PART 10
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

10.1 Introduction

The Northern Ireland Curriculum Programme of Study for Physical Education includes athletics, dance, gymnastics, games, swimming and outdoor adventurous activities. The key aspects of the programme are the development and improvement of pupils' skills in the various activities, and the development of a healthy lifestyle.

The teaching of physical education requires the provision of a sports hall in all post-primary schools A gymnasium and fitness activity area should also be provided in schools with enrolments of **600** and over. In schools with enrolments less than **600**, the multi-purpose hall (see Part 11 MULTI-PURPOSE HALLS) is also to serve as a gymnasium, and should be designed and fitted primarily as a gymnasium, with equipment and mat stores. The gymnasium equipment in the multi-purpose hall should, when not in use, be on an indented wall area, to ensure that it does not protrude beyond the main wall line.

Schools with enrolments less than **600**, and those with enrolments of 950 and over, should be provided with a dance/lecture/drama room.

In addition, classroom accommodation (from the general classroom allowance) for examination classes in physical education may be required depending on the developing needs of the school.

Schools wishing to further increase their provision of accommodation and facilities for physical education and sport should apply for additional funding to the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, the New Opportunities Fund, their local district council and/or another recognised funding agency. Applications must be made at the earliest possible stage, and a positive decision known, before any additional facilities are included in the design of new accommodation.

10.2 Indoor Accommodation

As the requirements for the various facilities/accommodation vary considerably depending on school enrolments, the following guidance is sub-divided under five headings:

Sports Hall;

Gymnasium

Fitness Activity Area;

Dance/lecture/drama Room;

Changing/Showering Accommodation

A general classroom (from within the total shown in the Schedule of Accommodation) should be located adjacent to the PE department for use by GCS or GCS AS or A level physical education pupils. (See PART 5 re

General Classrooms)

In addition, the following ancillary accommodation/facilities are also required:

a. physical education office:

b. equipment stores:

c. mat stores:

10.3	Outdoor Play Spaces	For the provision of playing pitches and courts see the guidance and recommendations at the end of this section.
10.4	Mat Stores	See the Department's Circular No 1989/21 for the design and provision of stores containing cellular foam filled equipment and furniture. These stores must be located at an external wall, where natural ventilation is available.
10.5	Safety Generally	Attention is drawn to the most recent Department of Education Circulars on class sizes, and "Safe Practice in Physical Education" published by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education
10.6	First-Aid Equipment	Approved first-aid equipment (non contract) should be provided for each physical education space. The telephone number of the nearest doctor(s)/casualty unit should be available.
10.7	Fire Fighting Equipment	These items of fire fighting equipment must be provided to satisfy the requirements of the Building Control authority.

SPORTS HALL

10.8 FUNCTION

10.8.1 SIZE

Area 440 m^2.

Height - 7.62 m, and within the overall area approved should have dimensions to facilitate the playing of games.

Width - to accommodate a badminton court across the hall, the width should not be less than 16.3 m.

Physical Education Office – 13 m^2. This office/reception point should be close to the entrance.

Equipment Store - 28 m^2. This area should be of rectangular shape and not less than 3.6 m wide. This area should be reduced where storage for playing fields equipment is provided elsewhere.

The ceiling height of the office and equipment store need not exceed 2.5 m.

10.8.2 LOCATION

The location of the sports hall may be influenced by intended community or youth club use, but consideration should be given to a reasonable separation from teaching accommodation to avoid possible noise interference. (Note comments in section headed **GYMNASIUM** re location of gymnasium.)

To maximise the use of changing accommodation associated with the sports hall, a location within reasonable proximity of playing pitches is desirable

10.8.3 LAYOUT

The Physical Education office should be located close to the entrance to the PE accommodation, and to the entrance to the sports hall (but not on an end wall of the sports hall). See 10.9.4 WINDOWS for details of viewing panels required.

The equipment store should be located along one long side of the sports hall, with direct access to the hall and, if possible, secure access to outside pitches and courts. Where the playing pitches are some distance from the sports hall, separate, adjacent storage for outdoor sports equipment is required. This should be secure as the location may be more prone to acts of vandalism than the main school buildings.

