

2026 EDITION · FREE AUDIT GUIDE

UK School & Academy Signage Compliance Audit Guide

A practical 10-point checklist for headteachers, school business managers, MAT operations directors, estates managers and university facilities teams. Walk your site, score each point, and know exactly where your signage stands before your next inspection.

- Equality Act 2010 / DDA glass manifestation
- Class 0 fire-rated wall vinyls
- R10 / R11 anti-slip floor graphics
- Fire evacuation & safeguarding notices

Ready for a tailored quotation?

Call 01733 315264 · WhatsApp 07353 769236 · bill.goss@fastsigns.com

The 10-point compliance audit

Score each point as a pass or a fail as you walk the site. Any fail is an action for your estates plan — and the fastest way to a costed remedy is to send us the list.

1

Glass manifestation on every large glazed panel

☐

Full-height glazing, glass doors and internal screens must carry two rows of contrasting manifestation (typically 850-1000mm and 1400-1600mm from floor level) so they are visible to pupils, wheelchair users and visually impaired visitors.

How to check:

Walk every entrance, atrium and internal glazed partition. Any panel without a visible marking is a fail.

2

Fire exit and evacuation route signage is unambiguous

☐

Photoluminescent running-man signage must be continuous along the full escape route, including changes of direction, final exits and external assembly point markers.

How to check:

Stand at any point on a corridor: if you cannot see the next directional sign, the route fails.

3

Fire performance of all wall graphics and murals

☐

Corridor murals, values walls and sports-hall graphics applied to walls should be printed on Class 0 / Euroclass B-s1,d0 fire-rated, wipe-clean media.

How to check:

Ask for the media data sheet for every existing wall wrap. No certificate on file is a fail.

4

Slip resistance of floor graphics and stair markings

☐

Any applied floor graphic, one-way system marking or stair nosing highlight in a school must be R10 or R11 rated and remain slip resistant when wet.

How to check:

Check entrance matting zones and dining hall approaches, where wet floors are most likely.

5

Safeguarding and visitor management notices at every entrance

☐

Signed-in visitor requirements, DBS and photography notices, and clear reception direction should be displayed at each public entrance, not only the main door.

How to check:

Approach your site as an unfamiliar visitor from each car park and gate in turn.

■ The 10-point audit, continued

6**Accessible wayfinding from the site boundary to reception** ☐

Vehicle and pedestrian visitors should reach reception without needing to ask. External monoliths, post-and-panel maps and gate signage carry this burden.

How to check:

Time how long it takes a first-time visitor to find reception. Over two minutes is a fail.

7**Room, classroom and department identification is consistent** ☐

Door signage should follow one naming and numbering logic across the whole site, with tactile and embossed characters where accessible provision is required.

How to check:

Photograph ten door signs at random. Mixed styles, fonts or fixings indicate a fail.

8**Statutory and compliance notices are current** ☐

Health and safety law posters, employers' liability certificates, fire action notices and asbestos register signage must be present, legible and in date.

How to check:

Check the printed date and legibility, not just the presence of the notice.

9**External signage is legible, undamaged and correctly branded** ☐

Faded, peeling or superseded signage — particularly after a MAT rebrand or name change — undermines trust with parents, Ofsted and prospective families.

How to check:

View the site from the road at both drop-off and dusk. Anything unreadable is a fail.

10**A single owner and refresh cycle exists for signage** ☐

Compliance drifts when no one owns it. Signage should sit in the estates plan with a named owner and a scheduled annual review.

How to check:

If you cannot name the person responsible for signage today, this point fails.

What to do next

Total your fails. In our experience, most UK school and academy sites fail between three and six of the ten points — usually glass manifestation, wall vinyl fire certification and external wayfinding. None of them require a full estate refit to resolve.

1 Send us your scored checklist

Email your fails to bill.goss@fastsigns.com or send a photo over WhatsApp. We will tell you which items are statutory priorities and which can wait for the next budget cycle.

2 Free site survey from the Peterborough hub

We measure, photograph and specify on site, usually within 48 hours of your enquiry, and confirm the exact media and fire ratings for each item.

3 Itemised, transparent quotation

Every line is costed separately so you can approve in phases. Essentials packs from £250, feature projects from £999, bespoke MAT and campus rollouts priced on survey.

4 Installation around your timetable

DBS-checked installers work early mornings, weekends, half-terms and summer holidays for zero classroom disruption.

Why schools choose the Peterborough hub

Local survey and installation, backed by 23 FASTSIGNS centres nationwide — consistent branding and central account management for multi-academy trusts.

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