

## **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 which is addressed in this proposal.

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 two of the windows will be replaced by full height glazed doors which open 180 degrees, and the outside play surface will be level with the floor inside.

Footpath access to the building is suitable for wheelchair use although there is a step at each existing 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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