

# Specifying Toilets For Education: Higher

Technical Manual

This product guide covers the subject of designing and specifying toilet facilities in education buildings including university and higher education buildings.





# SECTION ONE: SETTING THE SCENE



# 1800s

#### **DRY TOILETS**

Pupils use segregated 'dry toilets' situated behind the school. No running water is available. Instead, earth and ash are used to cover each layer once the toilet is used.



# THE HISTORY OF TOILETS IN EDUCATION SETTINGS

#### **FLUSHABLE TOILETS**

Schools begin to use flushable toilets and interconnected porcelain washbasins.

1900s

# 1991

#### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSABLE

Education (School Premises) Regulations 1991 (SPRs) published. Outlines that wheelchair-accessible toilets should be distributed across the whole school for use by staff and visitors as well as by disabled pupils.



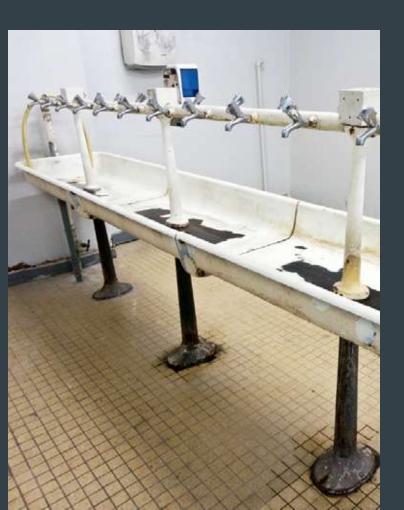


#### **STANDARDS**

Education Act 1996
places a duty on the Secretary
of State to prescribe standards
for the premises of all maintained
schools in England and Wales.

Education

1996





# 2002





#### **EDUCATION ACT**

Education Act 2002 empowers the Secretary of State to prescribe standards for the premises of independent schools and academies

# 2007

#### **SCHOOL TOILETS**

Toilets in Schools Guidance issued by the (then) Department for Education and Skills. It recommends using wash troughs, avoiding urinals, ensuring locks are easy to use and that disabled people have access to at least one cubicle.













#### **GENDER NEUTRAL TOILETS**

Bramhall High School near Stockport is one of the first to introduce gender neutral toilets

2000



#### **BRITISH STANDARD**

British standard 6465-1:2006 Sanitary Installations introduced.

Gives recommendations on the design of sanitary facilities and the recommended scale of provision of sanitary and associated appliances in both new buildings and those undergoing major refurbishment.

2006

### BULLYING

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine finds 40% of girls would never visit school toilets due to bullying and anti-social behaviour. 12% of secondary school boys say that bad things happen in the toilets.

2010





2013

#### **REGULATIONS**

Part 5 of the revised Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010 comes into force. Setting out standards expected for premises of independent schools and academies.

2015

#### **PILOTING**

A report on two Scottish schools piloting these guidelines says open plan toilets work well, with no adverse comments raised about behaviour issues in either schools.





2012





2013





#### 'LIGHT TOUCH' GUIDANCE

School Premises Regulations 2012 come into force. Among other 'light touch' guidance, it advises on separate boys and girls toilet blocks for all children over the age of eight, except for single cubicles which can be locked from the inside and are designed for the use of one person at a time.

#### **SCHOOL TOILETS**

In Scotland, Perth and Kinross, Angus, Dundee and Fife Councils release guidelines recommending an "open plan unisex toilet with central fountain handwash" as a way of reducing concerns around vandalism and ensuring there are enough toilets for both sexes."

FLEXIBILITY IN SCHOOLS

DfE issues Advice for Standards on School Premises, based on School Premises
Regulations 2012. It is an advisory
document intended to be less prescriptive
than the 2007 DfES guidance. Schools are
given more flexibility.

2015

# WHAT GUIDANCE IS APPLICABLE TODAY?

WHILE THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF OTHER LEGISLATION YOU SHOULD CONSIDER, THE TWO KEY DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO FOLLOW WHEN SPECIFYING SCHOOL WASHROOM AND TOILET FACILITIES ARE:

#### STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL PREMISES

Most recently updated in 2015, Advice for standards on school premises is an advisory document that is intended to give schools more flexibility around design compared to its 2007 predecessor.

#### BRITISH STANDARD 6465-1:2006+2009 - SANITARY INSTALLATIONS

This is the code of practice for the design of sanitary facilities and scales of provision of sanitary and associated appliances. In other words, it provides the technical detail around school washroom and toilet design, including things like amount of fixtures you need to supply. It is purchasable via the British Standards Institutions website.



