Considerations and Specifications of Hygiene Rooms in Educational Buildings

Building Bulletin 103
Building Bulletin 102
Statutory Instrument No2
Equality Act 2010
Priority School Building Programme Facilities Output Specification
The number of disabled children has increased by 62% in the past 25 years.

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. Similarly, hygiene rooms are covered under the Department for Education’s Building Bulletin 103, which replaces BB98 and 99 Area Guidelines for Mainstream Schools.

**BB103**

Mainstream school toilet provision should be:

- one toilet for every 20 pupils in total, but there must be one for every 10 full time equivalent pupils aged two and four.
- Accessible toilets for disabled pupils, staff or visitors

Toilet provision should also include a specialist hygiene room with fixed or mobile hoist and space for assistants to change a pupil. In a primary school this should contain a changing bed and accessible WC unless this is included in an adjacent accessible toilet (9m²). In a secondary school, this should contain an accessible shower, sluice toilet and changing trolley.
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**

- 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 (12-20m²)
- 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

**Typical 12m² toilet/ hygiene room for inclusive primary or secondary school**
The Clos-o-Mat solution

Clos-o-Mat is the UK’s largest and longest-established specialist supplier of disabled toileting equipment. It is unique in offering, in-house, full design advice, supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance.

Manufacturer of the biggest-selling automatic (wash and dry) toilet, the Palma Vita, Clos-o-Mat also supplies the full ambit of accessible toileting, washroom, hygiene and changing room equipment, including shower equipment, hoists, height adjustable fixtures and fittings. It is already expert in the provision of disabled toilets, hygiene rooms and Changing Places toilets in schools, colleges, universities and the latter’s halls of residence, eg:

- Strathclyde University
- Wakefield College
- South Birmingham College
- Coleg Menai
- Bournside School
- Elmwood College
- Harlaw Academy
- Cramlington Village Primary School