

LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRES IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Schedule of Accommodation and Notes for Designers.

(November 2006)

With effect from 1 September 2006, the core provision approved for a Learning Support Centre on the schedule of accommodation (SOA) for all new post-primary schools is:

1No Learning Support Classroom @ 60m²
(taken from the allocation of general classrooms on the SOA)

1No adjacent Resource Room @ 30m²

2No Behavioural Support/Chill-out/Parent/Carers' room @15m² each - total 30m²

1No Office @ 15m²

1No Store @10m²

ADDITIONAL LSC ACCOMMODATION

If a School considers that additional accommodation, in excess of the basic learning support provision described above, is required to meet their particular circumstances then a written submission should be made to the Department of Education to support the claim. To avoid any nugatory design work by the School's consultants the submission to support the request for additional accommodation must be made to the Dept. at the early stages of scheme development (as a minimum before the commencement of RIBA plan of work Stage "C" – the production of outline proposals).

LOCATION

Generally the learning support accommodation should be located in a central position in the school and be close to a disabled toilet (suitable for showering and changing) and lift; the accommodation should preferably be located at ground floor (main entrance) level.

If the Department of Education agrees to a request by a School for additional LSC accommodation, this additional space could be located with the core provision, or alternatively, at the discretion of the School, could be located in two or three locations, depending on the amount of additional accommodation approved.

ROOM RELATIONSHIPS

The resource room should be directly related to the LSC classroom and have access to the classroom and to the main circulation area. The store should be directly accessible from the LSC classroom with the door opening into the classroom to maximise storage potential. The behavioural support/chill-out/parent/carers' rooms and office should each be accessible from the main circulation area and be located in close proximity to the LSC classroom.

ROOM LAYOUTS

The classroom and resource room layouts should be similar to those described in the Secondary School Building Handbook for general classroom accommodation. The classroom should be complete with a single drainer sink unit, with cupboarding under, and with hot and cold water supplies.