10.9 PERFORMANCE

10.9.1 FLOOR FINISH

The selection of the type of flooring for a sports hall should be determined by the range of uses envisaged and its characteristics in relation to the desirable properties below. A floor of close-grained hardwood with a non-slip finish, laid transversely and supported on joists, or a specialist synthetic sports flooring or sprung composite wood flooring blocks, are recommended

The properties of sports hall flooring should include:

a. a frictional grip sufficient to enable players to stop or turn quickly with confidence;

b. a good degree of resilience;

c. suitable colour, providing a satisfactory background for ball games (and including line markings);

d. a surface providing a true and uniform bounce for ball games over its whole area.

From the economic and maintenance aspects, the flooring should in addition:

e. be capable of withstanding heavy and intensive use;

f. be strong enough to support heavy items of equipment eg a trampoline;

g. be capable of accepting court and line markings easily; and

h. require minimal and inexpensive maintenance.

The appropriate games markings (eg for badminton, basketball, netball, indoor football, tennis) should be applied before any sealer coats are laid. (These markings should comply with the specified requirements of the Governing Bodies for these games.)

Flush floor sockets may be required for net posts for some games. These should be installed when the structural floor is being laid.

The sports hall is designed specifically for PE and sport. Any other use of the sports hall will require the fitting of a suitable cover to protect the floor from damage. The protective covering will require secure and safe storage in a separate store.

A carpet finish is recommended for the Physical Education office.

A vinyl or similar finish is suitable for the equipment store.

10. 9. 2. WALL FINISH

Walls in the sports hall should be completely free of projections from structures or fittings, eg columns, horizontal ledges, heating appliances, pipes, conduits, surface-mounted switches, etc. The walls should be flush-pointed, durable, provide a good rebound surface and have a light coloured finish. The walls should be suitably finished to ensure good acoustics for teaching purposes. Fairfaced smooth block and brick are considered suitable.

End walls should be capable of having permanently mounted fixtures eg for netball, basketball, etc.

10.9.3 CEILING FINISH

Adequately robust for the games activities in the sports hall.

10.9.4 WINDOWS

Sports hall windows, where provided, should be high level, safety glazed and so positioned that the sun's rays cause a minimum of disturbance to players.

See also 10.11.3 DAYLIGHTING.

Viewing panels should be provided from the Physical Education office to the main entrance area and, where appropriate, to the sports hall. The latter should be reinforced, safety glazed and flush on the sports hall side with the adjoining wall.

10.9.5 DOORS

All door frames must be fitted with the frame flush with the internal wall face.

Access doors to the sports hall from the circulation space should be double-leaf, outward-opening and without projecting furniture on the sports hall side. A glazed viewing panel may be provided.

Doors to the equipment store should be centrally located, 2 m wide and 2.4 m high. They should be double-leaf, hinged, lockable, of robust construction and designed to meet statutory requirements. Internal doors should open into the hall and have recessed furniture as necessary on the door face. External doors where provided should be fitted with a suitable stand-open device against wind damage. Roller shutter doors should not be used.

10.10 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS (provided under the building contract)

The sports hall should have a minimum of one overhead track with a suspended net of 20 mm mesh fitted across the hall to enable it to be sub-divided into two (or more) suitable areas. Additional nets for cricket practice may be provided.

With the exception of basketball or netball hoops, built-in physical education apparatus is not normally required in a sports hall. In the exceptional circumstances when fixed gymnastic equipment is required, the walls should be recessed so that, when not in use, the equipment does not protrude into the sports hall.

Some cupboards, shelves and display boarding are required in the Physical Education office.

Three shelves are required in the equipment store, approximately 3.5 m long, 300 m wide and lipped or sloping to retain balls. They should be provided at approximately 1 m, 1.25 m and 1.5 m heights above the floor.

10.10.1 MOVEABLE FURNITURE (not to be provided under the building contract)

Standard lockable 4-drawer filing cabinet, desks and sufficient chairs for specialist teachers should be provided for the Physical Education Office.

