

# Considerations and specification of disabled toilet facilities in educational buildings

BB102

Statutory Instrument No 2

BS8300: 2009

Equality Act 2010

Priority School Building Programme Facilities Output Specification



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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 toilet specification for disabled students from primary to further education in mainstream and special schools.

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 customer or potential customer 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. Further, 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...'.

The Bog Standard campaign for better toilet facilities in schools has found that where schools provide quality toilets, pupils respect that commitment.

Detailed specification guidance for disabled toilet facilities is covered under the Department for Education's Building Bulletin 102, and BS8300:2009

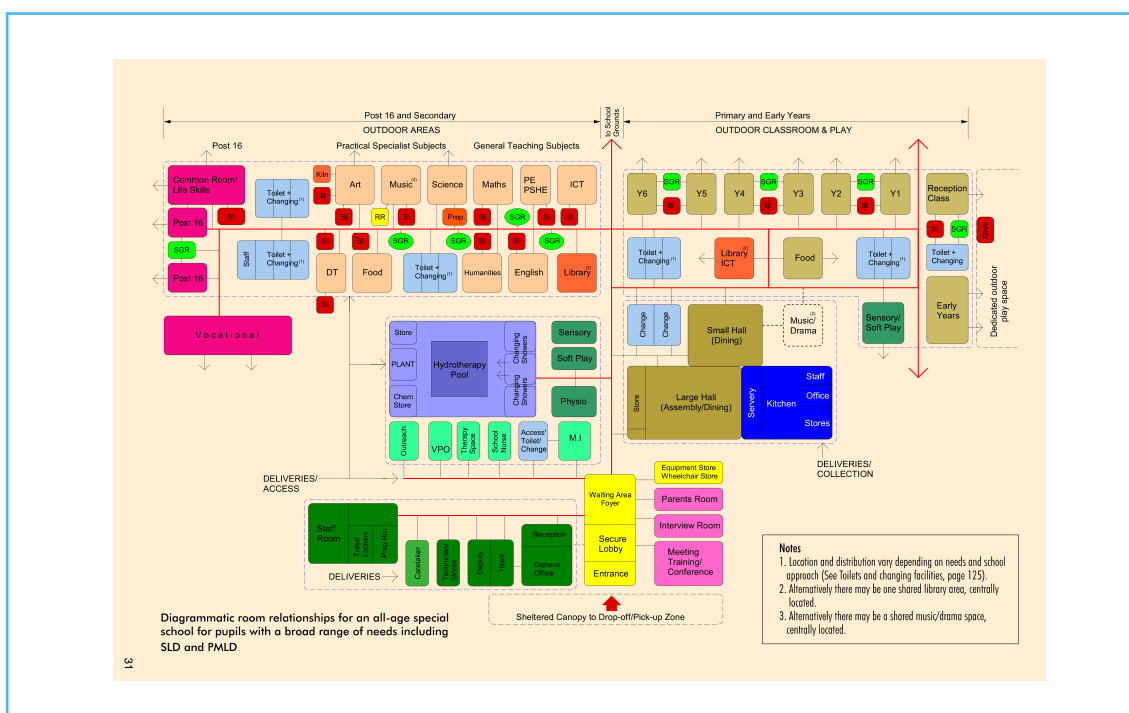
# BB102

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

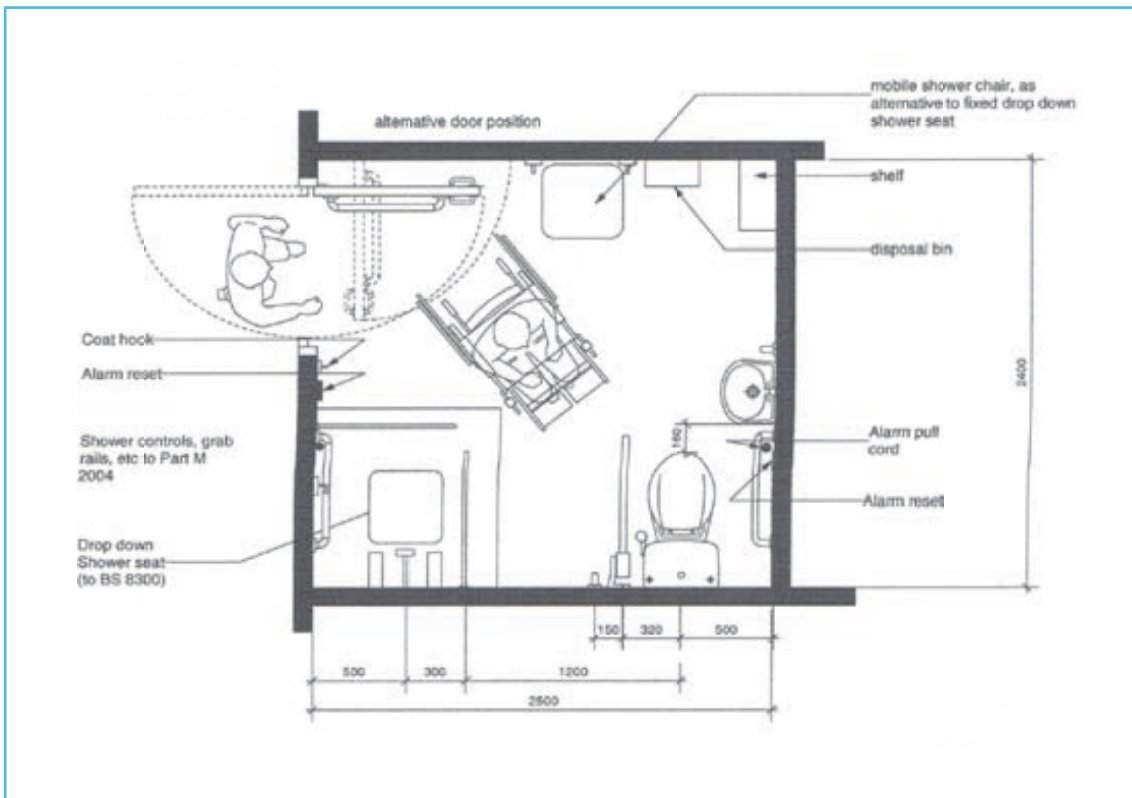
Accessible toilet and changing facilities should be conveniently located around the school; a wheelchair accessible toilet can be provided either within each of the girls' and boys' toilet spaces or separately, possibly as a unisex provision.

