

Accessibility Policy

Shooters Hill Sixth Form College

Adopted and ratified by the Governing Body on:	December 2018
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Accountability:	Governing Body
Responsibility:	Governing Body

Shooters Hill 6th Form College Accessibility & Disability Policy Statement

The Estates function is to provide & service accommodation optimised for size, location, quality and condition to support the College in delivering a wide range of academic and vocational courses to students between the ages of 16 & 19.

The department recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure that the College environment meets the needs of students, staff and visitors and is therefore both accessible for persons with difficulties & disabilities and appropriately provides for core requirements.

The Estates Team will meet its responsibilities in line with legislation & regulations and aims to achieve best practice according to the relevant standards for education building provision.

1. Standards

The Estates Department will implement building refurbishment and development projects in accordance with the following:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Disability Discrimination Act 2005
- Building Regulations 2004, approved document M, access and facilities for disabled people
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and amendments.
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations
- Building regulations 1991, approved document B, fire safety
- Building regulations 1991, approved document K, protection from falling, collision and impact.
- The College's health & safety policy

2. New schemes and projects

New schemes & projects are delivered under a planned maintenance programme (PMP), where there is an integrated strategy for maintaining the building stock, through minor and major capital improvements day-to-day & cyclic maintenance regimens.

Any briefs and specifications for work requested by Faculties and Departments will be reviewed to ensure that the needs of disabled students are taken into account by:

- Consultations with client and disabled persons as appropriate
- Consulting with colleagues and professional advisors on access and facilities for disabled people
- Consulting with accommodation planning and timetabling staff as appropriate
- Following the standards set out in the standards section above

3. Maintaining existing properties

The maintenance of existing buildings is delivered through an operational maintenance programme which identifies the standards to be adopted by the College for maintaining the building fabric and installed building services for each academic, support and residential area, in order to support the core business activities.

Existing buildings will be maintained in accordance with the standards identified above and any improvements considered necessary, as a consequence of surveys, will be included in future funding bids.

An audit of physical access to all properties, including teaching and learning accommodation and resources, support buildings, leisure and recreational facilities was commissioned in 2006 and resulted in a range of improvements which increased accessibility to all buildings via the provision of ramps, lifts and balustrades making the entire site navigable by those with mobility issues. However, some floors of Blocks A, E & F remain inaccessible to wheelchair users. A bid for capital funding to improve access to the DT block in 2013 / 2014 was unsuccessful, however the Estates Department carries out physical access audits of the College's properties as part of its on-going estates monitoring surveys and is seeking funding via alternative routes to improve access further.

The inspections carried out by the estates team working with external consultants and advisors cover:

- Physical condition
- Functional stability
- Space utilisation
- Legislation non-compliance
- Risk assessments
- Disability access

4. Estates programmes for implementing works to improve physical accessibility

Programmes of works, which have been funded specifically to cover schemes and projects for physical access and facilities, are available. These will be prioritised to reflect the risk and importance of the work. Such schemes have in the past included:

- Provision of stair lifts to provide access to single floors or remote areas.
- Disabled WCs to floors where people with disabilities had no immediate access.
- Ablutions rooms for those with severe, profound and complex needs.

5. Attachment A, Estates, schemes and projects disability policy (checklist)

Items to be considered during design stage of all schemes/projects:

- Lifts - approach, landings, internal facilities
- Steps/stairs - stepped approach, level approach, gradient sand ramped approach, nosings
- WCs - provisions, compartments, access and approach
- Height of services - provisions and accessibility, hand wash basins, taps, electrical sockets, light switches etc
- Height of desks/counters/work surfaces etc - provision and accessibility
- Disposition of wheelchair spaces etc
- Seating/lifts - viewing arrangements and accessibility
- Evac chairs - location and access
- Refuges - locations, signage and means of escape
- Door widths - principle entrances, internal doors, space and mobility, signage
- Circulation routes - horizontal and vertical circulation, corridors and passageways
- Handrails - profile and projections
- Colour schemes - external and internal, tone and colour contrast
- Alarms visual and acoustic - safety systems

- Floor finishes - non-slip, colour
- Lighting and emergency lighting - non-glare, levels, control
- Sound - induction loops, amplification/speakers
- Signage - easily readable, non-reflective
- Parking - access, approach, signage
- Automatic door controls - including security devices
- Ironmongery on doors etc - provision, accessibility
- Grounds and footpaths - access route, approach, landscaping, signage.