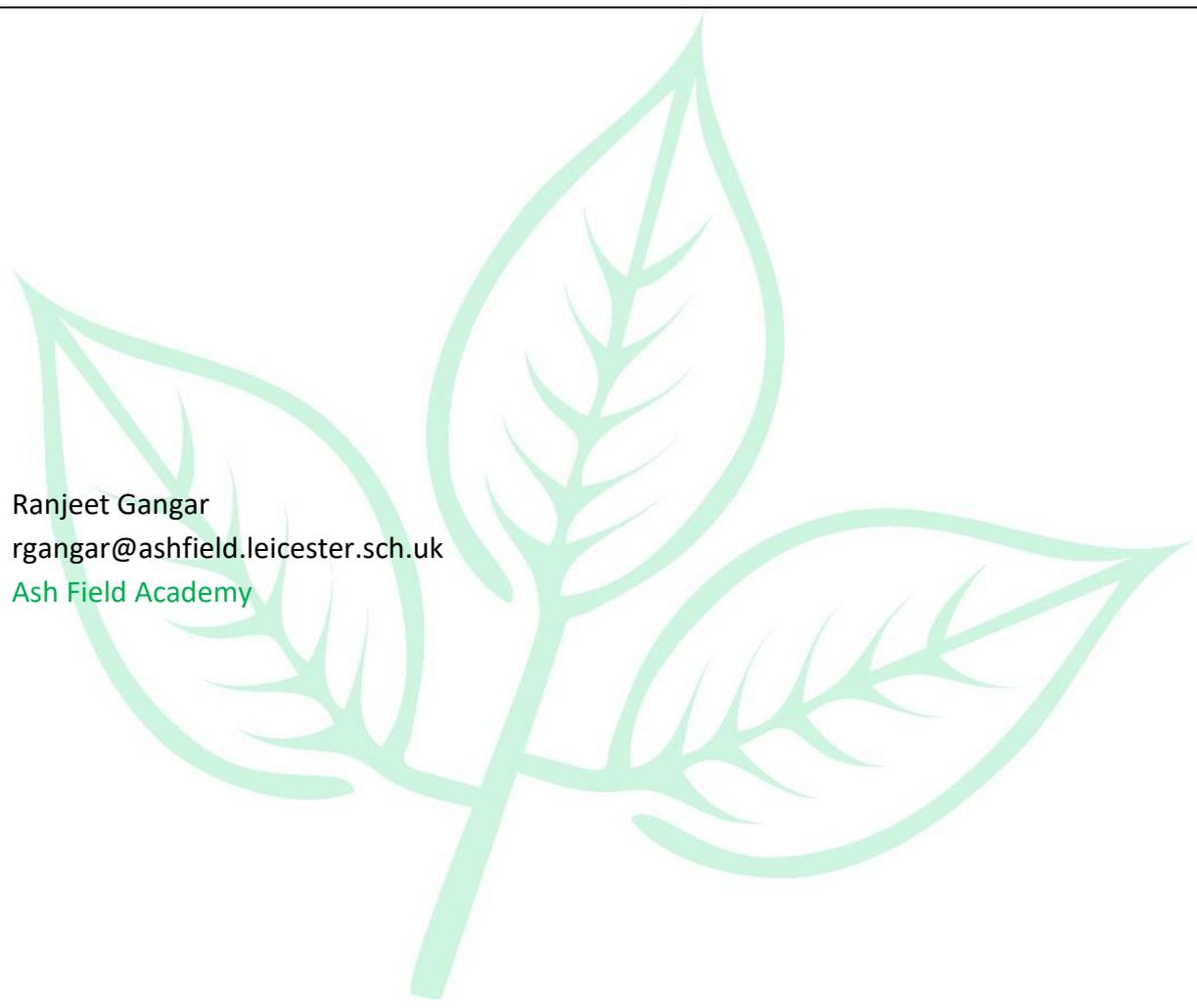
for them to pull open.

- The stairs which lead up to the IT technician room could do with some VI tape to warn anyone of the change of level.
- Fire exits- there were a lot of fire exits around school which have steps to get outside. This would be a problem for wheelchair users, as well as VI pupils in an emergency situation.

Summary:

- Overall we thought that getting around the school was very easy for us.
- We feel that the most important points have been noted in this report and we hope they help.
- We would like to express our main points were the fire exits which mean that all staff and pupils would have to be able to take a step to exit the classrooms, and the temperature of some of the radiators.

We thank you for your kind welcome and invite to do this survey. Everyone we spoke to made us feel extremely welcome.



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