10.11 ENVIRONMENT

10.11.1 TEMPERATURE

15^0C in the hall and 18^0C in the Physical Education Office. The store shall be adequately heated to protect the equipment stored therein.

10.11.2 VENTILATION

The hall shall be well ventilated. It is likely that mechanical supply and extract ventilation will be required.

The Physical Education Office should be naturally ventilated.

Some ventilation may be required for the store.

10.11.3 DAYLIGHTING

Natural light in the sports hall is essential, either by windows or diffused roof lighting. Daylighting must not be a source of glare.

Natural light is not required for the equipment store; its provision may compromise security.

10.11.4 ACOUSTICS

The sports hall should have satisfactory acoustic properties for teaching. The heating and ventilation system shall operate with a appropriate noise level.

10.12 SERVICES

10.12.1 MECHANICAL

HEATING

Warm air, high level radiant panel or underfloor heating should be used wherever possible in the hall, complete with an appropriate thermostatic control. This control should be operated through a BMS with appropriate sensors and control devices. The installation should be resistant to impact.

Low-level fan assisted convection heaters and low-level radiators are not acceptable.

Conventional low-level radiators may be used in the Physical Education Office, complete with local, tamperproof thermostatic control.

A high-level pipe coil is recommended for the store, complete with local, tamperproof thermostatic control.

A separate boiler plant may be considered where the sports hall is not adjacent to the main school buildings.

VENTILATION

Mechanical supply and extract ventilation may be provided to satisfy the requirements of the normal activities within the hall. It may be appropriate to heat the hall using the heated supply air. Grilles and associated ductwork shall be mounted at high level, be resistant to impact as required and shall not compromise the clear ceiling height of the hall.

The system shall be controlled from the Physical Education Office.

10.12.2 ELECTRICAL

LIGHTING:

A maintained illuminance of 350 lux is required on the working plane. Luminaires shall be suitably protected against impact.

The mounting of luminaries shall not compromise the clear ceiling height of the sports hall.

POWER:

The following socket outlets should be provided:

a. six double socket outlets, of robust construction, distributed around the four walls of the sports hall at skirting level, and finished flush with the wall.

b. three double socket outlets should be provided in the Physical Education Office.

10.12.3 TELEPHONE — See Part 12 ICT.

10.12.4 ICT — See Part 12 ICT.

10.12.5 SOUND SYSTEM — Provision shall be made for a stereo sound system within the sports hall. This shall include flush jack sockets for connecting the audio equipment and associated speakers to the speaker cabling system that shall be installed in a dedicated, concealed conduit system. The jack sockets shall incorporate hinged covers and be located adjacent to a double socket outlet. Refer to POWER above.

10.13 GYMNASIUM

10.13.1 ACCOMMODATION — Gymnasium should be rectangular or square and at least 260 m^2.

Equipment Store 20 m^2 minimum

Mat Store 12 m^2

Ceiling height should be no less than 5.1 m.

Floor to ceiling height in stores need not exceed 2.5 m.

10.13.2 LOCATION — The gymnasium should be located close/adjacent to the sports hall. The gymnasium and sports hall should be close to the playing pitches and courts. Changing, showering and toilet accommodation for pupils and staff should be adjacent, including toilet accommodation suitable for disabled persons. The Physical Education office should be close to the entrance to the gymnasium/sports hall area.

Schools may wish to consider a location for the gymnasium adjacent to the multi-purpose hall to provide the option for the creation of a larger function/examination hall. This could be achieved by the provision of a suitable folding partition at the common wall. If this option is selected the SERVICES associated with both spaces shall be designed to satisfy the environmental criteria of each. See PART 11 MULTI-PURPOSE HALLS.

In schools with enrolments less than 551, the multi-purpose hall is also to serve as a gymnasium (see PART 11 MULTI-PURPOSE HALLS), and should be designed and fitted primarily as a gymnasium, with equipment and mat stores. The gymnasium equipment in the multi-purpose hall should, when not in use, be on an indented wall area, to ensure that it does not protrude beyond the main wall line. A stage and chair and examination desk stores should be provided associated with the hall.

