

## **PART 25 CIRCULATION AREAS**

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### **25.1 FUNCTION**

#### **25.1.1 SIZE**

The main entrance lobby should be adequate to provide reasonable circulation in a pleasing environment, but an excess of space is not required.

Corridors should normally be 1.8 m wide; a greater width may be necessary at points of possible congestion and for the principal circulation area. The width can be reduced to 1.5 m for any corridor which serves not more than three classrooms, and which is not a main artery of circulation.

A minimum height of 2.4 m is recommended.

#### **25.1.2 LAYOUT**

Direct access to the general office/reception area and the assembly hall are desirable from the main entrance.

Changes of level within a storey should be kept to the minimum, and ramped where possible. See Department for Education Design Note 18, "Access for Disabled Persons to Educational Buildings".

Corridors and other circulation areas should be compartmented as necessary for reasons of fire safety. This will also assist visually and with regard to the control of noise.

The location of staircases should be to Northern Ireland Fire Authority standards.

Fitments such as hoses reels should be recessed.

Reference is recommended to the current edition of the Department for Education Building Bulletin No 7 "Fire and the Design of Educational Buildings".

### **25.2 PERFORMANCE**

#### **25.2.1 FLOOR FINISH**

Finishes generally should be slip-resistant, durable and easily cleaned.

#### **25.2.2 WALL FINISH**

Durable, easily cleaned and fire resistant as required. Borrowed lights should NOT be ventilated.

#### **25.2.3 CEILING FINISH**

Light in tone, acoustically absorbent. Fire resistant as required.

- 25.2.4 **WINDOWS** Windows on landings, staircases and other vulnerable areas should be adequately guarded or appropriately glazed. See paragraph 4.14 re glazing at low level generally.
- 25.2.5 **DOORS** Location of and requirements for external doors, and internal doors for building compartmentation should be agreed with the Northern Ireland Fire Authority.
- It is desirable that the main entrance doors and/or side screens are glazed. In the interests of energy conservation, lobbies should be provided at external access doorways. See also **WINDOWS**.
- Outward opening doors should not project into corridors or where obstruction might be caused such as stairways.
- Glazed panels should be provided in internal doors, unless recommended otherwise.
- 25.3 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS**  
(provided under the building contract)
- Display boarding for notices and pupils' work as required. No display boarding should be provided in dead-end corridors.
- Some permanent display facility may be provided in the entrance hall or other strategic location.
- 25.3.1 **MOVABLE FURNITURE**  
(not to be provided under the building contract)
- Some chairs should be provided at the general office waiting area for the use of parents and visitors.
- A battery-operated clock(s) may be considered for the principal circulation area(s).
- 25.4 ENVIRONMENT**
- 25.4.1 **TEMPERATURE** 16°C.
- 25.4.2 **VENTILATION** Normal requirements, but draughts should be discouraged.
- 25.4.3 **DAYLIGHTING** Good natural light in the entrance hall is desirable.
- Staircases should be well lit.
- Natural light in corridors should be sufficient and as even as possible.
- 25.5 SERVICES**
- 25.5.1 **MECHANICAL** Water supply to hose reel points as required.
- 25.5.2 **ELECTRICAL** **LIGHTING:**
- Normal lighting requirements, but staircases should be well lit.

Lighting to display cabinets or localised wall display as required.

**POWER:**

A minimum of two double socket outlets should be provided in the main entrance hall. Additional double socket outlets should be provided elsewhere in circulation areas within 9 m of all points.

**25.5.3 SECURITY**

The provision of an intruder alarm should give sufficient security to circulation areas.