



ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE, KALAMASSERY

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

Introduction

The University Grants Commission (UGC) introduced the Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities (2022) to ensure equitable, inclusive, and barrier-free higher education for persons with disabilities. These guidelines are aligned with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan).

St. Pauls College, Kalamassery adopts these guidelines to create an inclusive academic environment where all students, irrespective of physical, sensory, intellectual, or learning disabilities, are provided equal access to education and campus life. The institution recognizes accessibility as a fundamental right and is committed to developing a campus that promotes dignity, independence, participation, and equal opportunity for all learners. The policy aims to provide reasonable accommodations, accessible infrastructure, inclusive teaching-learning systems, digital accessibility, and support services for students with disabilities from admission to graduation. The college also strives to comply with UGC and government accessibility standards through periodic monitoring and continuous improvement initiatives.

Objectives of the Accessibility Guidelines

The major objectives of implementing accessibility guidelines at St. Pauls College, Kalamassery are,

1. To ensure equal educational opportunities for entire student community.
2. To create a barrier-free physical, academic, and digital environment.
3. To promote inclusive teaching-learning practices and flexible curriculum delivery.
4. To provide reasonable accommodations in examinations and evaluations.
5. To improve accessibility to library resources, laboratories, and extracurricular activities.
6. To establish effective support systems and grievance redressal mechanisms.
7. To comply with UGC Accessibility Guidelines (2022), RPwD Act 2016, and NAAC quality standards.
8. To promote awareness, sensitivity, and respect towards persons with disabilities among students, faculty, and staff.

Scope of the Accessibility Guidelines

These accessibility guidelines apply to

- Students with benchmark and non-benchmark disabilities
- Teaching and non-teaching staff
- Visitors and stakeholders with special needs
- Academic, administrative, infrastructural, and digital systems of the institution

The policy covers the entire academic lifecycle including

- Admission and orientation
- Curriculum delivery and classroom participation
- Laboratory and library access
- Examination and evaluation processes
- Campus mobility and infrastructure
- Digital learning resources and communication systems
- Student activities and campus life
- Administrative support and grievance redressal

Inclusive and Accessible Campus Environment

St. Pauls College, Kalamassery is committed to creating an inclusive campus culture where students with disabilities can participate fully in academic and co-curricular activities without discrimination. Inclusive practices ensure quality education and equal participation for learners from diverse backgrounds and abilities. The institution promotes inclusion through

- Non-discriminatory admission procedures
- Equal opportunity in academic evaluation
- Sensitization programs for faculty, staff, and students
- Mentoring and counselling support
- Establishment of grievance redressal mechanisms
- Promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion in campus activities

The college recognizes that accessibility includes not only physical infrastructure but also learning environments, communication systems, and social participation.

Accessible Physical Infrastructure

In accordance with UGC guidelines and the RPwD Act 2016, the institution continuously improves its physical infrastructure to ensure barrier-free access across the campus.

Facilities Available on Campus

- Ramps with proper gradient and handrails

- Lift facilities in academic blocks
- Wheelchair support for students and visitors
- Accessible toilets with support rails and signage
- Designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities
- Clear directional and emergency signage
- Barrier-free access to classrooms, library, laboratories, and administrative offices

The institution also undertakes periodic accessibility audits to identify infrastructural gaps and implement corrective measures. Inclusive mobility within the campus is encouraged through safe pathways, accessible entrances, and user-friendly navigation systems.

Accessible Curriculum and Teaching-Learning Process

The college promotes inclusive pedagogy and flexible teaching-learning systems to address the diverse needs of learners. The institution follows the inclusive education and encourages faculty members to adopt accessible instructional practices.

Measures for Inclusive Learning includes,

- Flexible and student-centered teaching methodologies
- Availability of learning materials in accessible formats
- Use of multiple methods of instruction for curriculum delivery.
- Ensures inclusive classroom participation
- Use of assistive technologies and digital tools
- Provision of digital notes and recorded lectures where necessary
- Academic mentoring and individualized support
- Alternative learning and assessment methods

The institution ensures that instructional materials are made accessible to students with visual, hearing, learning, and mobility impairments. Accessible digital content, screen-reader compatible documents, and captioned learning resources are encouraged as recommended by UGC guidelines.

Accessible Information and Digital Accessibility

Digital accessibility is an important component of inclusive education. St. Pauls College ensures that digital communication systems and online learning platforms are accessible to all learners.

Digital Accessibility Measures

- Availability of e-resources and digital library support
- Accessible college website compatible with screen readers

- Use of screen-reading software
- Digital learning resources in accessible formats
- Use of assistive technologies in teaching-learning processes
- Promotion of digital content development

Accessible Examination and Evaluation System

The institution ensures fair and equitable assessment procedures for students with disabilities through reasonable accommodations and accessible examination systems.

Examination Support Facilities

- Extra time during examinations as per the Govt norms and University regulations.
- Scribe/Interpreter facility based on candidate requirements
- Accessible examination halls
- Alternative modes of assessment wherever necessary
- Use of assistive devices during examinations
- Confidential handling of disability-related information
- Continuous and comprehensive evaluation

Accessible Library and Learning Resources

The college library strives to ensure equitable access to information and academic resources for all students.

Library Accessibility Measures

- Availability of digital and e-learning resources
- Assistance in locating and accessing study materials
- Provision of accessible reading materials wherever possible
- Physical accessibility to library facilities
- Use of assistive software and digital tools

The institution also encourages the use of accessible repositories for students.

Institutional Support and Implementation Mechanism

The effective implementation of accessibility guidelines requires coordinated institutional support. St. Pauls College ensures administrative commitment and resource allocation for accessibility enhancement.

Institutional Measures

- Formation of committees for accessibility and inclusion like Equal Opportunity Cell, Student Grievance Redressal Committee and SEDG cell.
- Faculty and staff sensitization programs organised by IQAC.

- Student mentoring and counselling support
- Collaboration with rehabilitation and support agencies
- Regular accessibility audits and monitoring
- Documentation of accessibility facilities and support services

The institution also supports grievance redressal systems for students with disabilities to ensure timely resolution of concerns related to accessibility and inclusion. The institution continuously works toward improving physical infrastructure, digital accessibility, inclusive pedagogy, and support systems to ensure equal educational opportunities for all learners. The college believes that accessibility is not merely a compliance requirement but a commitment to social justice, equality, and human dignity. Through collaborative efforts and continuous evaluation, the institution aims to foster an inclusive academic culture where every learner can participate fully and achieve academic success.

Students, staff, or visitors requiring accessibility related assistance may contact Accessibility Nodal Officer for support and guidance regarding accessibility services and facilities.

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Principal

St.Pauls College, Kalamassery