About the EDI(B) Conference 2025

The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Conference 2025 aims to bring people together from around the county for an exciting day of information, inspiration, connection and celebration at The University of Gloucestershire Oxstalls Campus. Here is a <u>map of the campus</u>.

The event will include interactive elements, seating in large room formats as well as smaller break-out sessions throughout the day. This accessibility guide describes the facilities, interactions, spaces and sensory elements that you may experience on the day.

We would like to thank Inclusion Gloucestershire and Active Impact whose experts by experience helped identify accessibility considerations for our event.

Transport and Parking



There are accessible parking spaces at the venue. The closer parking spaces outside the Growth Hub are marked in red on the map to the left.

Parking spaces for non-Blue Badge holders are available at the <u>Oxstalls Campus</u> payable by the <u>Just Park</u> App, or via card or cash at the ticket machine. The cost of parking is up to £3.70.

Overflow parking is also available at the <u>Sports Arena</u> which is free of charge and a short walk to the main venue.

The venue is also accessible by <u>public transport</u>.

Finding the Venue and Navigation

The conference is taking place in The Business School building which looks like this:



Attendees will be directed from the car park into the Atrium area which is linked to the conference rooms.

This is a link to a virtual video tour of the venue here: <u>Virtual tour Oxstalls: The Business</u> <u>school</u> <u>University of Gloucestershire Campus Tour</u>



Entrance doors



The Atrium (where registration will take place)

The Lecture Theatre (where the conference presentations will take place)



The Conference Room (where the conference presentations will take place)





Break-out Space (where food and drinks will be available)

Event Rooms

The conference will take place on two levels:

Level 1 - Event registration, networking, conference rooms, Marketplace and break-out space.

Level 2 - A quiet space will be available for all those who wish to use it.

Wheelchair Access

There is ramped access from the car park level to the main entrance. From then on, there is flat access to all the event spaces.

There is a second-floor quiet space can be accessed via lifts located to the right of the Atrium area, which are clearly signed.

On arrival, all attendees will be greeted by conference staff wearing easily identifiable Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance t-shirts and red lanyards.

Seating

Seating will be available throughout the event space.

If you use a wheelchair, scooter or mobility aid, we'll ensure there's space for you to move freely, position yourself comfortably and be fully included in all sessions.

If you need any assistance with seating or accessibility, please speak to a member of our team.

We can also advise on seating locations if you'd prefer easier access to venue facilities, quiet spaces, refreshments or the exit.

Toilets

The venue has multiple gender-neutral and accessible toilets, all located close to the Atrium and conference rooms. The accessible toilets are spacious enough to accommodate a wheelchair user and two carers and are equipped with grabrails and an emergency alarm cord to support a range of access needs.

There is a Changing Place facility.

Health and Safety

As part of our commitment to dignity and care, free period products will be provided in all toilets to ensure comfort and ease for all attendees.

In the event of a medical emergency, please inform a member of our team, who will locate the nearest First Aider. If the emergency is life-threatening, call 999 immediately, then alert a member of our team so that they can notify venue staff and assist you as needed.

Fire Procedures

A fire evacuation plan will be clearly displayed around the venue and explained at the start of the day. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the nearest exits and follow all instructions from our team and venue staff if evacuation is necessary.

If a fire alarm sounds, please follow our team and venue staff's instructions to exit safely.

Please let us know if you would like any support in the event of the evacuation.

Sensory Information

We want everyone to feel comfortable and prepared throughout the day. Here's what to expect:

Lighting

The venue uses a mix of natural and LED lighting. The Atrium, conference rooms and breakout rooms have plenty of windows. Lighting levels may vary during on-screen presentations, when lights may be dimmed. Lighting in the presentation rooms can also be adjusted if required/requested.

<u>Sound</u>

With around 80 attendees, and members of our team and venue staff, noise levels will vary throughout the day. Registration is likely to be lively as people arrive and connect. Expect moderate noise during transitions and breaks.

Lunchtime may be louder, but a quiet space is available on Level 2 which can be accessed at any time. This room will be clearly signposted, but please ask our team for directions.

Microphones and speaker systems will be used to ensure clarity. Let us know if you need adjustments or use a hearing loop.

People may applaud, but we will request the use of use silent applause such as thumbs up or jazz hands.

All toilets have hand-driers.

<u>Smells</u>

You may notice food and drink smells during breaks and lunch as refreshments are prepared and served.

Temperature

Ventilation, airflow and temperature have been reviewed across all spaces to support comfort, including for those with sensory sensitivities or health needs.

Please speak to a member of our team if you'd like an adjustment.

Registration

We'll need you to let us know that you have arrived by visiting a registration table where our team will check you in, give you a badge that corresponds to your chosen pathway for the day, and an event programme.

We'll double check your photo consent preferences, ask you to wear a lanyard if you prefer not to be in any photos, and tell you a few things about what to expect and where to go for the event welcome.

Our Support Team

Our team will be available on arrival, at registration and throughout the event to provide help and support. You'll be able to identify them by their Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance t-shirts and red lanyards.

Be Comfortable

Please take part in the way that works for you:

- Move around freely and take breaks as needed
- Stimming is understood and accepted here
- Make use of our sensory tools or bring your own

Prayer Room

We understand that some guests may need time away from the group for reflection or prayer. For this purpose, there is a dedicated prayer space at the venue. This will be signposted, but please ask a member of the team for directions.

Breastfeeding

If you require a private space with access to washing facilities, please speak to a member of our team.

Further Information

If you require any other information about the event or our organisation, please Don't hesitate to get in touch with us via info@glosvcsalliance.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you at the event.

Our Thanks

We would like to thank Inclusion Gloucestershire for their support in creating this event Accessibility Guide.

