



DESIGN, ACCESS and PLANNING STATEMENT

FOR

Specialist Classroom Block

AT

Hope Primary School; Lordens Road, Huyton; Knowsley, Merseyside L14 8UD

Date Amended: 11.10.24



Introduction:

This planning application is for a proposed standalone building to incorporate specialist teaching spaces and spaces for Students with Special Educational Needs. The space will also include Calm Rooms, a Sensory room and WCs.

The building will be located within the school grounds just North West of the main school block. It will be built upon a piece of disused land which is currently .

The main school building is currently running at full capacity, therefore space needs to be created within close proximity to the main school building to allow for specialist teaching, provisions, and space for those with Special educational needs, so to aid them to continue to stay in mainstream education and integrate with the rest of the school.

School Statement:

"At Hope Primary School, we are proud to provide a safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment where every member of our community is valued and respected.

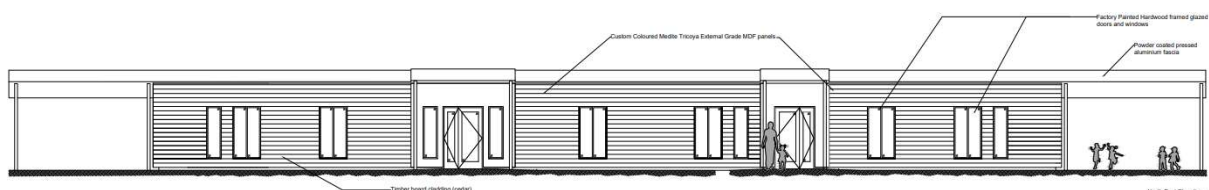
Our broad, balanced, creative curriculum and enrichment activities provide opportunities for everyone to achieve and succeed.

We are a joint faith school where learning is fun and children are nurtured and inspired to Believe, Respect and Achieve through a range of creative and spiritual experiences. Children are encouraged to take risks to become confident, independent learners.

Together we take pride in making a positive contribution to our school and the wider community.

We aim to provide every child with access to a broad and balanced education. This includes the National Curriculum in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice."

- <https://www.hopeprimary.com/>



Design:

The design will incorporate 3 specialist teaching spaces, alongside a sensory space, calm room and WCs suitable for those who will be using the space.

The project will be built off site as a modern modular build, and delivered to site as to create the minimal amount of disruption to the school environment while construction is underway.

