

Planning application – Design, Access & Supporting Statement

Property name: Oakwood Infant School

Property address: Church lane, Hartley Wintney, Basingstoke, RG27 8DY

Works: Provision of Double Classroom Temporary Modular Building

Background

The School Places framework for 2012-16 was approved by the executive lead member for children's services on 6 December 2012. The document refers to the fact that Hampshire, in keeping with the national picture, has experienced a significant rise in births over the past 10 years. This, together with housing development and in-migration in several parts of the county, has increased the pressure on infant school places, although this impact is not uniform across the county with its complex demography. A significant part of the current and planned future programme will need to provide for additional permanent and temporary accommodation.

In some schools, temporary classrooms may be the only expansion solution, whilst those experiencing a more significant growth in pupil numbers may find a mixture of both permanent and temporary accommodation will have to be considered. A key issue for head teachers and governors alike is the infrastructure requirements of expanding a school, ie not just the extra classroom provision.

The modern temporary classroom is a much higher quality building than those of the past, meeting the most recent building regulations. The strategy proposes using such buildings for the short term (less than 8 years) and where temporary classrooms can supplement a new or large school capital project such as a one form entry school that requires a 0.5 form entry extension.

Brief

Oakwood Infant School is required to increase the numbers on roll in September 2013. To allow this to happen, the intention is to free up space in the main school building for a modular classroom to be formed outside. This will allow the relocation of the existing pupil numbers within the school.

Design Principles

The building is a single storey of modular construction comprising 6 bays of factory engineered modules that are delivered to and bolted together on site. This type of construction ensures swift installation on site. The delivery of the building is made up of 6 individual bays that are bolted together on site to create a building 18.500 metres long by 8.600 metres wide. It normally takes one day for delivery and then two weeks on site for connecting services and fitting out the building. Externally, the building is clad with plastisol colour coated panels as detailed in the location plan P10131/Location 100. The building is totally separate from the main school but within

the School boundary. The entrance to the new building is via the existing school main entrance with its own linked macadam access route to the new building. Foul waste will be extended to link with the existing main foul sewer infrastructure systems within the existing site. Surface water management will be extended to link in with the existing infrastructure system of the school site.

Access and Inclusion Principles

A design and access statement has been provided for this project and submitted with this application. It is proposed to locate the Modular Building in a position located within the School site, which is separate from the main School and will have its own level access path and main entrance Steps. Access for pushchairs/ prams / wheelchairs will be provided from existing macadam footpaths. All new paths associated with this project will be tarmac and laid level and smooth.

Highways

Following consultation regarding the location on the school site, it has been agreed that the best place is as shown on the submitted drawing P10131/Location 100. This location was decided following observations of the movement of parent and children when being collected from the school.

Parents and guardians of children attending the School will be encouraged to walk to the School. Where this is not possible, parents will be encouraged to use the visitors car park opposite the School in Church Lane where parents will drop off and collect their children. The School tends to attract children from within the immediate local community which minimises the need to utilise cars to deliver and collect children. There are no plans for the provision of additional car parking spaces within this application. There is sufficient car parking arrangements currently at this site.

Environmental Protection

Trees have been removed to allow the installation of the building and consultation has been sought with the arboriculture team. The trees that have been removed were removed prior to nesting and were of a non-significant tree type and land management trees. There were no TPOs within the cluster of trees removed. There are a significant number of trees remaining on the site to accommodate any impact from the trees removed. It is likely the School will re-plant some trees once the building has been erected.

Landscape Design

No significant planting other than that previously mentioned is proposed as part of this scheme. Part of the Scheme is to provide an external tarmac play area enclosed by a low level timber picket fence. This will be provided as part of the scheme to provide a secure external play area for the Infant school. Some of the existing play equipment is to be relocated. The existing internal fence line within the School boundary fencing will also need some alterations to ensure safe guarding obligations are met to maintain the security of the children.

Ecology/Biodiversity

There are no known ecological issues in the area.

Archaeology

The county archaeologist has been consulted and there are no known archaeological findings in the area.