

How easy would it be for a new student using a wheelchair to participate fully in all activities at school?

A manual wheelchair user needs:

- 92 cm space to pass between objects/through doors.
- A 152 cm sided square to turn around.

An electric wheelchair user needs:

- 102 cm space to pass between objects/through doors.
- A 239 cm sided square to turn around.

Lead the children in an investigation to find out whether a wheelchair user could fully access all aspects of life at school.

You may wish to consider:

- Is there a safe way for a wheelchair user to access the school from the street outside and/or the car park?
- If ramps are needed, what angle is appropriate and not too steep?
- What activities do all children do each day which a wheelchair user would also take part in? E.g. classroom lessons, assembly, lessons in other rooms, etc.
- Is there an appropriately sized and resourced cloakroom and toilet?
- Is there easy access to the playground and is the playground safe and accessible for a wheelchair user.
- Could a wheelchair user move around the classroom freely to gather resources and participate in lessons, including access to trays, discussions on other tables, the White Board?
- Would certain lessons need to be adapted for a wheelchair user e.g. P.E.? I.T.? (Is there a computer at an accessible height?)
- Will the adaptations for a wheelchair user ensure that they feel included and not forced to be separate or do things differently from everyone else?

This project could include the classroom, whole school and/or local area.

This work could be used to develop presentation and persuasive writing skills. Research could be used for a presentation to Governors asking for changes, or a letter or email to local councillors requesting changes near the school.

If there is someone known to the school, it would be interesting to interview a willing wheelchair user who can talk about the challenges they face and ask their perspective on the classroom/school, etc. It is often easy to miss things if we aren't facing these challenges ourselves.

Extra Information

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children have the right to go to school (article 28) and if you are disabled, you are entitled to special help and support (article 23).

