

Accessibility Audits for the Education Sector



 **Direct**
Access

Education Accessibility Audits

Education is one of the most valuable things that anyone can receive. Learning about the world opens doors and makes all things possible.



Knowledge is empowering and makes us more capable to go out in the world, to follow our dreams and affect positive change. The wisdom of a great teacher can have a profound impact on the life of a student. The skills and information learned in school can be the stepping stones on the path to success.

However, sometimes disabled individuals are hindered from enjoying the benefits of education simply because the school facilities are not designed in a way which accommodates their needs. It is very important that our education institutions are barrier free and adapted to meet the needs of every student.

Our education services range from access consultation on the design of new schools and classrooms to auditing of existing premises and project managing adaptations for a new pupil with specific access needs. From nursery through to elite universities such as Loughborough.

Access Audits for Educational Facilities



Direct Access is an award-winning provider of disability access audits for schools and other educational establishments. We have audited over 900 schools, colleges and universities either directly or through an education authority.

Our Access Audits are designed to assess your premises to ensure that provisions for disabled access are in place. Our team of NRAC Consultants all have a disability providing an inherent expertise and understanding of the barriers that disabled people face.

We provide Access Audits that recognise the requirements of local regulations in each Emirate. For example in Dubai, the Dubai Universal Design Code and Article 27 of the Dubai Municipality Building Regulations, in Abu Dhabi following the Building Code Accessibility Standards and applicable UAE Federal Laws.



What does an Access Audit look for?

It is taken in two stages. The first stage is a walkthrough inspection of the site using our comprehensive checklist and NRAC certified surveyor's knowledge. During this stage we look at a number of different details including external and internal ramps, entrances, reception areas, platform lifts, lighting, acoustics, means of escape and much more. Our expert consultants use their first-hand experience of disability in order to identify any issues or barriers.

The second stage suggests any possible improvements which can be made to the site, from small adjustments to structural alterations (where appropriate).

Our audits provide an idea of costs and priorities through an action plan which you can follow to start improving access at your facility. We will work together with you to help identify the optimal solutions and review the outcome of changes implemented.

The purpose of an access audit is to provide a 'snapshot' of your facilities at a certain point in order to highlight areas for improvement.

What people say about us

“A comprehensive and professional report.”

Mrs T. Barret
Business Manager
The Royal Liberty School

Steven carried out a very thorough survey of the school site and produced a comprehensive and professional report. Steven has also reviewed our Accessibility Plan, offering professional advice and support.

I am very happy to recommend the services of Direct Access. The service that I received from Direct Access was second to none and in particular the advice and support I received from Steven was invaluable.



“On arrival the Assessor’s professionalism, enthusiasm, an knowledge of the subject was outstanding”

Mrs R Donaldson
Stowe School

On arrival the Assessor’s professionalism, enthusiasm, and knowledge of the subject was outstanding, Also during the Audit the complexity of the site was accommodated and, being a School, the sensitive areas were appreciated, so much so that I felt happy to allow the Assessor to walk around the site on his own.

Within a few weeks we received individual, detailed, workable and practical reports which set out guidelines for improvement and possible development to ensure that we, as a School, are legal and accessible for all.

Accessibility is important to Stow School, not only in our prime function as a School but also because we are a commercial venue, a heritage building open to the general public, and a hub for the community offering Arts at Stow performance in the form of public events.

Accreditation

Direct Access is Incensu registered. Incensu is the register of tried, tested and trusted suppliers to the education sector.

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