

Questions and Answers

The areas of flat roof will be vulnerable, therefore, steps should be taken to prevent unauthorised access to the roof.

The flat roof areas are 3m high and have canopies around the edge that are not easily scaleable (columns set in from the edge and thin). In addition to this there are no objects adjacent to the fenced areas to allow step ups over the fencing.

The proposed site is close to the local centre which will attract large numbers of visitors to keep an eye on the school. However, it also means that the school will be close to where people gather which will increase the vulnerability of the school. Therefore, it is important that the school is afforded the appropriate level of protection.

The boundary to the main school areas is to be 1.8m high weld mesh fence in line with the HCC standard. This forms the secure boundary to all playing and pupil areas. To the front of the school is a 1.2m estate fence that allows some openness and welcome visitors and the local community to the 'community garden' space, this area links to the adjacent local centre and is overseen by the reception, staff block and main hall.

A number of cycle stores are shown on the plan. All of these stores are close to access gates which will make the cycles very vulnerable to crime. Cycle theft is a prevalent offence within the district. To reduce the opportunities for such crime the cycle stores should be moved further into the school grounds to allow for much better natural surveillance.

The cycle stores are overlooked by classrooms and are close to the boundary to reduce risk of injury of children cycling or scooting within the school grounds. I feel that this is a suitable compromise between the needs of the school and the needs for security.

The plan shows two small courtyards on the northern side. Areas such as this can become vulnerable to anti-social behaviour. Consideration should be given as to how casual access might be prevented should anti-social behaviour become a problem.

The areas are well overlooked during school hours and the security to the school is standard to HCC schools in terms of boundary treatment, surveillance and security systems.

Visitor access to the building appears to be via an air lock system and an intercom. However, it appears that visitors will be held prior to entering the reception area. Taken to its logical conclusion this could result in two persons being in the same space one to denied admittance the other to allowed admittance, this may cause some tension. At this point the reception staff will not be in a position to take control of the situation. Therefore, to provide for the safety and security of the all concerned I would recommend that visitors are allowed access to the reception area, with access further into the school being controlled by the reception staff. Looking at the plan it looks as though

this would entail an additional door preventing access into the administration area corridor, an access control system being fitted to the doors giving access into the, Learning Resource Centre (number 27) and the Main Hall (number 16).

The entrance is a two door lobby to reduce the risk of draughts into the space. visitors will be able to come into the main entrance to the school and then will be within a secure lobby by the reception where they can be seen to safely away from pupils. Once established where they need to go after this they will either be escorted or be picked up by a member of the school.

The plan shows a number of gates, care should be taken during the construction of these gates to ensure that the locking mechanism does not aid climbing over the boundary treatment.

This detail will be considered as the design is progressed during detailed design.

Any planting should be such that it does not restrict the natural surveillance both within the site and from the outside in.

This detail will be considered as the design is progressed during detailed design.

Often schools hold events during the evening which can result in large numbers of vehicles visiting the school. Some consideration should be given to the provision of additional on site parking. I would suggest that some consideration is given to providing a vehicular access route from the car park (number 4) to the play ground (number 13).

A maintenance access gate is proposed to the car park that could also facilitate this requirement over time.