The site of Vernon Terrace Primary School consists of a mixture of buildings of various ages and styles. The Cupola which is to be reinstated was located on the roof of one of the early 20th century buildings which fronts Vernon Terrace.

In summer 2012 the Cupola was inspected and found to be extremely rotten. Due to its condition it was decide that the cupola would be removed as it was beyond repair and posed a great risk if it was to collapse.

Following its removal NCC contacted the school asking for it to be reinstated or for a retrospective planning application to be submitted for its removal.

In April 2014 details for the reinstatement of the cupola were drafted and issued to Mark Laurenson of NCC for comment. It was confirmed by Mr Laurenson in May that planning permission for reinstatement would not be required. On receiving this news the school went out to tender for the works, however the cost for reinstatement was far higher than originally expected and at the time the school could not get funding for the works.

Further discussions with Mark Laurenson were made regarding the possibility of submitting a retrospective planning application for the removal of the Cupola due to the cost involved with reinstatement. However Mr Laurenson highlighted doubts about the potential success of such an application being approved.

With this information the school again tried to get funding for the Cupola works and were successful. However the school were then informed by Peter Moor or NCC that planning permission would now be required for the reinstatement of the Cupola.
APPEARANCE

The appearance of the new Cupola will match as closely as possible the original. The proposals have been drafted from photos the school have of the cupola prior to its removal. Visually there will be little difference however the details for connection have been altered to reduce the likelihood of the frame rotting as the original did. This mainly concerns the lead flashing detail to the four posts.

SCALE

As the proposals have been drafted to replicate the original Cupola as closely as possible the scale will reflect that of the original.

PLANNING POLICY

Planning policy relevant to this application is as follows:

**NPPF**

Section 7 – Requiring good design

Paragraph 58

Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics. Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation;

The application responds to the local character and history, as the development seeks to reinstate a previously existing feature like for like.

Although the building is not in a Conservation Area, Not Listed or a Non-Designated Heritage Asset. The council have stated that the building is of interest and has potential to be put on a list in the future (see appendix document A). As a result if the building was to be viewed in the same light as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset the following planning policies could be seen to be applicable.

**Historic Environment of the Emerging West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy**

Policy BN5

Point 3

Be sympathetic to locally distinctive landscapes features, design styles and materials in order to contribute to a sense of place.

The proposals replicate the former Cupola in style and materiality.
Note for Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER)

Vernon Terrace School
Vernon Terrace, Northampton

Location: Vernon Terrace, Northampton
NGR approx centre: SP76635 60713

Summary
Primary school located on Vernon Terrace, Northampton. Rear entrance is via Elizabeth Street (off South Street). School remains in active use.

Buildings comprise original Victorian brick ranges under clay tiled roofs together with modern buildings, including a SureStart Children’s Centre built on site of former terraced houses between Vernon Terrace and Elizabeth Street.

Twelve colour record photographs taken on 27 July 2013 for HER reference. The photos below are provided for example purposes only. School suggested as Local List candidate.

Figures 1 & 2: Modern extent of Vernon Terrace School and extent on extract of OS 1st Edtn (1:2,500) 1880s mapping. Approx extents are outlined in red. Note that extracts are at slightly differing scales.
VT School from Vernon Terrace.

VT School, west elevation

VT School – details of west elevation

Graham Cadman
29 July 2013