

**Parkside Primary Academy, Royston  
on behalf of Pioneer Academies Co-operative Trust**

Parkside Primary Academy,  
Midland Rd,  
Royston,  
Barnsley,  
S71 4QP

**Proposed Nursery Eco-Classroom**

**BC.HUD.2016.00308.001**

**Design and Access Statement**

March 2016

## Design and Access Statement

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## 1.0.0 DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

### 1.1.0 Introduction

1.1.1 This Design and Access statement has been prepared by AHR Building Consultancy Ltd to accompany the application for Planning Permission for a proposed new external classroom space to provide a designated building for existing Nursery pupils and enables the school to create support teaching space for existing KS1 and KS2 pupils.

1.1.2 The proposed new outdoor classroom is intended to be sited on the existing school Nursery and Reception playground, adjacent to the school boundary. This will provide the school with the opportunity to provide significant outdoor teaching to its pupils by incorporating the outdoor area / school playing fields.

1.1.3 AHR Building Consultancy Ltd was approached to develop a proposal that would suit the school's needs while gaining Planning Approval.

1.1.4 The accompanying application drawings and documents are listed below:

#### Application Documents

- The planning application form duly completed
- Ownership certificates duly completed

#### Application Drawings

- Drawing no. PL\_01 – Site Location Plan As Existing
- Drawing no. PL\_02 – Site Plans As Existing & Proposed
- Drawing no. PL\_03 – Elevations & Floor Plan As Proposed

### 1.2.0 Royston Parkside Primary Academy

1.2.1 Royston Parkside Primary Academy is positioned on a sloping site with the school car park to the north west of the building accessed off Midland Road, and the school playing fields are to the south of the site, sloping away from the building. The site slopes from north west to south east and the main entrance to the school is accessed from the main school car park / pedestrian footpath to the north east of the site.



Image 1 – Royston Parkside Primary Academy

1.2.2 The existing school building was built in 1955 and is of brick construction with upvc framed windows and aluminium doors and windows and a combination of felt flat and pitched roofs at varying levels. To the south of the site is the playing field and there is a tarmac surfaced playground to the south west of the building. An additional pedestrian entrance to the site is off Vicarage Lane.

1.2.3 The school is located on Midland Road which is one of the main through routes into and out of Royston for the neighbouring localities. It is bounded on the north and west by housing and a Primary School to the south.

## **2.0.0 DESIGN STATEMENT**

### **2.1.0 The Design Process**

2.1.1 The school currently operates as a primary school serving the locality to central Royston, with pupils attending from Nursery to Year 6. The school building does not have many spaces for group working or withdrawal space.

2.1.2 The submitted proposals reflect the school's wish to construct an "extension" to the existing building which addresses the lack of individual and group teaching spaces within the school building. The proposals highlights a new Nursery classroom space to be constructed which will provide a designated building for existing Nursery pupils and enables the school to create support teaching space for existing KS1 and KS2 pupils. The new building will ultimately provide the pupils with a vastly improved learning environment and its location is designed to provide greater access to the outdoor learning spaces created by the school.

2.1.3 The design process involved the development of a number of initial design proposals for approval by the school governors. These have been further refined and limited to the submitted scheme that reflects the aspirations of the school.

2.1.4 The school were very keen to reflect their green ethos by seeking to install a more ecologically friendly building as opposed to the standard traditional build. To that end a company has been selected who have developed a modular building system designed to provide the school with flexibility of use whilst being super-insulated and constructed from engineered timber they are robust to last with minimal maintenance.

2.1.5 Externally, the building will fit harmoniously into the landscape with a timber cedar clad exterior and Rubberbond Fleeceback EDPM roof. The building is designed to save energy, protect the environment and provide a calming space in which to learn. All of this is high on the list of the school's priorities.

### **2.2.0 Use**

2.2.1 The proposed new building will provide the required teaching and support facilities for the school to deliver the current curriculum.

2.2.2 The proposed building will be used as a multi-function space primarily for individual/group teaching with some additional community use out of school hours.

### **2.3.0 Amount**

2.3.1 The proposal is for a 13.5m x 9m building (external dimensions) standing approximately 3.7 high. This will provide a usable floor space of 100m<sup>2</sup>.

2.3.2 A suitable location for the building was limited by the restricted nature of the site and the levels around the site. The building will be built as tight to the path as possible to limit the impact on the school field.

2.3.3 This area adjacent to the field has been identified as the preferred location as it will provide a combined teaching environment for the pupils including external play area and school playing fields.

#### **2.4.0 Layout and Scale**

2.4.1 A proposal has been devised and agreed with the school governors that enhances the use of the external area to the south east of the school. Internally the layout of the building has been designed to incorporate a room for teaching and individual/group teaching, together with all associated facilities.

2.4.2 Externally the existing hardstandings will be maintained with only some minor modification likely to facilitate level access with a new tarmac footpath.

2.4.3 The size of the extension has been determined through consultation with the Department for Education guidelines entitled 'Building Bulletin 103: Area Guidelines for Mainstream Schools', together with relevant British Standards and Building Regulations.

#### **2.5.0 Appearance**

2.5.1 The walling to the extension will be externally faced with timber cladding, with the doors and windows double glazed aluminium units. The roof will be a rubberbond fleeceback EPDM membrane roof.

#### **2.6.0 Climate Change**

2.6.1 The building will be constructed in full accordance with Part L of the Building Regulations: Conservation of Fuel and Power, and will exceed the minimum U-Values set out in relation to the floor, wall and roof construction as well as those for new windows and doors to provide the school with a compliant, well insulated building with a lower heating demand than the existing building.

2.6.2 Internally, reduction of the schools energy consumption has been considered, providing energy efficient light fittings within the scope of works. The provision of natural light within internal areas has been considered through the design and installation of glazed windows.

### **3.0.0 ACCESS STATEMENT**

#### **3.1.0 Existing Building**

3.1.1 The school is located on slightly sloping site and the building is intended to be positioned on the field in a level position.

#### **3.2.0 Management and Maintenance**

3.2.1 The management of disabled access within the building is an ongoing process which does not end when the building is in use. To support the day to day management of the building in operation, robust policies will be put in place to support inclusion in accordance with the rationale of the Equality Act. Examples of such measures include carrying out regular building and user audits to identify obstructions, ensuring signs are regularly checked and updated and maintaining door furniture.

#### **3.3.0 Summary**

3.3.1 Accessibility legislation with respect to educational buildings places a great deal of responsibility on those providing, running and maintaining the school. This access statement is intended to clarify the interpretation that the design team has placed on the access requirements in relation to planning issues.

3.3.2 Accessibility legislation makes it clear that reasonableness is a key ingredient in determining what is to be done in each circumstance. This strategy and statement embodies what is considered to be reasonable in terms of providing the services, facilities and support at the school.

3.3.3 As time passes, the interpretation of what is deemed reasonable changes and the access strategy will need to be reviewed in order to reflect this, together with any changes to legislation. However, in the current circumstances we consider that these proposals will provide a flexible, accessible, affordable environment for all.