#### British Standard 6465-1:2006 Sanitary Installations (revised 2009)

This British Standard sets out the ideal number of fixtures per washroom as follows:

Fixture	Number of Fixtures	Comments
Male toilet and urinal	1 per 20 pupils	Urinals should constitute no more than 2/3rds of boys fixtures
Female toilet	1 per 20 pupils	-
Handwash basin	1 per toilet / urinal where there are 3 or fewer fixtures 2 per 3 toilets/urinals where there are 3 or more fixtures	Toilets and urinals should be near to a handwash basin



2007) ayouts 2015)

opriate than individual e visually pleasing, uce the risk of intentional

inals – are best avoided to a disorder known as



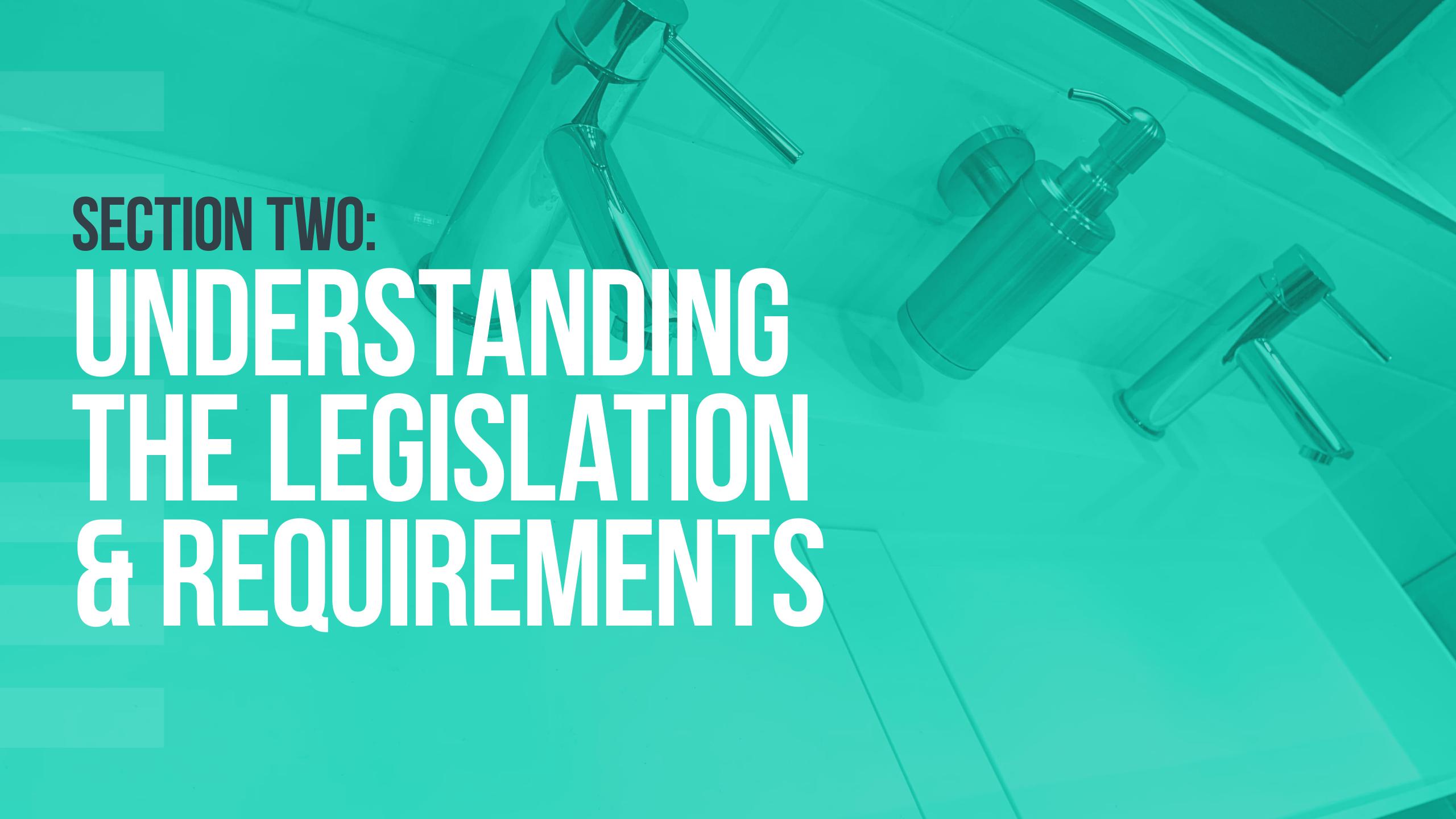
Background noise within the washroom should be ideally increased to 55db to ensure aural privacy



Washrooms should be located opposite staff rooms and offices to facilitate regular passive supervision



All toilets blocks must contain a wheelchair-accessible cubicle and an ambulant cubicle for disabled pupils who are able to walk



## **SECTION TWO:**

# UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATION & REQUIREMENTS

### **PROVISION**

According to the 2015 DfE guidance, you should be incorporating the following factors into your specifications:



Suitable changing rooms with showers must be provided for children aged 11 and over who participate in physical education.