10.13.3 LAYOUT — The gymnasium should be designed and fitted with both permanent and moveable specialist gymnastics apparatus. Apparatus should be

fixed evenly along the side walls to allow combinations of apparatus to be used together.

It is most important that the range and position of fixed apparatus are determined at the earliest design stage in consultation with specialist teachers, Area Board advisers and possible equipment suppliers. This process will ensure that the correct apparatus is selected, positioned and linked appropriately to ensure that maximum use can be made of the gymnasium for teaching purposes. Failure to plan in this way often results in poor design and layout of a limited range of unlinked and/or unsuitable apparatus.

The equipment stores should preferably be located on one of the side walls, and the mat store must be located at an external wall, where natural ventilation is available.

Access to the equipment/mat stores should be only from the gymnasium or, if between the gymnasium and the sports hall, may be accessed from both.

10.14 PERFORMANCE

10.14.1 FLOOR FINISH

A floor of either close-grained hardwood with a non-slip finish, laid transversely and supported on joists, or a specialist synthetic sports flooring for gymnastic or other rebound activities is recommended.

A vinyl or similar finish is suitable for stores.

10.14.2 WALL FINISH

Acoustically suitable for teaching purposes.

Light coloured finish.

Apart from physical education equipment, walls should be completely free of projections from structure or fittings. Switches, radiators or other heating appliances should be recessed. The finish should not mark easily.

10.14.3 CEILING FINISH

Acoustically satisfactory for teaching purposes.

A gymnasium should have a light coloured ceiling of robust construction, with recessed and protected lighting.

10.14.4 WINDOWS

In a gymnasium a sill height of 3 m is satisfactory where windows are provided continuously on both long walls. Windows should have safety glazing. Windows in end walls are undesirable.

Windows or roof lights should not be provided for stores.
See 10.16.2 VENTILATION.

10.14.5 DOORS

All door frames must be fitted with frames flush with the internal wall face.

Access doors in a gymnasium should be so positioned that they do not project into the activities space. Door furniture must be flush fitting to avoid injury to users.

Main access doors should be double-leaf, and partly glazed.

2.0 m wide doors to stores must be solid timber, flush, lockable double-leaf, hinged doors opening into the gymnasium.

10.15 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS (provided under building contract)

Only fixed gymnastic apparatus should be installed in a gymnasium. (Note detailed guidance above in 10.13.3 on LAYOUT.)

The following should be provided in the equipment store:

a. shelves approximately 300 m wide above a height of 1.4 m, one of which should be designed to slope backwards to hold balls;

b. a number of long hooks for ropes, braids, hoops etc; and

c. hooks should be fitted on walls for the safe storage of sticks and racquets.

10.16 ENVIRONMENT

10.16.1 TEMPERATURE

15^0C in the gymnasium. The stores shall be adequately heated to protect the equipment stored therein.

10.16.2 VENTILATION

The gymnasium shall be well ventilated. It is likely that mechanical supply and extract ventilation will be required.

Some ventilation may be required for the stores.

10.16.3 DAYLIGHTING

Good daylighting is essential. Windows and any roof lights should be suitably positioned to avoid glare.

No natural light is required for stores, as its provision may compromise security.

10.16.4 ACOUSTICS

Good acoustic levels are required, with adequate sound insulation between rooms/areas.

10.17 SERVICES

10.17.1 MECHANICAL

Warm air, ceiling panel, high level radiant panel or underfloor heating should be used wherever possible in the gymnasium, complete with an appropriate thermostatic control. This control should be operated through a BMS with appropriate sensors and control devices. The installation should be resistant to impact.

Fan assisted convection heaters and low-level radiators are not acceptable.

High-level pipe coils are recommended for the stores, complete with local, tamperproof thermostatic control.

VENTILATION

Mechanical supply and extract ventilation may be provided to satisfy the requirements of the normal activities within the gymnasium. It may be appropriate to heat the hall using the heated supply air. Grilles and associated ductwork shall be mounted at high level, be resistant to impact as required and shall not compromise the clear ceiling height of the gymnasium.

