

Based on document (2021-02-D-12-en-5 Accessibility Policy for the EU Schools) and adopted by the Board of Governors of the European Schools in December 2021, the ESK has introduced an accessibility policy. Improving the school's accessibility is an area of the Action Plan on Educational Support and inclusive Education. It is composed of two different actions:

- The development of a comprehensive policy with clear standards
- The establishment of the correspondent workflow at school level to prevent barriers by adopting measures that ensure accessibility from the first day of schooling.

## INTRODUCTION

Accessibility is a right to be ensured in different areas, as required by article 9 of the [UN convention on persons with disabilities](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDFlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDF2030). In this sense, the [European Disability Strategy 2021](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDFlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDF2030)<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDFlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDF2030>

*A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe* states the definition of 'Accessibility' as meaning that people with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication technologies and systems (ICT), and other facilities and services.

Consistent with the principles established in the [UN CRPD General Comment No. 4](#), article 9 of the UN Convention, and with the [UN CRPD General Comment No. 2](#), educational institutions and programmes must be accessible, including:

- A. buildings,
- B. information and communication, comprising ambient or frequency modulation assistive systems,
- C. curriculum, education materials, teaching methods, assessment and language and support services.

The environment of students with disabilities must be designed to foster inclusion and guarantee their equality throughout their education, for example, school transport, which should be inclusive, accessible and safe; water and sanitation facilities, including hygiene and toilet facilities; school cafeterias; and recreational spaces.

The European Schools are committed to providing an inclusive environment that prevents and removes barriers, enabling the full participation of all their members, values all pupils, staff, parents and other members of the educational community and their specific (dis)abilities and embraces difference as an asset.

Accessibility should be achieved by the systematic removal and prevention of barriers, preferably through a universal design or 'design for all' approach, which contributes to ensuring access for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [DIRECTIVE \(EU\) 2019/882](#) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services

In the situations where accessibility is not possible, reasonable accommodation must be ensured.

A steering group for accessibility has been composed. The group consists of:

- DDFA
- Director
- Deputy Directors
- ADDs
- SSO
- PA rep-transport and canteen
- SENCO's in communication
- Caretaker/s

## STAGE 1: METHOD

The school's accessibility steering group has measured the **school's specific accessibility standards, based on the general standards established at system level, combined with the Germany's national/regional regulations**. In the process of establishment of accessibility standards, the school is in consultation with many different parties/stakeholders: the caretakers, the Stadt Karlsruhe, the school's security company, the safety and security officer, the parent's association (transport committee) the support coordinators from the nursery, primary and secondary cycles and the IT coordinators.

## STAGE 2: SELF EVALUATION

**The steering group evaluated the accessibility of the schools' facilities and infrastructure** against the school-specific standards using the 3 steps checklist provided in the annex to the document 2021-02-D-12-en-5 of the Accessibility Policy for the European Schools System. (Annex 5) The **physical barriers** that may prevent equitable access to the schools' facilities were identified in the State of play. (Annex 2) A list was written which is **prioritised** by level of importance. The authorities responsible for the barrier's removal are identified. **Solutions** are proposed to **remove existing barriers** and promote general accessibility solutions. Interim solutions are also proposed to **ensure reasonable accommodation** when accessibility is not assured.

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School Facilities: Prioritised List of 5 Main Barriers		Solutions and Responsibility
1	To install lift in Bau B. Interim proposal-classroom made accessible on ground floor of Bau B.	Application: Stadt KA and School Management Only can begin when a child enrolls with a disability* <b>See action plan below</b>
2	To install a disabled toilet in the sports hall	Application: Stadt KA and School Management Only can begin when a child enrolls with a disability* See <b>action plan below</b>
3	A second accessible car parking space is required and will be commissioned in cooperation with Stadt Karlsruhe. Expected to be completed in December 2024	School Management/security team <b>Work completed March 2025</b>
3	To improve the standards of some disabled toilets: Bau A To check that in all accessible toilets, that all the parts of the toilet and washbasin are reachable and have the desired amount of maneuvering space. (160cm x 160cm)	<b>Completed Sept 2024</b>
4	Playgrounds: Ensure all playgrounds are more level and wheelchair friendly. Check there is a ramp available where there are steps. Paths to be built to join the buildings to playgrounds and join the playgrounds to each other. Interim proposal-playground E used for year level a child who is enrolled under status of 'disabled'	Application: Stadt KA and School Management Second application made in Nov. 2024, answer there is still no budget.
5	To ensure that there is a wheelchair accessible water fountain, with proper drainage and a lever type handle. One fountain in the canteen is accessible owned by Medirest-canteen company. Other owned by school and is located in Bau C-to check and install an accessible water fountain in its place.	School Management/caretakers & Fr. Welsch <b>Completed</b> <b>2 in the canteen</b> <b>1 in Bau C ground floor east side</b> <b>New ramp completed June 2024</b>

## **B. Information & Communication, comprising ambient or frequency modulation assistive systems**

The steering group measured the assistive technology currently in use with the list of recently approved technology and software. The procedure to validate new software that may be needed to make the curriculum more accessible for pupils is in this policy to increase awareness amongst staff members. The school's website is reviewed regularly to ensure the information is easily accessible to the public.