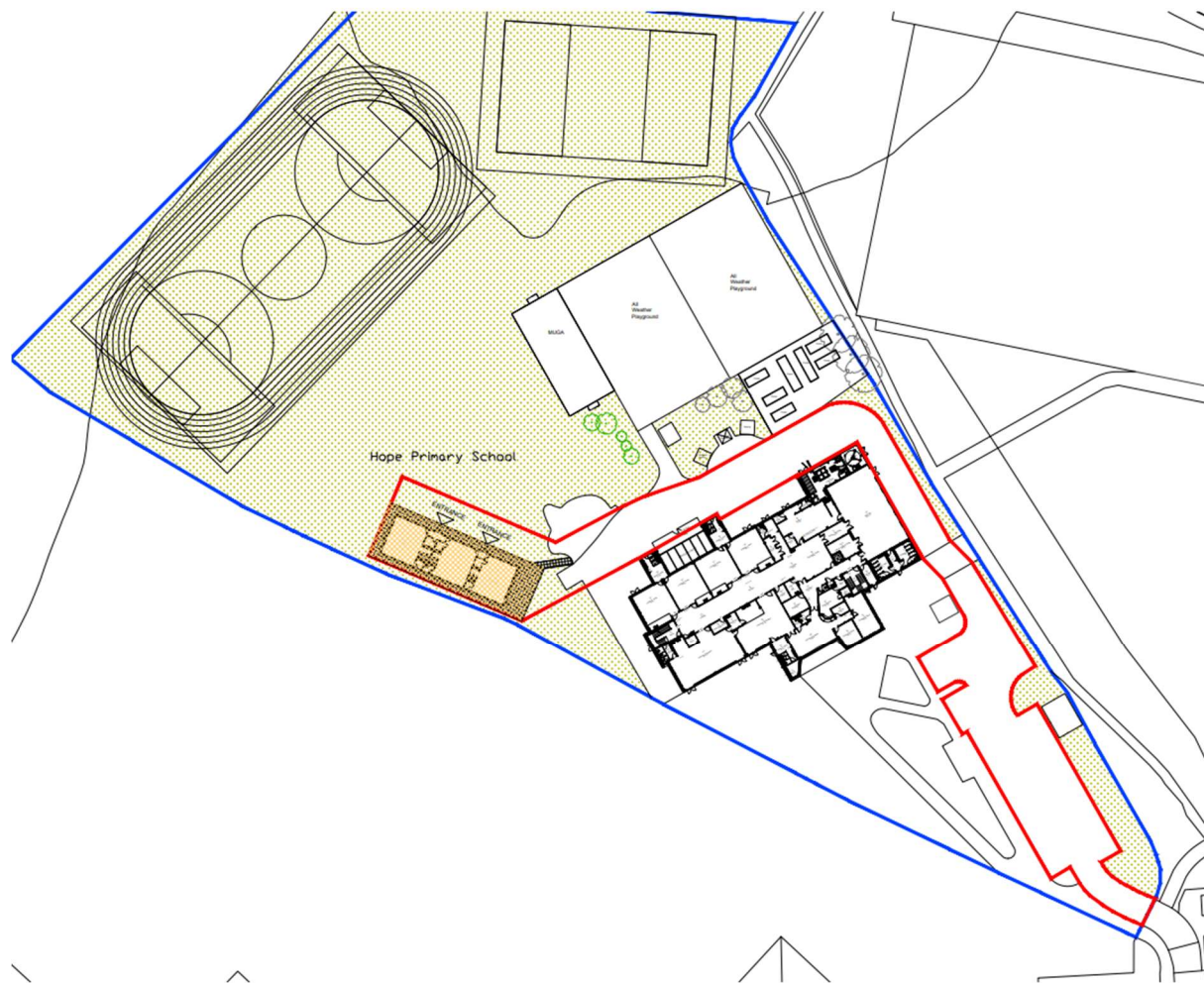
The roof of the building will over sail an area (approx. 5 m to the North west) creating a covered and shaded space for outdoor learning and play.

The building will be clad in a mixture of natural cedar timber boards and bright coloured panels to tie in with the current aesthetic of the existing school as well as creating a new visually vibrant space within the school environment.



Example of Cladding and window design courtesy of Moduplan.com

Site



(Proposed Site Plan indicating location of the proposed classrooms shown in yellow)

This area has been identified by the school as an ideal location as it is within close proximity to the main school building as to not give the feeling of isolation from the rest of the school, but also has the level of separation which may allow students who may have sensory issues using that space to feel safe and calmer being slightly removed from the hustle and bustle of the main building.

The location is in a currently disused modified grassed area of the school, approx. 30m from the marked out sports pitches, (utilised primarily in the summer months) and outside of the Schools 'Way-leave' zone (see *drainage plan - 7273-HPR-CUN-XX-XX-DR-A-1201*).

Planning Statement

The application site to which the development is to take place is allocated as Urban Greenspace and Education Land under the 2016 the Knowsley Local Plan.

The proposal will result in the loss of part of this grassland.

Knowsley Local Plan - Policy CS21 states that:

“1) In supporting the wider Green Infrastructure functions of urban greenspace in accordance with Policy CS8, the Council will provide and maintain quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for different types of public open space. “

The space designated for the proposal is currently unused grass land, which is considered ancillary to the sports pitches also on the site, the development of these classrooms which face directly onto the grass, will allow more of this green space to be utilised further than it currently is within lesson time by the students due to their close proximity to the green space.

