PROPOSED EXTERNAL CANOPY  
KINGSLEY SCHOOL, CHURCHILL WAY, KETTERING NN15 5DP

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Introduction:

Kingsley School is an existing special school for ages 2 to 11 years with approximately 113 pupils. The proposed new external canopy will form a replacement to an existing smaller canopy to the site and will provide a larger, better quality, sheltered external area for teaching and learning through play. There will be no increase in pupil or staff numbers.

The existing site is currently used as an external play area to the front of the school and is enclosed with a 1.7 metre high palisade fence and single gate to gain access to the adjacent playground and grassed school grounds all of which is enclosed by an existing similar 1.7 metre high fence.

The existing site surface is predominantly covered with tarmac and concrete paving slabs with an area of grass, and a sand pit. The existing smaller polycarbonate canopy is attached to the school and, although exposed around the perimeter to the elements, provides a small covered area where a limited small number of pupils can play. A domestic size timber storage shed on a concrete base exists to one end of the site.

The new external canopy will replace the existing canopy and will provide 136 square metres of enhanced sheltered space for use throughout the year. Bright primary colours are proposed to provide an attractive environment for the pupils, enhanced visual contrast between materials and to repeat the colour theme used currently around the existing school. The new enclosed canopy area will incorporate existing secondary means of escape from the adjacent classrooms.

Design:

The form and materials used for the new canopy and enclosure consist of a yellow steel canopy support frame with a low pitch opal PET roof covering. This will allow daylight through whilst offering a high degree of UV protection to those beneath the canopy. The enclosing sides to the canopy consist of red stained or painted diagonal timber slats offering a secure environment for the users and a degree of privacy and protection from the elements.

Two pairs of double doors will provide emergency escape for the occupants. These will be painted blue with yellow ironmongery.

The canopy rainwater guttering and down pipes will be yellow polyester powder coated aluminium to match the canopy support frame.
A green EPDM ‘wet pour’ soft play surface will be provided within the area of the canopy enclosure.

Adjacent hard landscaping will be as existing finishes. The existing palisade fence and gate within the school grounds currently enclosing the site is to be removed along with the existing timber shed and its concrete base.

An existing air conditioning unit fitted at high level on the external wall is to be relocated to avoid the area of the new canopy. An existing external light fitted to the corner of the school is to be replaced and relocated to avoid the new canopy. There are no modifications proposed to the existing school building envelope as part of the new canopy installation.

New energy efficient strip lighting is to be provided on the underside of the roof of the canopy.

Environment:

Existing planting immediately adjacent to the school building in the area of the new canopy will be removed as part of the proposal but this is of very little significance and offers no character enhancement to the school.

Shrubs and existing planting along the external perimeter fence will be retained to provide some screening to the front of the school and an attractive outlook from the site.

Access:

There are no changes proposed to any existing vehicle or pedestrian access to the site or car parking.

The floor level below the new canopy will provide level access from the classrooms and to the adjacent existing playground.

To ensure inclusive access for all, the design follows the guidance and principles of the following reference material:

- BS8300: 2001 Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of the disabled people- Code of Practice.
- The current Building Regulations.