



Young Inspection carried out 21st February 2024 Aspex Gallery Gunwharf

The Young Inspectors are Abbie and Ewan.

They answered questions and discussed their answers in 5 different areas

- The information prior to visiting available on the website
- Accessibility
- Staff
- Safety and Surroundings
- Fun and Enjoyment

All areas were scored out of 5 stars and there was an overall score for the experience.

WEBSITE

Abbie was really impressed by the accessibility of the website and wrote the walk around tour gave predictability of the venue which would make it more accessible for autistic individuals and people who need extra space and need to check this beforehand. Accessibility plug-in Userway dyslexia friendly was a good incorporation to the website- demonstrating that the staff are passionate about making it accessible for everyone. Not the same in person, needs easy read for signage and descriptions of exhibitions, maybe audio description of exhibitions. Detailed information about modes of transport to reach Gunwharf but clear instructions to Aspex front door.

Ewan said the website was very helpful with lots of information and details about Saturday morning Art workshop. And other family activities

Awarded 10/10

ACCESSIBILITY

Ewan said getting there on the bus was easy also the train and ferry have easy access. Ewan would like to see Easy read documents next to the art to make it easier for him to read and mentioned a short film about Aspex would be helpful.

Abbie said the cobbled access was noted on the website, so was prepared for it to be a bit bumpy and it was better than she had expected. The assistance bell on entry was quite high and could be unreachable for some.

The Disabled toilet was clean and had the necessary bars etc. The emergency pull cord was accessible from the floor. There was enough room to be able to turn around in a wheelchair with easy access. It would have been beneficial from having paper hand towels as well as an automatic hand dryer as some people cannot tolerate the noise of these. The Baby changing table did not have a strap to secure child. It would be good to note that the nearest Changing Places toilet is next to Boots in Gunwharf, for those that need to use a hoist or adult changing table. The fact this is nearby makes the gallery itself more accessible.

The whole premises had wide corridors and area to move around which was a real positive given the of the building itself size.

Gallery was quite hidden away and was quite unclear about how to get there. More signage needed from bus/train/ferry stations and within Gunwharf.

Could benefit from hearing aid connections for sound within exhibition or headphones so sound is easier to hear for those with hearing impairments as very difficult to hear inside.

Disability signposting made the staff seem more approachable

Awarded 8/10

STAFF

Ewan said the staff were friendly and welcoming. Willing to answer questions and show us around.

Abbie said the staff are keen to make the environment as accessible as possible, even when the history of the building poses a few challenges, the attitude they had towards accessibility and the genuine care they had for disabled people and meeting their needs made up for it.

Awarded 10/10

SAFETY AND SURROUNDINGS

Ewan said there was a large disabled toilet that was easy to get to and the cafe is very nice, and staff are very good at serving.

Abbie said the building is quite hard to find especially if you haven't been heard of the place. Plenty of room to move around in electric wheelchair, the main door would not be able to operate without assistance, there was an assistance bell, but this sometimes removes a layer of independence. The building is very echoey. The website mentions that ear defenders are available, but this is not clear if just visiting without having visited the website first. Tables and chairs are functional and there is one area with soft chairs. However, it would benefit from having a sofa or something to lie down if an individual needed to rest.

A lighter cup option or dual handled cup would be helpful as delicious as the hot chocolates are the cup was heavy to hold.

Awarded 7/10

FUN AND ENJOYMENT

Ewan really enjoyed the art and really enjoyed talking to Joshua about his artwork said there are lots of activities put on for people to attend.

Abbie said the sit-in artist added an element of interactivity and community involvement

Awarded 8/10

The young inspectors rated Aspex Gallery **43/50**

The Young Inspectors will be awarding the **Dynamite approval sticker** to display.