10.17.2 ELECTRICAL

LIGHTING:

A maintained illuminance of 350 lux is required on the working plane. Luminaires shall be suitably protected against impact.

The mounting of luminaries shall not compromise the clear ceiling height of the gymnasium

Appropriate non-extinguishable exit signs should be installed in the gymnasium, as required.

Luminaries in a mat store should be enclosed and protected.

AUTOMATIC SMOKE DETECTION

The mat store should have an automatic smoke detection system linked to the main fire alarm system in the building.

POWER:

Six double socket outlets, of robust construction, distributed around the four walls of the gymnasium at skirting level, and finished flush with the wall.

ICT See Part 12 ICT

10.18 FITNESS ACTIVITY AREA

10.18.1 ACCOMMODATION

This space should consist of a rectangular or square area of at least 100 m^2.

The ceiling should not exceed 4 m or be less than 3m.

If approved, a small communal area may be provided outside the fitness activity area with a control point to regulate entry and use.

This facility should be located adjacent/close to the sports hall and gymnasium.

10.18.2 LAYOUT

The fitness activity area should be designed and fitted with both permanent and moveable specialist fitness equipment. It is important that the range and position of fixed and moveable equipment are determined at design stage in consultation with specialist teachers, Area Board advisers and possible equipment suppliers. Adequate circulation space must be provided around items of equipment to ensure the safety of users. The fitness equipment is not provided as part of the contract.

At least one wall should be capable of supporting a mirror (or mirrors) across two thirds of its width. The mirror(s) should be 1.00 to 1.25m in height and fixed .75 to 1.00m above floor level.

10.19 PERFORMANCE

10.19.1 FLOOR FINISH

A specialist sports floor which is easily cleaned and capable of taking heavy fitness equipment is required.

10.19.2 WALL FINISH

Light coloured finish.

Acoustically satisfactory for teaching purposes.

Walls should be completely free of projections from structure or fittings other than fitness equipment. The finish should not mark easily.

Walls should be capable of supporting items of fitness equipment.

10.19.3 CEILING FINISH

Acoustically satisfactory for teaching purposes.

A fitness activity area should have a light coloured ceiling of robust construction, with recessed lighting.

10.19.4 WINDOWS

In a fitness activity area, windows should be provided along two walls including observation from external corridor/reception area/sports hall. External windows should have a sill height of 1.5 m.

Windows should have safety glazing and be at high level; and so positioned that the sun's rays cause a minimum of disturbance to users.

10.19.5 DOORS

Main access doors should be double-leaf, and glazed.

10.20 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS
(provided by others and installed under the building contract)

Built-in fitness equipment should be installed in a fitness activity area. (Note 10.18.2 on LAYOUT.)

10.21 ENVIRONMENT

10.21.1 TEMPERATURE

15°C.

10.21.2 VENTILATION

The Fitness Activity Area shall be well ventilated. Mechanical ventilation may be required to provide a reasonable environment. Refrigerant cooling shall not be considered.

10.22.3 DAYLIGHTING

Good daylighting is required.

10.22.4 ACOUSTICS

Good acoustic levels are required, with adequate sound insulation between rooms/areas.

10.22 SERVICES

10.22.1 MECHANICAL

HEATING

Warm air or high-level pipe coils should be considered complete with an appropriate thermostatic control. This control should be operated through a BMS with appropriate sensors and control devices.

Low-level fan assisted convection heaters and low-level radiators are not acceptable.

VENTILATION

Mechanical ventilation may be provided to satisfy the requirements of the normal activities within the area. The supply air should be tempered as appropriate.

10.22.2 ELECTRICAL

LIGHTING:

A maintained illuminance of 350 lux is required on the working plane.

POWER:

Twelve double socket outlets (for fitness equipment) should be provided around the fitness activity area at skirting level, and should be flush fitting.

ICT – See Part 12 ICT.

