



Supporting Information to Project Drawings

Project Description

To help with visualisation of our proposals we enclose copies of our latest drawings (colour coded to show the extent of new works and works to the existing buildings). We have also included an aerial photograph of the school show how the new buildings will fit alongside the existing structures.

As you will see from the aerial photograph the school is located in a very rural location. While the photo montage of the new and existing structure show that the existing original building, whilst not listed, is an example of late Victorian school architecture that the local Planning Authority have been keen to protect. This is especially true for the main view of the original building and that the new structure should not compete with or be totally out of sympathy with this part of the school buildings. In addition we have along with the Planning Authority tried our best to hide or remove the poorer aspects of the 1950's and 1970's extensions to the school.

A consequence of this has been the requirements to use materials in keeping with the existing surroundings such as slate roofing and red brick cladding, which are liable to keep the overall cost of the buildings higher than we had originally wanted.

New Construction works

- New School Hall capable of:
 - Holding the present school roll of 106 pupils and 10 staff for collective assemblies, which our present facilities only just manage.
 - Accommodating the minimum size necessary for a badminton court and full height for the hall to enable the children to make best use of sports equipment and climbing bars for indoor PE.
 - Allowing more comfortable space for parents and relatives to attend 'sharing' assemblies, which are an important part of our weekly life and are presently very difficult at the moment.
 - Providing sufficient space for the school to stage productions for parents or others as part of the curriculum.
- New classroom for our Year 5 and 6 pupils ('Class 4') that is:
 - Connected to the rest of the school buildings by enclosed corridors. This class is presently housed in a temporary classroom, which is not directly linked.
 - Suitably cabled to allow better use of ICT equipment, which is presently not possible without trailing cables.
 - More suitable space for teaching the children in either grouped tables or more formal rows that will resemble the future classrooms they will experience in their secondary schools.
- New library to replace existing library facility that is small and not suitable for more than 6 children to use at any one time and is an add on to a corridor. This library will also house other information sources such as internet linked computer's and will house the school's computer server (presently kept in a store cupboard with freezers for the school kitchen).
- Purpose built storage facilities for sports and other school resources equipment attached to the new hall so that the new hall remains a clear space as much as possible.
- Small Kitchenette attached to the new hall so that the Hall can operate out of normal school hours for such things as breakfast clubs or after school clubs.
- Additional toilets for disabled users, either pupil or adult.



St John's School, Lemsford – Scrutineer's doc

- Access modifications so that all access points to the existing and new buildings are suitable for all users both able and non-able bodied.
- Boiler room for heating to new buildings, as existing facilities are at full capacity.

Adaptations/refurbishment to existing buildings

- Existing kitchen to be refurbished to meet the minimum requirements of the school's catering services and to have all food stored within the kitchen area.
- Increase in size of the class room size for Years 3 & 4 ('Class 3'). This will enable the present substandard layout of ICT equipment to be improved and made safer and more useful to the children.
- Create new corridors so that pupils and staff can move around the school without having to walk through other classrooms
- Modifications to existing toilets within the entrance hall area to create new toilet for disabled staff or visitors.
- Modifications to internal corridors around school to enable wheelchair access unencumbered by steps.

External works

- Replacement of playground space lost as a result of the new hall and ancillary buildings being constructed on existing playground.
- **The existing Temporary classroom, presently used by 'class 4', will be taken out of the teaching facility and not permitted for use as part of the school. This classroom will become the sole responsibility of the School Governors and Parents Association. The building as such will then be used for after school clubs, or other events that parents or users pay to use thus covering future maintenance costs.**

Addressing issues in the school's Asset Management Plan

The redevelopment project is aimed to address a variety of issues, some of which are identified in the school's Asset Management Plan

Taking issues identified in the school's asset plan as Condition C or D, the proposals will address:

- School playground (element 11065) – as a consequence of the construction works the main playground will be reshaped and resurfaced.
- Kitchen lighting (element 47) – As a consequence of the modifications to the kitchen the lighting fittings can be changed to suit those necessary.
- Kitchen shutters (element 57) – As a consequence of modifications to the kitchen the shutters can be changed.
- Kitchen equipment (element 97) – As a consequence of the modifications to the kitchens defective or unsuitable fittings can be changed as necessary.

