

## White Paper: Designing the Assisted Bathrooms for Schools

One child in 20 under the age of 16 is disabled. Some 60% of statemented children are now in mainstream schooling. Over 20,000 students have a disability- almost 6% of the student population. Yet according to research by the Bog Standard campaign for better school toilets, 57% of schools surveyed did not have any disabled toilets.



This document covers the legal requirements, Government guidelines and 'good practice' procedures for hygiene room

specification for disabled students from primary to further education in mainstream and special schools. Larger than a conventional accessible toilet, a hygiene room provides a combined toilet/changing facilities, and includes equipment such as a hoist, changing bench and shower.

By law (under the Equality Act 2010, which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act) service providers are required to make *reasonable* changes – including to the built environment – where a disabled person would otherwise be at a *substantial* disadvantage; previously, such changes were only required if it would have been *impossible* or *unreasonably difficult* for the person to access or use the service.

Statutory Instrument No 2 specifies the number of toilets that pupils MUST have, and lays down a minimum of 1 toilet for every 20 pupils over the age of 5, and the number of toilet facilities must be adequate *having regard to age, gender, and any special requirements*.

The Priority Schools Building Programme Facilities Output Specification requires pupils should feel ‘that their needs are respected and met...in areas such as toilets...’.

Detailed specification guidance for disabled toilet facilities is covered under the Department for Education’s Building Bulletin 102.

## **BB102**

Schools should have a combination of:

- standard toilet cubicles
- larger toilet cubicles for children who need more space to use training aids or to move around using mobility aids
- wheelchair accessible toilets
- specially equipped hygiene rooms for changing and showering some children with severe physical or profound and multiple disabilities
- separate facilities from those for staff and/or visitors

Accessible toilet and changing facilities should be conveniently located around the school; a wheelchair accessible toilet can be provided either within each of the girls' and boys' toilet spaces or separately, possibly as a unisex provision.

Unisex accessible toilet provision should be provided for any community use/ parental visits.

### **Key design points are:**

- enough room for non-ambulant children to move around and for staff to help them if necessary, taking account of manual handling and transfer arrangements including the use of hoists
- fixtures and fittings should be robust and at an appropriate height (some may need to be height

adjustable)

- the layout, fixtures and fittings should reflect the age of the children and help them learn personal skills
- screening needs to allow for supervision whilst maintaining privacy
- where a school has pupils with motor disabilities, particular attention needs to be paid to fittings... to encourage their use considering both dexterity and reach
- hygiene rooms need to provide a comfortable environment with room for assisted changing (12-20m<sup>2</sup>)
- shower facilities may be included in toilets, changing rooms and hygiene rooms and should be level access and include a shower seat, preferably drop-down, or a mobile shower chair
- accessible changing rooms have a peninsular toilet, wheelchair accessible shower and/ or a shower trolley, and height adjustable changing bed