

FARTHINGHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL - EXTENSION

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

This small village school is Victorian in origin in an Arts and Crafts medieval style with rough stone walls and contrasting dressed stone window surrounds, and steeply pitched roofs of plain clay tiles. It was enlarged in the same style in 1906 and an extension was added later in the 20th century with cement rendered walls and a tiled roof at a shallower pitch. It is located in a Conservation Area.

The school is popular and under pressure for more space to provide the 40 pupils with the range of facilities required to meet the demands of the curriculum. There is also at present no covered play space outside.

The later extension is to be further enlarged in the same style to address this shortfall, and also to include for covered outside play. The high windows of the original building prevented the small pupils from being distracted by the outside. However current teaching methods seek to extend the learning experience to the outside, and to bring the outside into the classroom. To this end the new extension will blur the inside/outside boundary with a glazed screen which can be completely opened up. The outside will be level with the inside and the coloured surface will be matched so that it appears as a continuous floor surface. This surface is sheltered from the weather by the acrylic canopy.

Footpath access to the building is suitable for wheelchair use although there is a step at each entrance, requiring some assistance to negotiate, and the doors are narrow. The new arrangement will provide a wide level access into the building and with the added benefit of being under cover.

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