

Our Ref: JB/EJ/97882

Date: 5 April 2023



Planning and Building Control
Economic Regeneration – Place Directorate
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG

Dear Sir/Madam

**COMPASS SCHOOLS
34 VICTORIA ROAD, BARNSELEY
CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICE (CLASS E) TO EDUCATION USE (CLASS F1)
PLANNING PORTAL REF: PP-12056530**

On behalf of our client, Compass Schools, we are pleased to submit via the Planning Portal a planning application seeking full planning permission for the change of use of 34 Victoria Road, Barnsley from office use (Class E) to education use (Class F1) with associated external works to the building's curtilage.

Accordingly, the application comprises the following documents and drawings in addition to this covering letter:

- Completed application form/certificates
- Completed Community Infrastructure Levy: Form 1 – Additional Information
- Planning & Heritage Statement
- Site Location Plan & Existing Site Plan (drawing no. 1642-A100)
- Other application drawings:
 - Existing Floor Plans (drawing no. 1642-A110)
 - Proposed Floor Plans (drawing no. 1642-A120)
 - Existing and Proposed Elevations (drawing no. 1642-A220)
 - Proposed Site Layout (drawing no. 1642-A101)

The application fee of £462 has been paid today via the Planning Portal.

The proposed small school would be registered with Ofsted for up to 24 students and will provide specialist education provision for those children who cannot be supported appropriately within a mainstream education setting.

Compass Schools are unique and distinctive environments that are highly effective in supporting children who have experienced trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Compass meet the needs of children and young people by delivering bespoke education packages to help them achieve and become the best they can be. The schools work as part of therapeutic communities, supporting children with various packages of education, therapy and care as required.

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Compass strives to deliver a holistic education experience which helps children develop personal qualities which are valued in society – e.g. thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, and self-respect to reflect upon their role as emerging citizens. It works with pupils to develop self-belief and support children in learning how to be effective learners.

It is intended that the children to be educated at the site will be currently living in the local area and for whom it has always been assumed that a dedicated specialist school setting would be most beneficial. Presently, they are either supported where they live or attend mainstream services. Mainstream placements are not really suitable, hence the need to create a suitable education environment where pupils can catch up and thrive in their education.

The NPPF states that it is important that sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities and that LPAs should take a proactive approach to meeting this requirement and to development proposals that will widen choice in education. Furthermore, LPAs are required to give “great weight” to the need to create schools through decisions they take on applications.

When assessed against policies in the development plan and national guidance in the NPPF, it is clear that the application proposals are acceptable. In summary, the application proposals:

- Are acceptable in land use terms
- Will not harm the character and appearance of the conservation area and are acceptable in design terms
- Will not give rise to any adverse transport or parking impacts
- Will not harm the amenities of nearby residential occupiers
- Will provide community benefits through the provision of a school for children with specialist education needs which cannot be met by other school in the local area
- Will provide increased employment opportunities for local people

In light of the above, we trust that the Council will be able to issue planning permission for the proposals in due course. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving confirmation of registration of the application.

Yours faithfully



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