Handwashing facilities should be installed close to every toilet



Toilet facilities should be well lit and ventilated



They should be located in areas that are both easily for pupils to access and for staff to monitor, without diminishing the privacy of pupils



Separate boys and girls
toilet blocks must be
available for all children
over the age of eight,
except for single cubicles
which can be locked
from the inside and are
designed for the use of
one person at a time



With the exception of disabled toilets, student toilets and staff toilets should be kept separate

# **ACCESSIBLE TOILETS**

But there is also older guidance that you need to consider, in the shape of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1991 (SPRs).

It states that wheelchair-accessible toilets should be available throughout the entire school, and for the use of staff, visitors and disabled pupils.

Accessible toilets should contain at least one toilet and washbasin. They need to be finished to the same standard and aesthetic as other washrooms, and should be made available in the same locations.

An important caveat here is that there should be enough available so that users only need to travel a reasonable distance and are not required to change floors.

And depending on the needs of pupils, it may be necessary to add facilities such as assisted changing in primary schools or a wash-down fitting for a secondary school hygiene room.



# **OVERALL ACCESSIBILITY**

While we have touched on access for people with a disability, there are other considerations as well. For example, at least one washroom must be easy to access from the spaces used during lunch and break times.

In reception and nursery schools, toilets should be either adjacent or connected to the classroom. And again, there should be a washroom that can be easily accessed from lunch and break spaces.



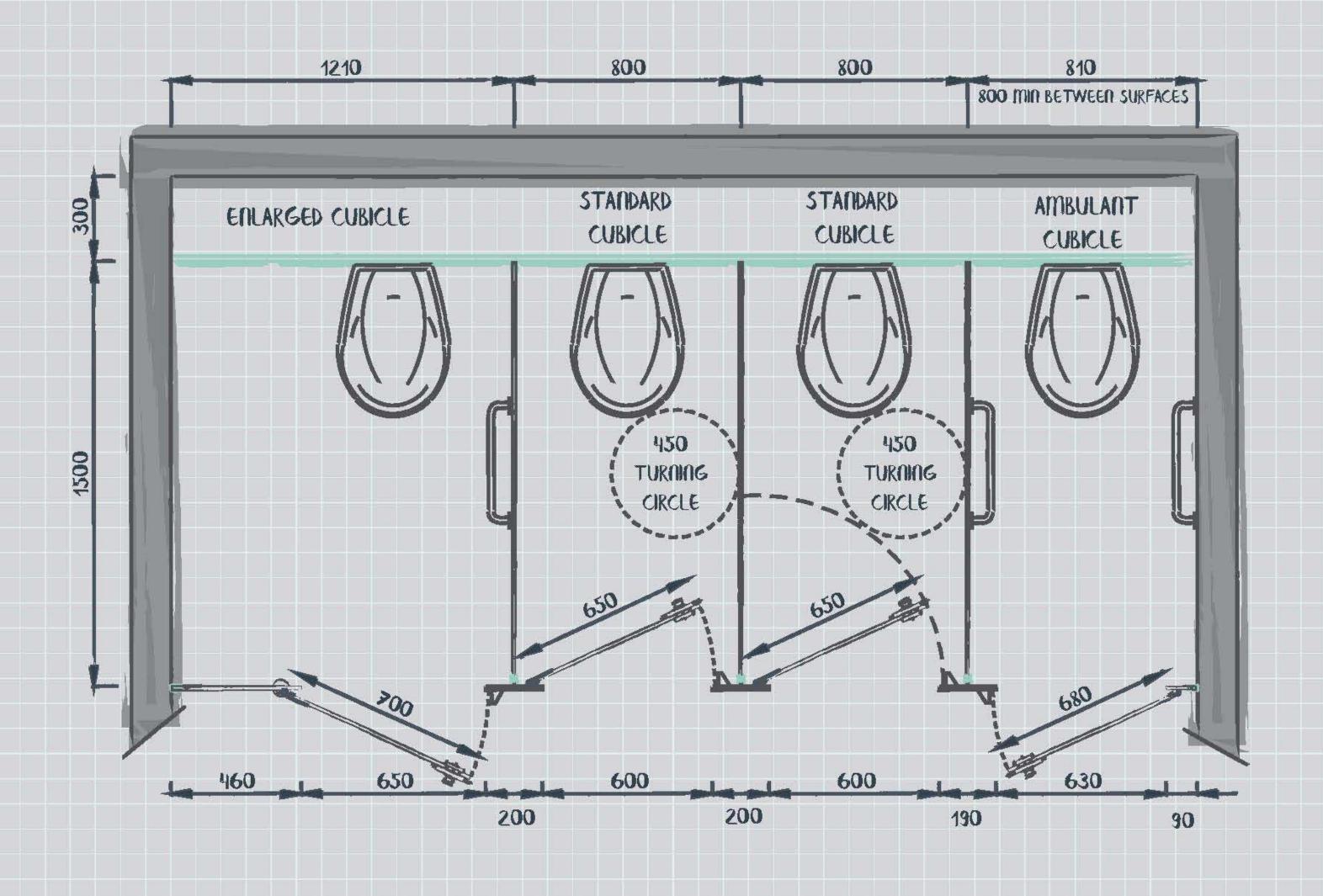
#### **DIMENSIONS**

The standard dimensions for cubicle size, width, depth and turning circle are outlined in British Standard Part M.