Issues raised in the Assessment of Condition and Suitability with Impacts on Education that we are also addressing are:

- Dining room (Impact A) – classified as too small to meet its purpose. By moving all sports equipment, materials for assemblies etc to the new hall will create a space suitable to allow school dinners to be served in comfort in two sittings.
- Kitchen (Impact B) – poor ventilation, uneven floor etc. Modifications will allow these items to be corrected.
- Kitchen store (Impact B) – multiple uses for freezers and computer network hub. Access difficult and becomes too hot. Modifications to the kitchen will enable all storage to be within the kitchen area.
- Library (Impact B) – classified as too small for use, no network of corridors to other classrooms and can only accommodate 6 children at any one time. The new facility will be a room in its own right and connected to all classrooms without need to walk through other classrooms.



- General comments about lack of suitable access for wheelchairs made in several places. Aim will be to increase the corridors to aid access for all pupils but also to remove several steps.
- General comments about lack of suitable storage spaces. As consequence of operation of rooms with computers around the walls and numerous doors makes wall storage difficult. Introduction of more corridors and special ICT spaces within the classrooms especially for classes 3 and 4 will help improve this aspect.
- Steps to fire exits are mentioned several times. As consequence of the new building more ramped exits will be provided and several existing exits will also be converted to ramps.

Addressing needs as part of the Disability Discrimination Act

- Although we do not presently have any physically disabled and/or wheelchair bound pupils or staff we are aware of our lack of facilities and how difficult it would be to adapt present facilities should the need arise.

Why is this bid important to us

Meeting present needs

- Our previous Ofsted inspection in 2000, Identified several improvements, which our proposals are addressing. In essence these were:
 1. A lack of suitable internal space and equipment to enable the school to carry out indoor sports, gymnastics or dance. In addition due to the lack of space to store equipment we obviously cannot offer a fuller range of activities.
 2. '... A lack of use of the library to develop pupils independent research skills.' Since then we have restocked the library and changed the way it is organised. However at the end of the day it is still effectively a set of shelves in an alcove of a corridor and as such is not an ideal place to encourage numbers of children to gather to read, research or use the facilities.
- Since the last Ofsted the school roll has increased from 98 to 106 (our maximum) and there is the impending likelihood of a re-inspection. A result of which is likely to be similar comments. At present although the school has a healthy amount of computers and IT equipment, the computers are not really stored or used in an environment that maximises their best use. They are on tables in the corners of classrooms, that need moving at times to allow other activities, have trailing leads etc. Thus again our proposals try to address this by creating deliberately separate spaces where the children can be taken to use the computers.
- Our present kitchen facilities are in a declining condition and suitability. They are also not good for catering staff to operate in and they have previously been complained about by the County's Catering providers. The modifications will improve these along with moving none food related items away from the kitchens.
- The present school hall has been modified in the last 2 years following a fire safety inspection to ensure enough safe access points to enable the hall to at least function but it is not satisfactory. It also reduces available wall space to store equipment against.

Meeting future needs

- Although we do not presently have any physically disabled and/or wheelchair bound pupils or staff we are aware of our lack of facilities and how difficult it would be to adapt present facilities should the need arise.
- The new library will provide a dedicated space away from the classroom for better storage of books (both reading and reference) other resources and to enable more than few pupils to gather to use the library facility at a time.



St John's School, Lemsford – Scrutineer's doc

- The ICT suite will enable a more beneficial learning experience that IT equipment can bring in a purpose made environment rather than as a few computers in the corner of the classroom!



Appendix 1 – Existing School Layout