10.22.3 SOUND SYSTEM

Provision shall be made for a stereo sound system within the fitness activity area. This shall include flush jack sockets for connecting the audio equipment and associated speakers to the speaker cabling system that shall be installed in a dedicated, concealed conduit system. The jack sockets shall be located adjacent to a double socket outlet. Refer to 10.22.2 POWER above.

10.23 DANCE/LECTURE/DRAMA ROOM

10.23.1 ACCOMMODATION

This space should consist of a rectangular or square area of 100 m^2 for schools with enrolments less than 551, and 120m^2 for schools with enrolments of 950 and over.

A 10m^2 chair store should be provided with access from the room.

The ceiling should not be less than 2.7 m high.

The room should be located close to the sports hall, gymnasium and multi-purpose hall.

10.23.2 LAYOUT

At least one wall in the room should be capable of supporting a mirror (or mirrors) across two thirds of its width.

10.23.3 PERFORMANCE

10.23.4 FLOOR FINISH

A floor of close-grained hardwood with a non-slip finish, laid transversely and supported on joists is recommended.

10.23.5 WALL FINISH

A smooth easily cleaned finish is required.

Walls should be completely free of projections from structure or fittings. The finish should not mark easily.

10.23.6 CEILING FINISH

Should have a light coloured ceiling of robust construction.

10.23.7 WINDOWS

Sufficient to provide satisfactory natural lighting should be provided in the room. Windows should have opening lights at high and low level to provide adequate natural ventilation with fine adjustment. Cills should be not less than 1.0 m above the floor. Windows in the room should have safety glazing. Windows are not required in the chair store.

10.23.8 DOORS

The door to the room should have a suitably glazed vision panel. The door to the store should be outward opening into the room.

10.23.9 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS
(provided under building contract)

A suitably safety glazed mirror, 1.5m high, along two thirds the length of one wall, approximately 700mm above floor level, complete with curtain and rail or track along the extent of the mirror.

10.23.10 ENVIRONMENT

10.23.11 TEMPERATURE

18°C but able to be simply adjusted to 15 degrees C or an intermediate level, depending upon the activity involved or the occupancy of the space.

10.23.12 VENTILATION

The area shall be well ventilated. It is likely that mechanical ventilation will be required.
Refrigerant cooling shall not be considered.

10.23.13 DAYLIGHTING

Satisfactory level and distribution of daylight is required.

Dim-out blinds must be provided in the room, and window design should permit ventilation when dim-out blinds are in operation.

See also WINDOWS.

10.23.14 ACOUSTICS — Good acoustic levels are required, with adequate sound insulation between the room and other areas.

10.23.15 SERVICES

10.23.16 MECHANICAL — HEATING

Warm air, ceiling panel, high level radiant panel or underfloor heating should be used wherever possible, complete with an appropriate thermostatic control. This control should be operated through a BMS with appropriate sensors and control devices.

Low-level fan assisted convection heaters and low-level radiators are not acceptable.

VENTILATION

Mechanical ventilation may be provided to satisfy the requirements of the normal activities within the area. The supply air should be tempered as appropriate.

10.23.17 ELECTRICAL — LIGHTING:

A lighting intensity of 350 lux is required on the working plane.

POWER:

Six double socket outlets, of robust construction, should be provided around the room at skirting level, and should be flush fitting.

ICT – See Part 12 ICT.

10.22.3 SOUND SYSTEM — Provision shall be made for a stereo sound system within the room. This shall include flush jack sockets for connecting the audio equipment and associated speakers to the speaker cabling system that shall be installed in a dedicated, concealed conduit system. The jack sockets shall be located adjacent to a double socket outlet. Refer to POWER above.

10.23 CHANGING ACCOMMODATION

10.23.1 ACCOMMODATION — The changing accommodation should consist of:

a. changing room(s) with associated shower and drying area for pupils;

b. changing room(s) with associated shower and drying areas for teaching staff;

c. toilets and shower and changing accommodation for male

and female pupils, and for pupils who are disabled;

d. toilets for male and female staff.

Separate accommodation should be provided for boys and girls in addition to any flexible-use changing provided, and separate accommodation for male and female members of staff.

