

Forest Park Primary School - Accessibility Design

Property Services



Location:
Totton, Hampshire

Client:
Hampshire County Council

Value: £ 8.9 million

Completed: July 2011

Specialist teams:
Accessibility Design Team

Forest Park Special School opened in March 2011, following the amalgamation of Salterns and Forest Edge Special Schools. This purpose built school provides 72 primary and 13 nursery places for children aged 2-11 and is designed to create a safe, stimulating and accessible learning environment for pupils who have profound and moderate learning difficulties, sensory physical and or cognitive impairment.

There is a hydrotherapy pool which allows students with very complex physical disabilities to access a warm, stimulating environment where they can develop their own movements and mobility in the water.

An interactive light and sound room has been designed to stimulate the senses through special sound and visual effects, tactile experiences, vibration, use of aromas. The scheme also includes a soft play room for boisterous play. A full range of toilet and changing facilities has been provided throughout the school to meet the requirements of a wide range of children.

Classrooms have been designed with excellent acoustic qualities, robust and easily maintained fixtures and furnishings and interactive whiteboards. There is also an extensive hoist and track support system throughout creating easier access to all facilities. Circulation areas are spacious, light and airy creating an uplifting ambience with subtle changes in colour along corridors to assist children to orientate themselves.

The external environment consists of a range of extensive playground areas with equipment such as low level climbing apparatus, swings, musical instruments, 5 a-side football pitch, tranquil pavilion and nature corner with a large area of all weather synthetic grass.

Key Benefits

- Provides a new purpose built facility that functions across the ability-range of the children.
- The additional space in classrooms, corridors, individual work rooms and specialist rooms has greatly contributed to several pupils being much calmer and remaining in class and on task more.
- The physical environment with larger rooms and ceiling hoists have enabled much easier access to all facilities for physically disabled children.

“ The soft play room has been a major success and children love the new equipment in here and the light room and are beginning to develop new skills and confidence in these areas. ”

Nicky Dando – Headteacher Forest Park Primary School



Forest Park Primary School - Accessibility Design