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

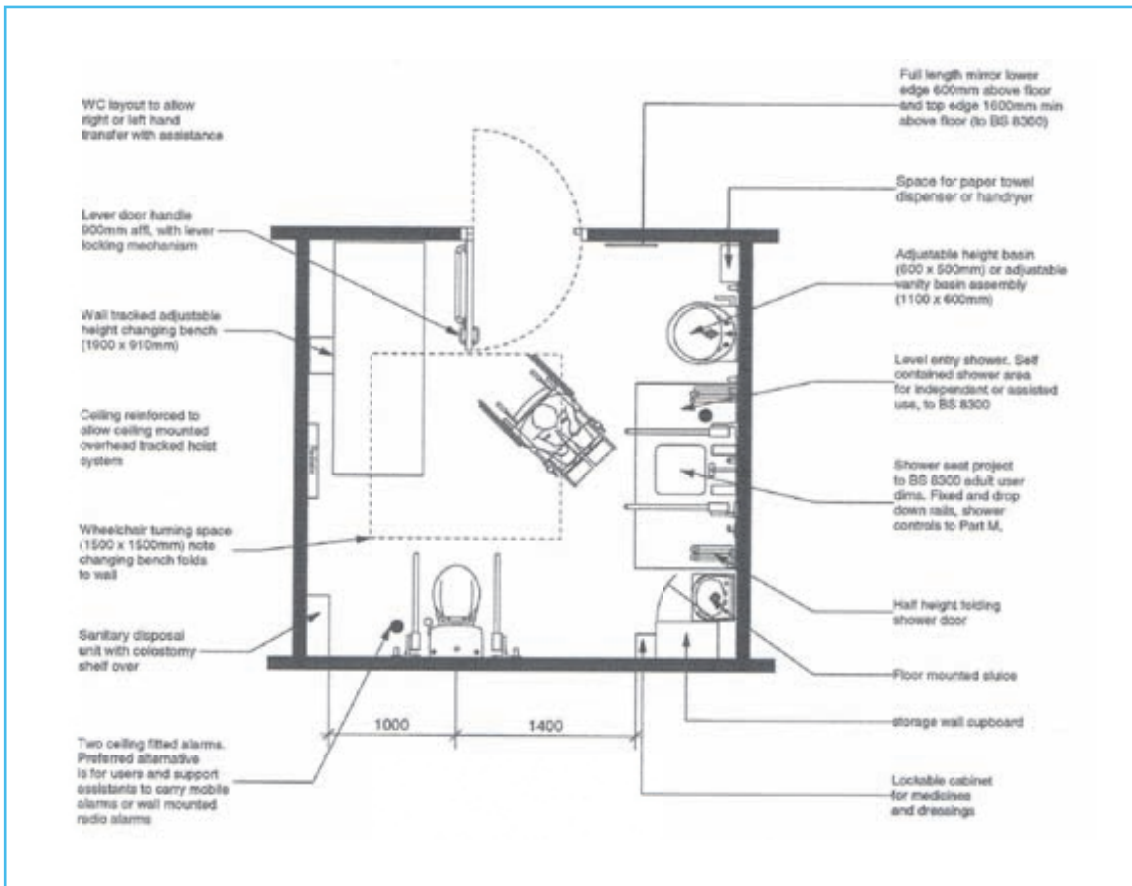


Key design points are:

- 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



Typical small (6m<sup>2</sup>) toilet and shower for mainstream school where additional support may be needed, and for use by visiting children and adults



typical 12m<sup>2</sup> toilet/ hygiene room for inclusive primary or secondary school

## BS8300:2009

The Standard sets down good practice for accessible building design in premises to which the public have access, and specifically lists educational establishments within its scope.

It advises that disabled people should be able to find and use suitable toilet accommodation no less easily than non-disabled people.

