

*ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

*OFFICERS ASSOCIATION*

POLICY GUIDELINES  
FOR HYGIENE STANDARDS  
IN SCHOOLS.

ADOPTED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL

AS ASSOCIATION POLICY

ON 8 JUNE 1991.

## **SCHOOL STANDARDS.**

Recommended standards of lighting heating and ventilation are as follows:

### **Lighting.**

In daytime, daylight should be the main source of light in working areas. Each teaching space should have a window area of at least 20 per cent of the internal elevation of the external wall and through which an adequate view can be obtained.

Lowest illumination, whether daylight or electric light should be not less than 150 lux and where fluorescent lighting is used the general level of illumination should be not less than 300 lux.

### **Heating System:**

Heating systems should be capable of maintaining temperatures as follows:

Medical Inspection Rooms:	21 <sup>0</sup> C
Classrooms	20 <sup>0</sup> C
Corridors	18 <sup>0</sup> C
Toilets and Cloakrooms	17 <sup>0</sup> C

### **Sanitary Accommodation.**

Pupils' toilets facilities:

#### **New Schools:**

Two WC's and two wash hand basins should be provided for each class unit. Up to four WC's, one of which should be suitable for use by physically handicapped persons and four wash hand basins may be provided in association with the General Purpose Room.

#### **Existing Schools.**

These should be brought up to the above stated standards where feasible as soon as possible. In all cases of existing schools they should comply with old Board of Works Standards as a minimum. i.e.

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female.</b>
W.C. – 1 per 25 pupils	W.C. 1 per 15 pupils
W.H.B. – 1 per W.C.	W.H.B. – 1 per W.C.
1 Slab urinal (2' 6") for every 10 pupils.	
	<b>Handicapped.</b>
	W.C. – 1
	W.H.B. - 1

Toilets should be washed and disinfected daily. All facilities should be inspected on a continuous basis and any defects repaired immediately. All external drainage lines should be inspected regularly. Septic tanks should be de-sludged once a year or more often if need be. Standard level bowl urinals and low level bowl urinals should be provided.

Access should be available to adequate toilet facilities during recreation periods. Staff toilet facilities should be provided as follows:

**In a 3 – 5 unit school - 1W.C. and 1W.H.B.**

**In a 6 – 11 unit school - 2 W.C. and 2 W.H.B.**

**In a 12 – 16 unit school - 3 W.C. and 3 W.H.B.**

### **HYGIENE.**

1. There should be a constantly available supply of water, soap and hand-drying facilities and toilet paper. There should be instant hot water supply in all wash hand basins in toilet areas and in staffrooms.
2. There should be an adequate supply of drinking water available. Bacteriological and Chemical analysis should be taken before school term commences.
3. Disposal facilities should be provided for sanitary towels in W.C. compartments and suitable arrangements made for final disposal.
4. Litter bins should be provided in each class room, cloakroom and at least one bin in or convenient to the play area.
5. Classroom bins should be emptied daily.

### **CLEANING.**

1. The Board of Management should ensure that the school is cleaned regularly.
2. Appropriate cleaning materials and cleaning requisites should be available for use in the cleaning, and these should be stored in a secure and safe place.
3. All floors and staircases should be swept daily. Non-carpeted floor surfaces should be washed and/or polished weekly. Mats should be provided inside the school doors.
4. The school should be dusted daily. The dusting should include desk, worktops, windowsills, skirting boards and balustrades.
5. Walls ceilings, lights, curtains and/or blinds should be brushed down with a soft brush or vacuum cleaned at least once a term.
6. Toilets, wash hand basins and toilet areas should be washed and disinfected daily.
7. Windows should be cleaned at least once a term.
8. All internal gloss painted surfaces should be washed with good quality soap and water before the commencement of each school year.

In order to achieve these standards it is strongly recommended that a caretaker be employed.

### **CLOAKROOMS.**

1. Cloakrooms should be sufficiently large to provide each child with a peg for his/her coat. Each peg should be at least one foot apart.
2. If the school insists on children removing their outdoor shoes, facilities for hanging “slipper bags” is a necessity or perhaps the bottom peg of the coat peg itself.
3. All cloakrooms should be adequately heated to allow coats belonging to the children to dry out completely before classes finish for the day.
4. The cloakroom should be situated within the school building and be accessible at all times.
5. The cloakroom should be cleaned daily.

### **MAINTENANCE.**

1. Running repairs (e.g. renewal of sash cords or broken panes of glass) should be attended to without delay.
2. Drains should be rodded at the end of each term and where there is a septic tank it should be inspected annually and cleaned of sludge if necessary.
3. Central heating boilers should be serviced regularly. It would be advisable to have this done on an annual contract basis.
4. Internal decorations should be carried out approximately every eight years. External painting of new buildings should be carried out 18 – 24 months after completion and thereafter approximately every four years. Surfaces to be painted should include gates and railings.

### **GENERAL.**

1. Facilities for consumption of food in the school should include wash-up facilities and dining area for both pupils and teachers.
2. All schools should be accessible to handicapped persons.
3. Adequate space should be provided for recreational facilities.
4. There should be both hard and grass surfaces in the school yard.
5. Facilities for team sports should be available.
6. Ensure that play area is free from stones, unnecessary steps, holes etc.
7. Each school should have a first aid kit available on the premises.

It is necessary that the sanitary conditions of the school buildings should at least measure up to the standards of hygiene which are being taught to children. It is meaningless to teach to children about a hygienic environment and then let them see poor food handling techniques, dirty toilets, inadequate disposal of waste or no facility for obtaining a clean drink of water.

It is of great importance that the classrooms, the school, the toilets, the grounds and the playground should be examples of order and cleanliness so that the children will come to accept and expect an environment in which the highest standards of hygiene and neatness are obtained. It is through these standards that the child's attitude to hygiene and neatness in all aspects of life outside the school will thus be significantly influenced for the better.