The sports hall and gymnasium should each be provided with two changing rooms and two shower areas. Where a gymnasium and a sports hall are in close proximity, the changing accommodation may be combined provided that there is no reduction in the required floor area.

Where the pattern of use indicates that additional changing accommodation is required and approved by the Department, additional changing rooms, shower areas and toilets should be considered, and accessed separately from the entrance to the indoor facilities. Alternatively, consideration may be given to the provision of separate changing accommodation at playing pitches where these are not within reasonable walking distance of the main school facilities.

10.23.2 SIZE

Changing Room: 25 m^2 minimum.

Shower and Drying Area: approximately 2 m^2 per fitting/cubicle.

Staff Changing Room (including shower): approximately 11 m^2

Floor to ceiling heights need not exceed 2.5 m.

10.23.3 LOCATION

The changing and toilet accommodation should be conveniently placed in relation to both the gymnasium and sports hall. Staff changing accommodation should be adjacent to the pupils' accommodation.

10.23.4 LAYOUT

Changing accommodation should:

a. have toilet accommodation adjacent but not within the changing room;

b. permit access without the necessity of passing through the gymnasium or sports hall; and

c. have as direct and easy access as possible from playgrounds and playing pitches.

Shower and drying areas for boys and girls should consist of shower cubicles, each approximately 1 m^2. These may be arranged in two rows facing across the drying area which need not be more than 2 m wide.

Each cubicle should have:

a. a shower head;

b. a towel hook outside the cubicle;

c. a recessed tile for soap; and

d. a sliding waterproof curtain to the front.

In each case, the number of shower cubicles or swivel sprays should be:

twelve where the shower area serves one changing room.

In co-educational schools it can be beneficial to have some degree of flexibility in the use of changing and shower spaces. The provision of a third shower area with cubicles and controlled access to a third changing room (where provided) are means to this end.

Suitable changing, showering and toilet accommodation should be provided for pupils who are disabled.

The staff changing room(s) should be located adjacent to pupils' changing accommodation, and contain a sub-divided area for a wash-hand basin, shower cubicle and toilet.

10.24 PERFORMANCE

10.24.1	FLOOR FINISH	Changing rooms must have a slip-resistant surface. Shower and drying areas generally should be at a lower level than the changing rooms and have an impervious floor finish with a slip-resistant surface, which can be easily cleaned. Suitable covered drainage is required.
10.24.2	WALL FINISH	An impervious, easily cleaned finish is required such as tiles to full height.
10.24.3	CEILING FINISH	Light in tone, easily cleaned and moisture resistant.
10.24.4	WINDOWS	High level windows or roof lighting are recommended for changing rooms.
10.24.5	DOORS	Non-glazed. Doors to circulation areas should be suitably located or screened vision provided.

10.25 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS (provided under the building contract)

Continuous seating 300 mm wide and approximately 12 m long is required in each changing room, with 30 clothing hooks located above the seating.

Double hook provision (with intermediate hooks at a different level) may be considered for areas of anticipated intense usage.

A large mirror or a few smaller mirrors, safety glazed and fixed at a suitable height for pupils is also required in each changing room.

Staff changing rooms should be fitted with cupboards, a first-aid locker, some adjustable shelving, a small bench seat, clothes hooks and a mirror.

10.26 ENVIRONMENT

10.26.1 TEMPERATURE

18°C.

10.26.2 VENTILATION

Washrooms, changing areas, toilets and shower areas must be well ventilated. Mechanical supply and extract ventilation will be required.

10.26.3 DAYLIGHTING

Natural light should be provided.

10.27 SERVICES

10.27.1 MECHANICAL

PLUMBING

Shower units should have suitable vandal resistant shower heads in chromium plated finish, complete with mechanical push button time controls and an individual or remote common blending supply water. Surface mounted enclosure panels may be considered to facilitate ease of access and maintenance.

Height of shower heads, from finished floor level, should range between 1.4m and 1.8m in agreement with the school.

