



Accessibility Plan

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Physical Access

Ysgol Maes Owen is situated on Morfa Avenue in the communities of Kinmel Bay and Towyn. The building is a single storey construction with a flat roof.

Approach & Access to Site and Parking

Morfa Avenue is a busy approach during drop off and pick up times; therefore parents are encouraged to park and walk. Towyn Road is the main coastal route (the A548) from Abergele to Rhyl. There is a long path that connects this main road to the school and it is maintained by the council. There are no pick-up and drop-off points here. There are three principal entrances to the school; one vehicular and two pedestrian.

Bus stops are located on Towyn Road and St Asaph Avenue. Public transport to the school is adequate. The private road section of Morfa Avenue is a cause for concern. The road is unadopted and has no pavement. A Travel Action Plan submitted to Conwy's Highways Department by Ysgol Maes Owen and Ysgol y Foryd in 2012, contained causes for concern regarding traffic. This contained an options plan and we still await a response.

There is one small council car park within convenient walking distance; it has room for approximately twelve cars. The only on-site provision is for staff from Ysgol Maes Owen and Ysgol y Foryd. Access to this area can be obtained through permission from the Headteacher and Governing Body (of either school) requiring access for pupils with Special Needs. There is a neighbouring car park at Y Morfa Leisure Centre which is locked to the public. Attempts have been made to open this up to parents' access but unfortunately made our Safe Route to School unsafe due to a small minority of parents who failed to park/drive safely. Therefore, the Leisure Centre management took the decision to lock this.

The routes from the bus stops to the school are not clearly marked. There is no public seating along either route.

Vehicular access is from Morfa Avenue. The pedestrian access points are from Morfa Avenue and from the council maintained path from Towyn Road. The approach from Morfa Avenue has a pavement, from which there is gated access.

New signs were placed on Morfa Avenue displaying parking restrictions "between hours drop-off and pick-up". Without reminders and staff with school council patrols, many parents fail to abide by these restrictions. There are no designated drop-off/collection points outside the school.

Routes and Level Change

The main route to the school entrance is through one vehicular access gate which is locked during the school day.

Entrances

The principle entrance route into school is easily approached. The main entrance is well lit. The entrance door provides a clear opening width, satisfying the requirements of BS8300. A pedestrian access, next to Ysgol y Foryd, is unlocked for parents to access the main entrance and foyer area. Internal access from there is locked at all times for security purposes.

Pupils who are based in the Resource Base enter school at the main office if brought by taxi, all other Resource Base pupils enter the Resource Base through the Resource Base door.

There are three alternative entrances used by pupils.

- Dosbarth Mrs O'Connor and Dosbarth Mr Morgan use a door with a ramped section
- Dosbarth Mrs James and Dosbarth Mrs K. Jones use a door with a ramped section
- Dosbarth Miss Blears, Dosbarth Miss Pye and Dosbarth Mrs Thomas use a door with a ramped section
- Learning Resource Base pupils use a door with a ramped section

Horizontal Movement and Assembly

The principal entrance into the main school gives access to a foyer area which although narrow for wheelchair access does not create any great problem. A reception communication hatch is available in the foyer and is accessible to wheelchair users.

There are no electronic hearing aids provided at Ysgol Maes Owen.

Vertical Movement and Internal Lead Change

Steps have been removed over a period of time with ramps built where appropriate.

Doors

All doors have a clear opening width and are BS8300 compliant. Colour contrast between doors and adjacent wall is good.

Lavatories

The school has three staff toilets and two sets of pupil toilets. Two of the staff toilets are accessible toilets for pupils and adults.

Means of Escape

Appropriate signs are placed around the school and are discussed regularly with the LA.

Access to the Curriculum

The staff of Ysgol Maes Owen, work closely and in collaboration with the following agencies, to ensure that every pupil in school can access the curriculum regardless of their additional learning needs.

- Conwy Inclusion Service, supporting staff and pupils
- ASD outreach team, provide support when appropriate
- Occupational therapist, identifying pupil's physical needs when appropriate
- ALN department, providing specialist equipment when necessary. Risk assessments may also be provided by the ALN department

The ALNCo, Mrs Michelle O'Connor supports staff and pupils and every class teacher in school provides appropriate differentiation.

Access to Information

All information, including policies are available on the school website, and in translation, on request. Any information that is requested in Braille, would be provided with support of the LA.