It states that all standard cubicles are required to have a manoeuvring space of at least 450mm in diameter clear of the swing door. Not only that, but the locks must be capable of being operated with a closed fist in a single action, and the cubicles must be accessible in the event of an emergency.

It also dictates that every same-sex washroom is required to have at least one cubicle accessible for the ambulant disabled. In human speak, that means people who happen to have a disability but aren't confined to a bed or a wheelchair. So if there's only one cubicle, then that too must be suitable. This requires a gap of at least 800mm between surfaces, an outward opening door, an activity space of 750mm and the appropriate grab rails.

Finally, if the washroom holds four or more cubicles, then one of them must also be enlarged to a minimum width of 1200mm, with an outward opening door that opens towards a wall. There must also be both vertical and horizontal grab rails around the toilet, with space available for a fold-down changing table.



STANDARD CUBICLE LAYOUT

# RECOMMENDED CUBICLE HEIGHTS

In this guide, we have adapted the dimensions suggested in the British Standard guidance to our own recommendations. In addition to meeting all requirements outlined in the existing guidance, these dimensions are based on our own extensive experience of the needs of different education settings.

### **FOUNDATION**



#### **NURSERY / RECEPTION AGES 3-5**

• 1200mm high (1050 + 150 leg).

## **KEY STAGE 1**



#### **INFANTS AGES 5-7**

• 1500mm high (1350 + 150 leg).

## **KEY STAGE 2**



#### **JUNIORS AGES 7-11**

#### Separate facilities for boys and girls

- 1500mm high (1350 + 150 leg)
- or 1950mm high (1800 + 150 leg)

#### **Gender neutral facilities**

Floor to ceiling?

## **KEY STAGE 3 & ABOVE**



#### SECONDARY AGES 11+ AND FURTHER EDUCATION

#### **Separate facilities for boys and girls**

• 1950mm high (1800 + 150 leg)

#### **Gender neutral facilities**

Floor to ceiling



# SECTION THREE: CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DESIGNING FACILITIES IN EDUCATION SETTINGS

#### **BULLYING AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

In 2010, a report from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine found that school toilets can be a hotspot for bullying, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

The design of toilet blocks can have a significant impact on this behaviour. Large centralised blocks offer little opportunity for adequate supervision and single gender washrooms cannot be monitored easily without infringing on pupils' privacy.

These issues are reinforced by Lauren Seagar-Smith, CEO of anti-bullying charity Kidscape:

"Under the Equality Act 2010, schools as public bodies have a legal duty to protect children from harassment. And opportunities for inclusive design such as gender-neutral facilities and individual cubicle privacy are important steps that schools can take to provide protection."

Gender neutral washrooms are becoming an increasingly popular solution to these issues. They are open plan and require enclosed floor-to-ceiling cubicles, making it possible to install CCTV to help cut down on bullying and vandalism.

This can be reinforced by ensuring toilets are configured in small blocks, and locating them outside staff accommodation for increased supervision.



# LAUREN SEAGER-SMITH CEO, KIDSCAPE

'School toilets and changing rooms can be hotspots for bullying because they are often unsupervised and out of sight of CCTV cameras.

They can be sites of embarrassment, worry and anxiety for children, particularly as they approach adolescence and become increasingly self-aware

And with rates of homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and sexual bullying causing real concern, Kidscape are committed to ensuring all children have a right to privacy and protection.

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools as public bodies have a legal duty to protect children from harassment, and opportunities for inclusive design such as gender-neutral facilities and individual cubicle privacy are important steps that schools can take to provide protection."





FUTURE FACING SOLUTION TO THE UNKNOWN GENDE OF OCCUPANTS

REDUCE QUEUING TIMES

# **GENDER EQUALITY**

In traditional single-sex washroom designs, studies have shown that women wait an average of six minutes to use the toilet. Men, on the other hand, wait 11 seconds.

In a gender neutral washroom which has had urinals removed (in line with the DfES 2007 guidance), both genders wait an average of two minutes.

In addition, it prepares for a future in which the gender ratio of occupants is unknown, keeping things equal.

**SAVES SPACE** 

# **PRIVACY**

Communal areas within the blocks should be easy to see without encroaching on privacy. This can be achieved by setting cubicle doors a minimum of 90 degrees from the circulation route within the facility.

Again, having floor-to-ceiling cubicles within a gender neutral washroom setting offers significantly more privacy when compared to single gender washrooms.