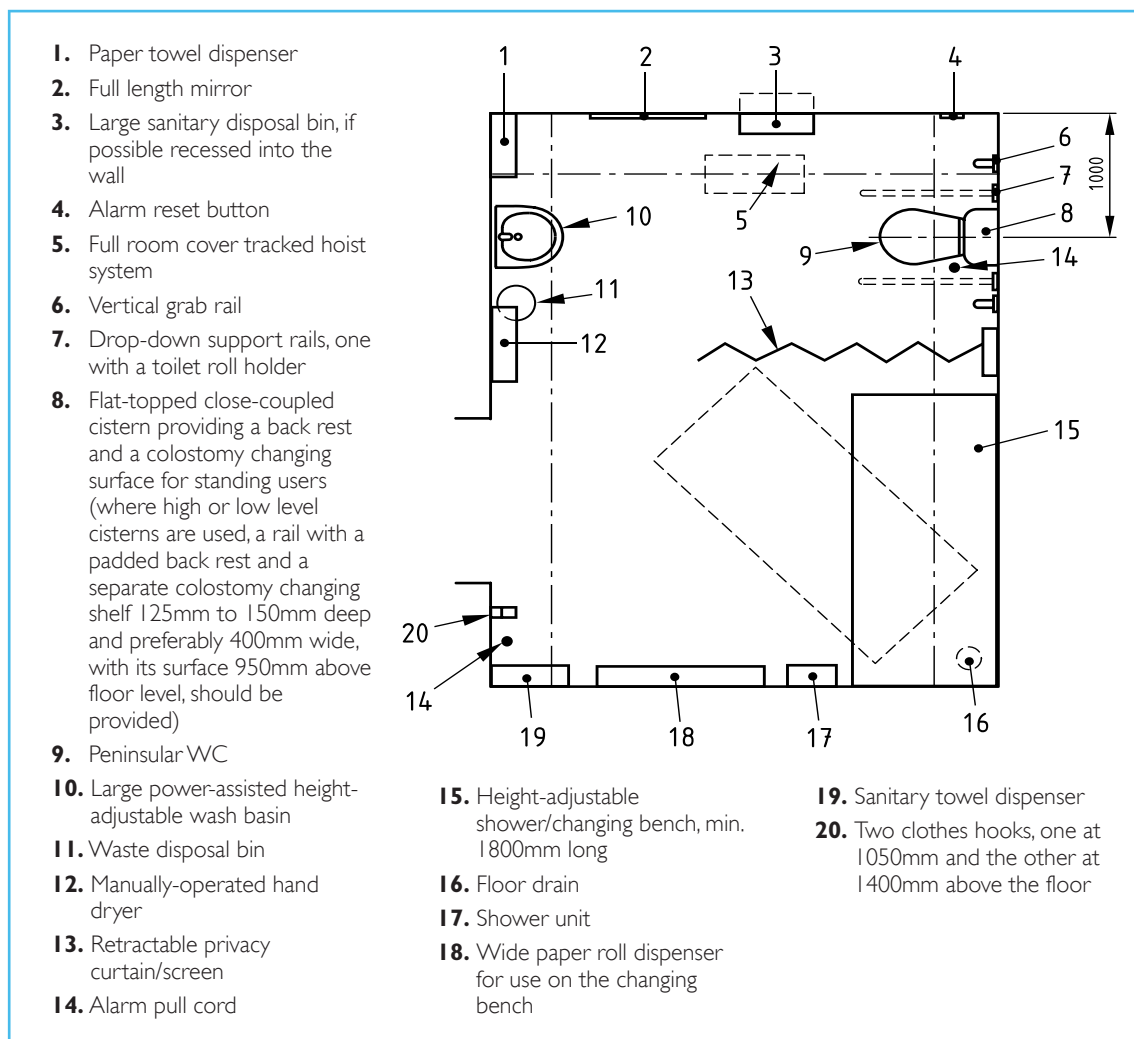
Where space is limited, the provision of a single accessible unisex peninsular WC for assisted use caters for all needs, and should be sited as close as possible to the entrance and/or waiting area of a building. It should be no less than 2200mm x 2400mm.

The time taken to reach a toilet is an essential element to be taken into account in its siting.

The Standard further recommends that any larger building where the public have access in numbers of where visitors might be expected to spend longer periods of time, and specifically itemises educational establishments among key locations, should have a Changing Places facility.

A Changing Places toilet involves the creation of a larger, better equipped accessible toilet compared to Document M versions, which only address the needs of someone who can toilet unaided. Each Changing Places toilet aims to meet the needs of people who need a carer to assist, and provides as a minimum:

- The right equipment ie a height adjustable adult sized changing bench, height adjustable wash basin, shower and shower seat, and track or mobile hoist system
- Enough space, to enable maneuvering for the disabled person and up to two carers, for a centrally located (peninsular) toilet with room either side for carers, and a screen or curtain to allow some privacy
- A safe and clean environment, ie wide tear off paper to cover the bench, a large waste bin and a non-slip floor.



Typical Changing Places layout

## The Total Hygiene Solution

Total Hygiene 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 Clos-o-Mat, Total Hygiene 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



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