<b>School Technological Infrastructure</b>		
1.	Yearly ICT survey will be carried out to assess the needs in ICT solutions to respond to the needs, as reported in an annual ICT report by the OSG	OSG DDFA IT Team
2.	The inventory of the websites will be carried out according to the 2016/2012 Web accessibility Directive	IT Coordinators School Secretary, webmaster
3.	A plan for modernising websites, compliant with the accessibility standard- EU Directive applied at national level will be established	

## **C. Curriculum, education materials, teaching methods, assessment and language and support services.**

The area of accessibility to the curriculum, including teaching and learning practices, assistive/compensatory technologies, is addressed in the Policy on the Provision of Educational Support and Inclusive Education in the European Schools and the correspondent Procedural document. (2012-05-D14-en-9, 2012-05-D-15-en-12)

The school's internal guidelines and procedures are clear and transparent and are in line with the Policy on the Provision of Educational Support and Inclusive Education in the European Schools and the correspondent Procedural document. This policy is available on our school website for all stakeholders and is updated regularly.

<https://www.es-karlsruhe.eu/primary/learning/educational-support/>

The accessibility steering group reviewed their 'School Specific Guidelines on Educational Support' in the light of the document 'Core Elements of the School Specific Guidelines on Educational Support' 2019-06-D-9-en-4

### STAGE 3: ESK Action Plan Accessibility

AREA	LONG TERM AIM	SHORT TERM ACTIONS (WHAT ?)	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	TIMELINE (WHEN?)	RESPONSIBILITY (WHO?)	BUDGET	Update
		of maneuvering space. (160cm x 160cm)					
	2)To install a disabled toilet in the sports hall	Application to the Stadt Karlsruhe	Request addressed to the city of Karlsruhe	The evaluation by the city is still in progress.	Application: Stadt KA and School Management	Stadt KA	Awaiting Stadt KA planning approval
	3)To improve the standards of some disabled toilets:	Bau A To check that in all accessible toilets, that all the parts of the toilet and washbasin are reachable and have the desired amount of manoeuvring space. (160cm x 160cm)	Bau A- Furniture has been moved so that the desired amount of manoeuvring space is available for a wheelchair user when needed.	Sept 2023-Sept 2024	Application: Stadt KA and School Management	Stadt KA	Sept 2024 Completed

<b>B.1 Assistive Technology</b>	B.1 To ensure that adequate assistive technology is provided for pupils with additional needs	<p>B1. Test already approved assistive technology</p> <p>B2. Approve its use for exams</p> <p>B3. Prepare use of the IT for exams</p>	<p>B1. Use assistive technology routinely with pupils in class and in test situations</p> <p>B2. Introduce assistive technology for exams once those pupils are familiar with the tools</p> <p>B3. Officially apply for the use of the IT use</p>	<p><u>GS</u>: Sept 2024: No C pens in use. The app NOTABILITY is currently in use with a child.</p> <p><u>OS</u>: Software is trialled whenever recommended in individual pupil's medical reports, in particular speech to text, text to speech, (for example Appwriter, Prizmo5, Notability on iPad.)</p>	SENCO, assistants, teachers	School Support Budge	Updated June 2025
<b>A. Buildings</b>	1)To ensure Bau B is wheelchair accessible	1)To install a lift in Bau B	<p>1a) Official application for the lift. Letter was sent in August 2023 asking them to consider the application separately to the renovation planning</p> <p>1b) Application approved</p> <p>1c) Planning approved</p> <p>1d) Work completed</p>	In 5 years or when a child is enrolled with a 'disability' or Energetic renovation then the estimated date possibly 2028*	DDFA and Stadt Karlsruhe	Stadt KA	Awaiting Stadt KA planning approval 1b Sept 2024

	B) Information about school accessibility and the accessible car parking space to be communicated clearly on our school website	New tab/page on the website to include the most up to date information updated yearly	Information on accessibility easily found on the school's website	Sept yearly	SENCO's School MM team School Secretary-website	Different stakeholders Stadt KA Caretakers School security team School secretary DDFA ADD	Updated end of Sept 2024
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<b>C: Accessibility to Appropriate Teaching Methods</b>	C. Continue to develop the professional development of teaching staff	Training activities according to the schools' specific priorities	Trainings are organised on a regular basis according to the school's priorities.	a) All year long. E.g. Pedagogical day 2023 Wellbeing Pedagogical Day 2024 8 Key Competencies AI in Teaching and Learning IT courses and new school report training GS Classroom management for primary teachers Jan 2025 First aid course Nov 2024	School Management Staff members and subject coordinators IT coordinators	School training budget/ experts	Updated June 2025
		Induction of new staff	Induction of new staff	Sept 2024: Induction of new staff	School Management IT coordinators SENCOs	School training budget/ experts	

		c) Support staff training	c) Support staff training plan Sept 2024	Sept 2024 Support staff training plan	GS & OS SENCO's	School training budget/ experts	Support training plan updated June 2025
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