# **MATERIALS**

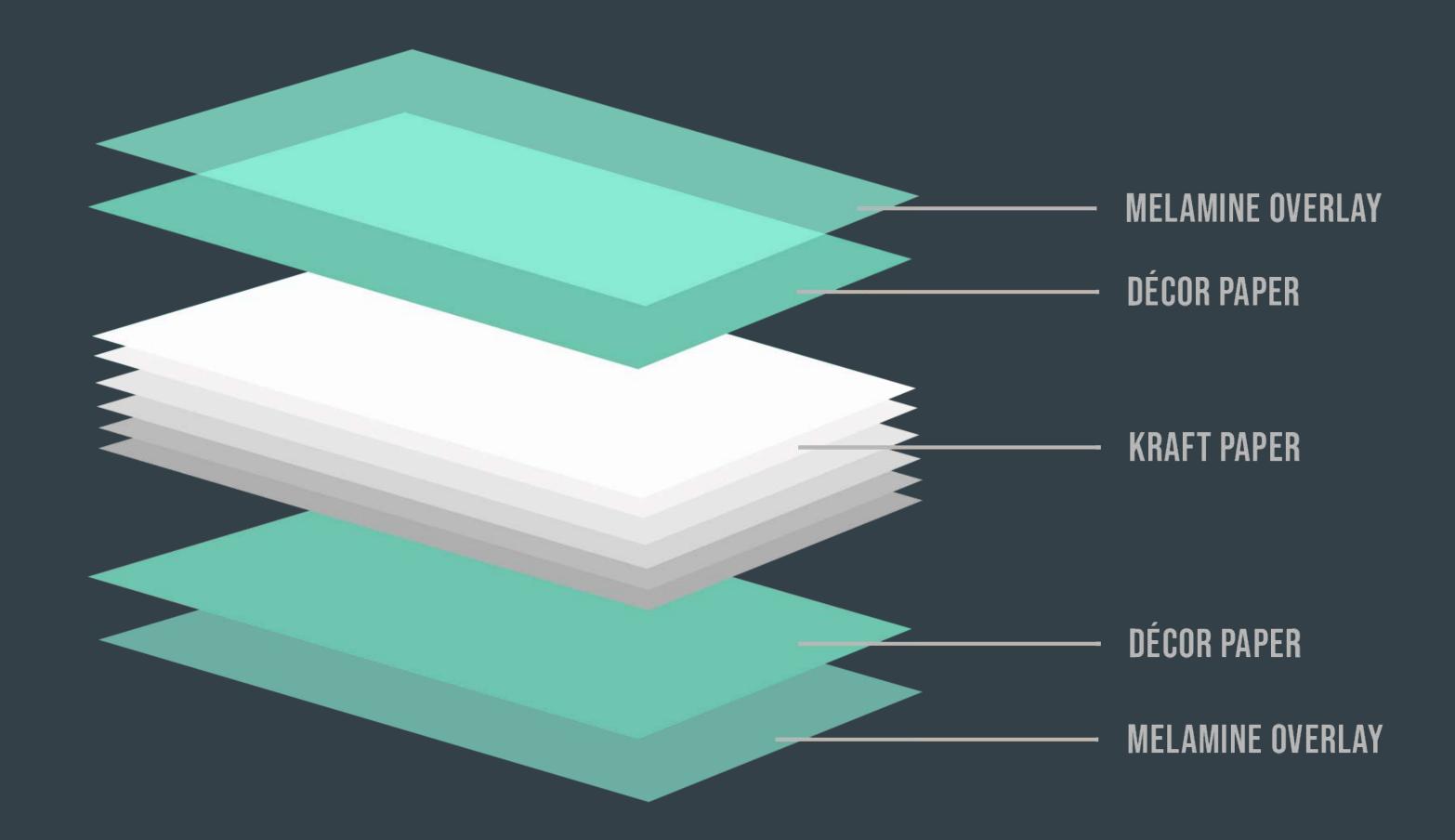
According to the Priority School Building Programme's Services Output Specification 2013, materials used in school washroom specifications should have a minimum life expectancy of 20 years.

## **CUBICLES**

When specifying materials for duct panels and duct shadow gaps, cubicles and vanity under panels, we recommend 12mm compact grade laminate (CGL). It is extra durable, anti-vandal and water-resistant, and comes in a large range of colours.

## WASH TROUGHS

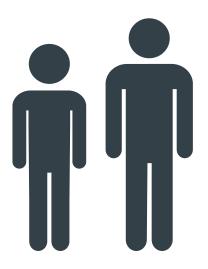
We recommend solid surface wash troughs, crafted from acrylic and hand-finished for exceptional aesthetics, durability and performance. The troughs are easy to maintain, available in 5 standard sections and can accommodate either wall or deck mounted taps.