It also states:

“2) New development which would result in the loss of urban greenspace, will not be permitted unless at least one of the following criteria are met:

a) A surplus of provision for all types of greenspace would be maintained relative to local standards;

b) The land is considered unsuitable in terms of size, location or character to prevent or address individual deficiencies of different types of greenspace relative to local standards;

c) Appropriate mitigation is provided through replacement facilities of at least an equal quantity, quality and accessibility;

d) The development is required to improve greenspace provision or for ancillary facilities to support sport or recreation; or

e) Where the proposal relates to the loss of indoor or outdoor sports provision, and there is no evidence of future or continuing need for sports use, or alternatively only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or sporting facility is affected and its release accords with either clause 2)a) or 2)b).”

We consider this proposal to fall under multiple of these criteria. The main use of the land is school playing fields, with regards to 2b, due to the shape of the school site, and the location of the existing marked sports pitches, the area of the has been deemed unusable by the school and hasn't been utilised. The integration of these new green facing class rooms will allow the space to be used more, but also importantly during lesson time as well as recreational or dedicated sports time.

With regards to 2d) the development will provide ancillary facilities to support sport recreation with the WC provision which will be provided in the new building, this will aid the sports pitches being used and accessed easier outside of school hours. In terms of safe guarding, it will save children having to use the WC facilities within the main school building when the sports pitches are being used after school hours.

Policy CS21 also refers to:

“3) Irrespective of whether criteria in 2) are met, unless the benefits of a proposal clearly outweigh the loss of urban greenspace, development will be resisted where it would significantly harm any existing or potential special qualities of 126 The Knowsley Green Space Strategy 2010–2014 (Knowsley Council, 2010) Page 158 Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy January 2016 greenspace in the area in terms of:

a) Visual amenity;

b) Residential amenity;

c) Biodiversity and environmental benefits;

d) Historical, cultural or community value;

e) Recreational benefits; or

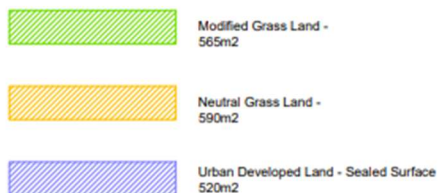
f) Physical and/or visual linkages between adjoining urban greenspaces.”

We do not consider that any of these apply to the proposed development, instead we consider the development to enhance visual amenity and have recreational benefits too as well as educational benefits. There will also be Biodiversity and environmental benefits.

Part of the proposal involves removing the modified grass land in exchange for Neutral Grassland which will provide a far greater Biodiversity to the site than is currently the case.



Proposed Site Plan @1:500 scale



The Proposal is orientated towards the grass playing fields, facing this more natural external space will bring a stronger feeling of calm to the students using the space.

The Knowsley local plan also refers to the Enhancement of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and tree protection in Policy CS21:

“10)The Council will encourage proposals for new development to incorporate:

a) Retention of existing trees, woodland, vegetation and other habitat features which offer a positive contribution to the local environment in terms of visual amenity, recreation value or biodiversity/wildlife interest;

b) Appropriate planting of trees, other soft landscaping and installation of habitat features for the benefit of biodiversity; and

c) Adequate replacement provision where tree loss is unavoidable, comprising two additional trees for every tree lost and taking account of species and size.”

Although there is the removal of 7 small trees within this development, they are unsightly and offer little positive contribution to the local environment.(see 7273-HPR-CUN-XX-XX-DR-A-1202 - Biodiversity Net Gain Plan) The proposal allows for the planting of a further 7 trees as well as those retained on the site, and the planting of Neutral grasses which will include wildflowers, these will be beneficial to the biodiversity of the site providing a greater variety of species than are already situated within the area of development.

Access

The new classrooms will be accessed through the existing school gates, there is already access to the rear main building from this area. It is also situated just off thoroughfare from the main building to the playground, so existing routes will not be affected.

There is hard standing all the way from the entrance gate of the school up to the doors of the proposed classrooms. Vehicular access is also possible up to a distance of 20m from the doors.

Conclusion

The proposed new classroom block at Hope Primary will enhance students' learning experience and aid their journey in mainstream education. They will accommodate more specialist teaching methods within the school and will in turn allow the school to be more inclusive, providing pupils with spaces for ranges of education where necessary for their needs, as well as allowing the students to further engage with wildlife and environment as part of their education.