HEATING

Ceiling panel, high level radiant panel, low level pipe coils under bench seating or underfloor heating should be used wherever possible, complete with an appropriate thermostatic control. This control may be either a local tamperproof thermostatic type or an electrically operated zone valve and associated sensor operated through a BMS.

Fan assisted convection heaters and conventional radiators mounted at low level are not acceptable.

VENTILATION

The supply air shall be 100% tempered fresh air and the exhaust air expelled from the building.

10.27.2 ELECTRICAL

LIGHTING:

A maintained illuminance of 200 lux is required on the working plane. Luminaires should be robust with an ingress protection rating of IP 65.

POWER:

Provision of hair drying facilities may be considered for changing rooms.

A double socket outlet should be provided in staff changing rooms.

10.27.3 SWITCHGEAR & CONTROL GEAR

The main switchgear and control panels associated with the electrical, heating and ventilation installations shall be located in designated plant rooms. The final locations of the local controls for such systems shall be as agreed with the school and the relevant ELB Advisor.

APPENDIX 2

PLAYING PITCHES AND COURTS

School Enrolment	Category	Pitches	Courts
Up to 349	Boys	2	2
	Girls	2	4
	Co-educ	2	4
350 to 549	Boys	3	2
	Girls	3	4
	Co-educ	4	4
550 to 749	Boys	4	2
	Girls	4	5
	Co-educ	4	5
750 and Above	Boys	5	2
	Girls	5	5
	Co-educ	5	5

SAND-FILLED SYNTHETIC PITCHES

In schools with enrolments in excess of 349, the Department of Education may approve the provision of pitch with a sand-filled synthetic surface, provided it is matched by a reduction of two conventional pitches.

If provided, the sand-filled synthetic pitch should be hockey pitch size (91.4m x 55.0m) with run-off margins of the same quality of material, slope and smoothness for a minimum distance of 3m before any change in that surface occurs and for a further minimum distance of 2m at each end and 1m along each side before any obstruction is encountered. The additional 1m and 2m to the sides and ends respectively, can be constructed from any material provided it is level, not dangerous to fall on and provides a smooth transition with the

synthetic surface, for example, a drainage channel or square top kerb. The material should be of a type that will not allow stones to dislodge and become spread on the synthetic material.

The sand-filled synthetic pitch should be provided in accordance with BS 7044.

Any obstructions, such as floodlighting columns and dugouts, within the run-off margin are potential safety hazards and should be avoided.

Recesses (lay-byes) should be provided to the sides and ends of the pitch to accommodate dugouts and storage of unused goal posts.

A 3.0m high, steel mesh fence must be provided around the pitch, with consideration given to the material behind goal positions for hockey. Gates and fencing should be designed so that unauthorized entry, by means of scaling, is deterred. The bottom of the fencing around the pitch should preferably be tied into a concrete plinth or secured with a stop board, if appropriate.

Access paths from changing rooms to the synthetic pitch should be kept clean and free from mud/debris etc. Routes across grass areas should be avoided and a foot mat should be provided at the pedestrian entrance to the pitch to prevent debris reaching the playing surface.

PITCHES GENERALLY

Suitable, robust fencing should be provided to ensure that use of the pitches is suitably managed and to prevent dog fouling.

Where necessary and approved by the Department, ball stop fencing should be provided; extent, height and specification to be agreed with the Department.

With the agreement of the Department, consideration could be given to the provision of floodlighting on one pitch for late afternoon and evening use.

Where provided, a cricket square or synthetic pitch should be located in an area not used for other activities, and suitably designated.

Consideration should be given to how the pitches could be used to provide an athletics track and associated jumping and throwing areas. A long or triple jump provision should be included.

As pitch sizes are changed from time to time by the Governing Bodies of the individual games, the most recent guidance should be obtained either directly from the Governing Bodies or from the Sports Council in Northern Ireland.

Pitches must be a minimum of 25.0m from any building.

In all cases, a margin of 5.0m should be provided around each pitch; this width may be shared between adjacent pitches. There should to

no steep banks within this margin, if banks are unavoidable, their proposed gradients should be agreed with the Department; steps with appropriate handrailing must be provided at the banking.