# FORCE

# KEY STAGE 2 / KEY STAGE 3 AND ABOVE — AGE 7-11+



An effective, flexible and robust washroom solution that can be used as both a shower and toilet cubicle. Utilising vandal- and water-resistant Compact Grade Laminate and bolt through heavy-duty Satin Anodised Aluminium (SAA) ironmongery, the Force range is designed to withstand harsh and demanding environments.

The Force range also provides a broad range of aesthetic options – choose from over 50 diverse colour combinations to match or contrast the washroom environment.

#### **SPECIFICATION**

- 12.5 Compact Grade Laminate (CGL) doors, partitions and pilasters
- Black core with a radiused edge
- Satin Anodised Aluminium bolt through Ironmongery as standard

#### STANDARD DIMENSION

- 1950mm Standard Height (c/w 150mm leg) x 1500mm deep
- Non-standard dimensions are available on request.



**CRACK RESISTANT** 



**IMPACT RESISTANT** 



**ABRASION RESISTANT** 



**MOISTURE RESISTANT** 



**SCRATCH RESISTANT** 



**HEAT RESISTANT** 



**EASE OF MAINTENANCE** 



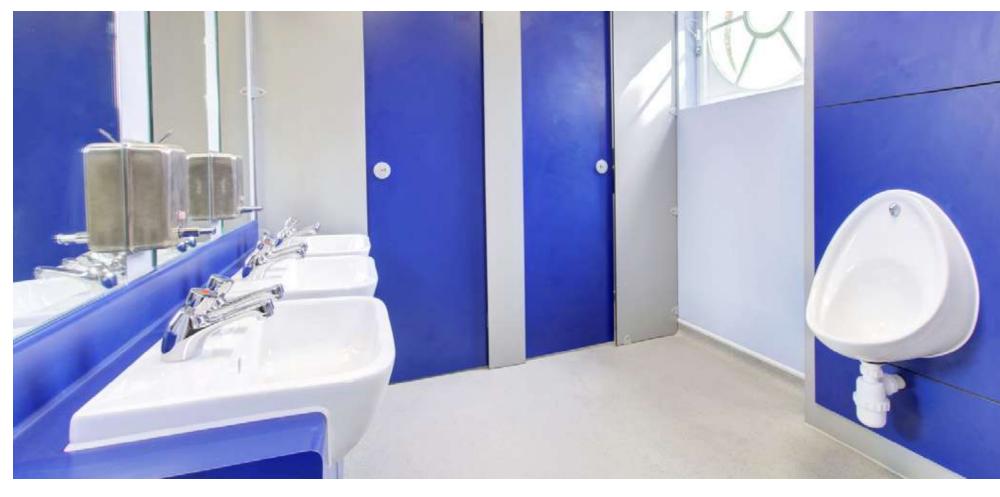
RESISTANT TO CHEMICAL AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS



COLOUR FASTNESS Under Artificial Light



**HYGIENIC SURFACE** 







# FORCE PRIVACY

## KEY STAGE 3 AND ABOVE — AGE 11+

A flexible and robust floor to ceiling washroom solution that can be used for both shower and toilet cubicles that require enhanced privacy. Utilising vandal- and water-resistant Compact Grade Laminate and bolt through heavy-duty Satin Anodised Aluminium (SAA) ironmongery, the Force range is designed to withstand harsh and demanding mixed-use washroom environments.

The Force range also provides a broad range of aesthetic options – choose from over 50 diverse colour combinations to match or contrast the washroom surfaces.

#### **SPECIFICATION**

- 12.5 mm Compact Grade Laminate (CGL) doors, partitions and pilasters
- Black core with a radiused edge
- Satin Anodised Aluminium Ironmongery as standard

#### **STANDARD DIMENSION**

- Up to 2600mm Floor to ceiling height x 1500 to 2000mm deep
- Non-standard dimensions are available on request



**CRACK RESISTANT** 



**IMPACT RESISTANT** 



**ABRASION RESISTANT** 



**MOISTURE RESISTANT** 



**SCRATCH RESISTANT** 



**HEAT RESISTANT** 



EASE OF MAINTENANCE



RESISTANT TO CHEMICAL AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS



COLOUR FASTNESS Under Artificial Light



**HYGIENIC SURFACE** 





# TRIMLINE PRIVACY

## KEY STAGE 3 AND ABOVE — AGE 11+

Made using durable, minimalist aluminium pilasters, this sleek, sophisticated floor to ceiling cubicle system can accommodate both toilet and shower facilities that require enhanced privacy in mixed-use washroom environments.

Featuring vandal- and water-resistant Compact Grade Laminate and Powder Coated Aluminium ironmongery, this hardwearing system provides stylish, ultramodern aesthetics to any washroom environment.

