

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

In support of the Planning Application for

Barugh Green Primary School
Higham Common Road
Barugh Green
Barnsley S75 1LD

Submitted by Nightingale Associates
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The following Design and Access Statement has been prepared under the guidelines set out in the CABI Publication *'Design and Access Statements - How to write, read and use them'* (2006)

USE

The existing Primary School on the site is a single-storey building, constructed in the early 1970s under the CLASP programme, using pre-fabricated concrete wall panels and a flat roof deck. It is operated, managed and funded by the local authority, with around 280 pupils and up to 50 staff. Accommodation consists of nine classrooms arranged around a central main hall, with supporting offices, library, cloakrooms and kitchen, and in recent years the building has been extended to provide a new I.T. suite. The building is located on a site of around 2.25 hectares, which includes hard-surfaced play areas, grassed playing fields, a caretaker's bungalow, and a boiler house; there is also a temporary mobile classroom, to provide additional teaching space. The school is popular and successful, and has a wide catchment area; consequently there is a demand for places. It is proposed to meet this need by expanding the capacity of the school, building new extensions and carrying out internal refurbishment to provide accommodation for up to 315 pupils, with new classrooms and administrative offices, and an enlarged main hall and outdoor playing surface.

AMOUNT

The existing school has a gross internal floor area of 1637m²

The proposed new extensions (front and rear) will be 309m²

The proposals will result in a total gross internal floor area of 1946m²

LAYOUT

The proposed new extension at the front will increase the size of the Reception Classroom, and add new offices for the Head and Deputy Head, together with a new larger Administrative Office, which will overlook the main entrance to enhance security. The main entrance will also be extended with a new lobby and enlarged foyer. The proposed new extension at the rear will provide two new classrooms and cloakroom space. The refurbishment of the existing building will consist of re-arrangement of internal partitions at the rear to create two larger classrooms from three which are currently under-sized; and removal of unsatisfactory office accommodation to enlarge the main hall, which can then be sub-divided with a folding partition for use as a Dance Studio.

SCALE

As a proportion of the floor area of the existing building, the proposed extensions are not significant. The new extensions will be to the same scale as the existing building, with the same roof height, and the same proportions of windows. The new roof fascias will follow the same line as the existing.

LANDSCAPING

As the new extension to the rear of the building will reduce the amount of hard-surfaced play area, and because the capacity of the school is being increased, it is proposed to provide an additional area of hard-surfaced play area (not greater than 400m²).

APPEARANCE

The new extensions will closely match the appearance of the existing building, although modern materials will be used with better properties, particularly with regard to thermal performance and durability. The external walls of the new extensions will be constructed in blockwork with insulated cavities, and rendered in an off-white colour to suit the existing pebble-rendered concrete panels. The new windows will match the same style as the existing, with similar opening lights, transoms and opaque spandrel panels, although they will be aluminium-framed and double-glazed. The new roof will be a flat deck to tie-in to the existing, using modern single-ply pvc sheeting, although this will not be noticeable from ground level. In general the new extensions will enhance the appearance of the building, while not being overly obtrusive or dominating.

ACCESS

The design will address obligations relating to the reasonable provision of accessibility under DDA regulations, guidance within the Building Regulations Approved Documents and current best practice. All entrances to the building will be level in approach, well-lit, unobstructed, and with appropriate signage. The main public entrance will also incorporate automated outward-opening swing doors. All finishes, signage and lighting will be designed to ensure ease of access and use. Horizontal circulation routes will be level, and where possible within the constraints of an existing building with a minimum clear width of 1500mm. All doors will be suitable for wheelchair users and ambulant disabled, and a minimum clear space of 300mm will be provided facing the leading edge of all doors. The opening force at the leading edge of all doors will be less than 20N, and all door ironmongery will be suitable for those with limited manual dexterity. All doors will be fitted with anti-trap finger guards. Colour contrast against backgrounds to assist users with impaired vision will be used on all door leading edges and frames, door handles, and handrails. Glazing to internal doors and glazed screens will permit vision for both standing and seated use, incorporating safety manifestations where required. The internal finishes, colours and textures will be influenced by the needs of the visually impaired, and lighting will allow for good colour rendering. Floor finishes will offer an appropriate level of slip resistance and surface changes will be physically defined. WC provision will include accessible facilities for pupils, visitors and staff throughout.