#### **SPECIFICATION**

- 12.5mm Compact Grade Laminate (CGL) doors and partitions
- Black core with a radiused edge
- Powder Coated Aluminium Trimline pilasters with matching ironmongery
- Back to back pull handle supplied with outward opening doors as standard

#### STANDARD DIMENSION

- Upto 2600mm ceiling height x 1500mm deep
- Non-standard dimensions are available on request



**CRACK RESISTANT** 



**ABRASION RESISTANT** 

**MOISTURE RESISTANT** 

**SCRATCH RESISTANT** 



**HEAT RESISTANT** 



**EASE OF MAINTENANCE** 



**RESISTANT TO CHEMICAL** AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS



**COLOUR FASTNESS UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT** 



**HYGIENIC SURFACE** 



# LAMINATE DUCT PANELS PITT

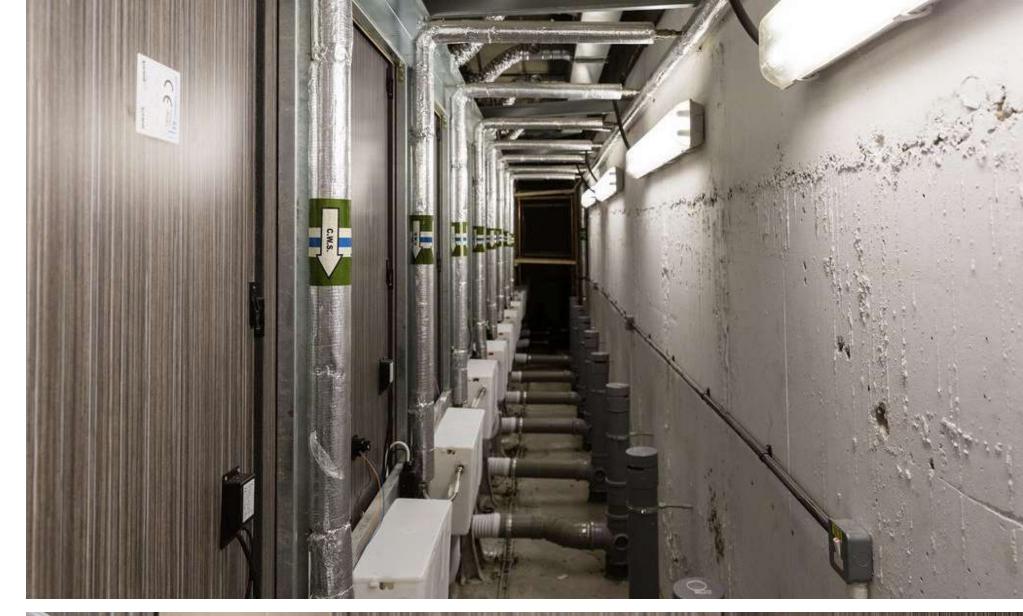


# **ALL AGE GROUPS**

Designed to conceal pipework and cisterns behind urinals and WCs, laminate duct panels provide a stylish, and often cheaper, alternative to tiling.

Manufactured to match or complement our entire range of cubicles, lockers and benches – and designed with either hook or push on clips for extra security – laminate duct panels offer both aesthetics and functionality.

Other products can be used – but these are recommended.





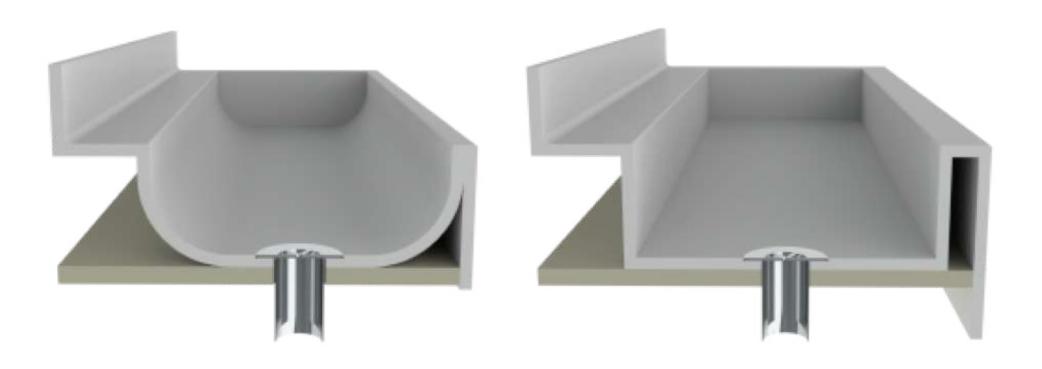
# SOLID SURFACE WASH TROUGHS TIT

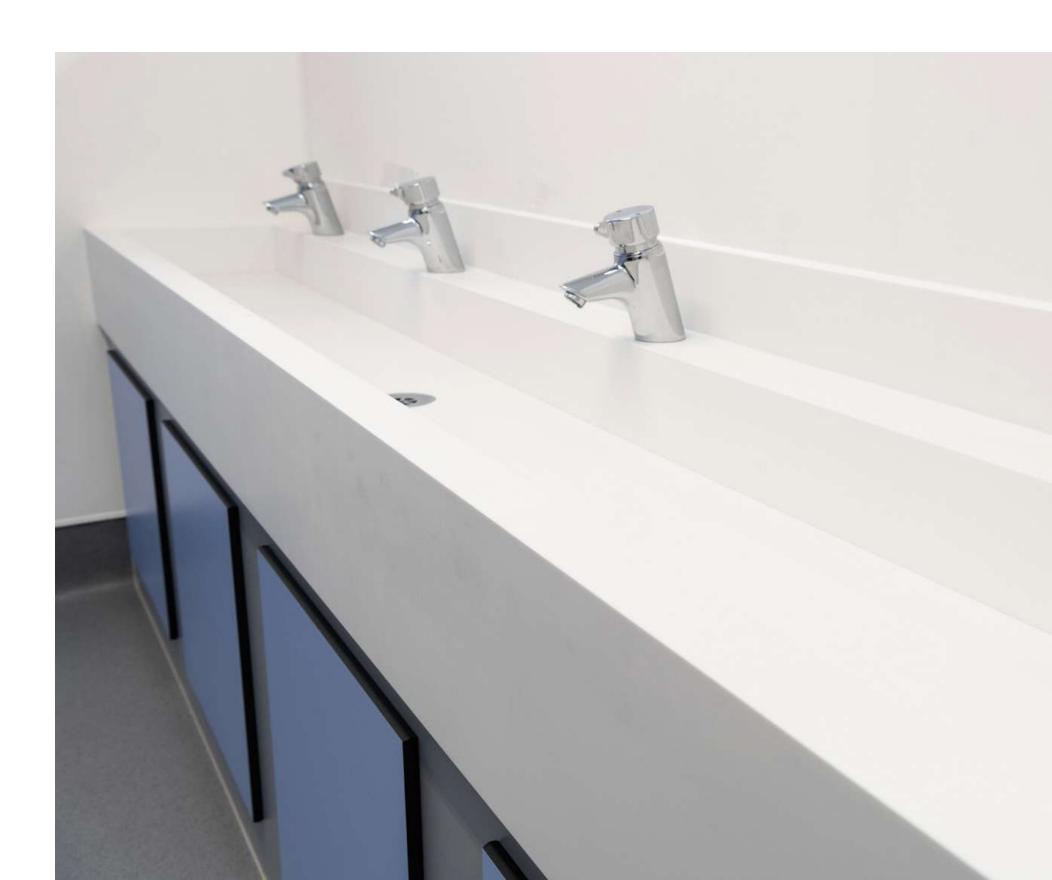
# **ALL AGE GROUPS**

An excellent alternative to typical vanity units, Solid Surface Wash Troughs are crafted from acrylic and hand-finished for exceptional aesthetics, durability and performance.

Designed to accommodate either wall or deck mounted taps, these wash trough products can be adapted to suit any washroom environment.

Other products can be used – but these are recommended.









# CASE STUDY MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

#### **PROJECT**

Founded in 1843, Marlborough College is the largest co-educational independent full boarding school in the UK with over 1000 pupils, in 16 boarding houses, aged 13 to 18.

The College has a rich architectural tradition and is academically ambitious, committed to extending access, and offers a fast-paced, contemporary, challenging and enriching education within a warm, inclusive and spiritual environment.

The facilities management team at Marlborough College identified two washrooms in desperate need of modernisation.

#### PRODUCTS USED

- Reflect
- Solid Surface Vanities
- Laminate Duct Panels

#### SOLUTION

Senior managers at the College had a clear vision of how they wanted the washrooms to look. Above all, the materials and colours used in the refurbishment needed to match the overall character of the rest of the building. After reviewing many different products and colour samples, the College chose Concept for supply and installation.

For the project, we used Reflect cubicles with brushed stainless steel laminated pilasters and solid stainless steel locks and hinges. These products can be customised with a huge range of different colours and are both durable and easy to clean.

The College selected a muted colour scheme throughout the washroom, including a natural wood effect for the cubicles and panelling and a muted beige in other areas. Manufactured from hardwearing Corian, the under counter basins complete the seamless washroom look.







# GET INTOUCH

#### **CONCEPT CUBICLE SYSTEMS**

Based in the North West, we design, supply and install personalised washroom and cubicle system concepts nationwide – each one exclusively devised with the client in mind.

Our approach is built on a culture of trust and honesty, and underpinned by our passion for sensitive design. By using years of insight and the latest design thinking, we strive to make users feel comfortable, clean, and secure in the most intimate of spaces.

# BESPOKE DESIGNS WITHIN STANDARDISED SPECIFICATIONS

We pride ourselves on our ability to deliver washroom solutions that exceed expectations in every aspect of functionality, performance and aesthetics. By offering bespoke designs within standardised specifications, we're able to respond directly to client needs with efficiency, precision and imagination, ensuring budgets are met, no matter how big or small.

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ConceptCubicle concept-cubicle-systems

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO

