Construction of a new single storey, four classroom teaching block, enlarged car park, widened vehicular access, new pedestrian access, on-site pupil drop off and new hard play area at Abbey Primary School, to enable the school intake to increase from 315 to 420 places.
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1.0 **Introduction**

Architecture Initiative, on behalf of Northampton Schools Limited Partnership, has been commissioned to develop a proposal for the expansion of Abbey Primary School in Northampton.

Full planning approval is sought for the construction of a new single storey, four classroom teaching block and enlarged car park and hard play area at Abbey Primary School, to enable the school intake to increase from 315 to 420 places (1.5 to 2 form entry). The increase in pupil numbers is forecast to occur steadily over a seven year period to match demand.

It should be noted that the current school intake capacity is 315 pupils. This is based on 45 pupils per year, over 7 year groups. The current number of pupils on roll at the school differs from this school capacity figure.

**Summary of Proposal**

The application site area is 3284 sqm. The proposal involves a single storey stand alone block located to the north of the existing school building, with a gross internal floor area of 346sqm. There is also a new hard surfaced all weather court and a new on-site pupil drop-off area with expanded car park. The existing school building has a gross internal floor area of 1710sqm.

This Design & Access Statement details the proposal as well as how the final design solution was reached.

The document has been arranged into six sections; starting with an explanation of the requirement for additional primary places at Abbey Primary, details of how the brief was developed and an final design solution was reached. The specifics of the proposal are described in the Design section. The final part of this document addresses access.
2.0 Requirement for Primary Places

Decision to Expand: Overview

It should be noted that this application specifically concerns the built accommodation and associated works required to house the additional intake of pupils at the school.

The decision to enlarge the school is covered via a formal process undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council, which includes a period of consultation with a final Cabinet Member decision in early 2013, with the proposed expansion being implemented from September 2013.

The proposed expansion is related to the general rise in the population of primary aged pupils living in the area, which is the result of the higher birth rate and inward migration being experienced by the County as a whole and Northampton in particular.

Recent census data demonstrates a 19% increase in the County’s under-fives population. Northamptonshire County Council has a statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places for all pupils living in the area. Current projections forecast that additional capacity is required in the local area and therefore extra places are proposed at Abbey Primary School. Refer to statement on the following page for further details.

Alternative solutions considered by Northamptonshire County Council included;

(i) Providing ‘Portakabin’ style accommodation to house the additional intake. - It was concluded that this would not provide a long-term conducive learning environment for children and would separate them from their peers.

(ii) Transporting children to alternative schools outside the town. - It was concluded that there would be a negative impact on the welfare and education of children for them to be spending considerable parts of their day on buses and this does not support the healthy schools agenda.

(iii) Reconfigure the starting ages for children to attend school. – It was concluded that this would not adequate to meet the levels of school place demand and does not ensure that every child in the county has the same opportunities as their peers.

(iv) Increase class sizes. – Legislation precludes this option.

Therefore NCC made the decision that the best solution is to construct additional long-term teaching accommodation on the school site to accommodate the enlarged pupil intake.
## Decision to Expand: Analysis by Northamptonshire County Council

### Background

Government estimates published in January 2012 suggested that the number of children at primary schools in England is expected to rise by a fifth in the next decade. Northamptonshire is already experiencing some of this growth through a rising birth rate, high levels of in-migration and growth from housing development. Census data illustrates a rise in the under fives population of 19% between 2001 and 2011. The most recent data for children starting school in September 2012 shows a rise of nearly 10%. Northamptonshire County Council has been making plans to add approx 7,400 new primary places between 2010 and 2014 and the proposal to expand The Abbey Primary, following statutory consultation processes, was approved by Cabinet in September 2011. The position of schools in Northampton has been particularly tight and an additional 150 places (five forms of entry) were organised during the summer of 2012 to meet the demand from applications received after national allocation day in May. A feature of the Northampton pupil projections is the large number of in-migrations during the year, for example 1,200 additional school applications (primary and secondary) during 2011-12.

### The Abbey Primary

The Abbey is one of seven NN4 primary schools south of the river / town centre, providing school capacity for children living in Delapre, Buckingham Fields, the Mereway area, East and West Hunsbury, and Briar Hill. Six of these schools (all except Simon de Senlis) have increased their capacity already or there are plans to do so. Some of this has been on a temporary basis and two schools (Queen Eleanor and East Hunsbury) will revert back to their lower admission number from September 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Postcode</th>
<th>New or proposed permanent admission number</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Abbey</td>
<td>NN4 8AZ</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Increased from 45 in Sept 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Eleanor</td>
<td>NN4 8NA</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Temporary increase to 60 for 2 years (2011 and 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delapre</td>
<td>NN4 6JY</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Proposed increase from 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunsbury Park</td>
<td>NN4 9RR</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Increased from 30 in Sept 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon de Senlis</td>
<td>NN4 0PH</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Always been 2FE (60 places)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Hunsbury</td>
<td>NN4 0QW</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Temporary increase to 90 for one year (Sept 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briar Hill</td>
<td>NN4 8SW</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Increased from 45 in Sept 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

420 (14FE)

The Abbey has been able to admit increased numbers since September 2010 within its existing accommodation, due to lower pupil numbers (and thus spare classrooms) in the higher year groups. As the increased numbers continue at the school, additional classrooms need to be provided for a permanent capacity of 420 pupils on roll.

Permanent capacity for at least 14 forms of entry is required at these seven schools to provide places for 420 pupils in each year group. The total number of Reception pupils on roll at the 7 schools in December 2012 is 429. It is predicted that even if levels of in-migration reduce, there is going to be additional pressure on primary places from new housing development in the area e.g. Lancaster Way (155 houses) and the first phases of Nunn Mills / Ransome Road.

The proposed extension at The Abbey is to be achieved through building a separate block of four new classrooms to minimise disruption for the school and for ease of construction.
Consultation

This Design & Access Statement has been prepared by Architecture Initiative, who have been appointed by Northampton Schools Limited Partnership to develop a proposal for Abbey Primary School on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council.

Northamptonshire Schools Limited Partnership (NSLP) is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up to run the Northampton Schools PFI Scheme. The scheme, which was set up in 2005 following the Review of Education in Northampton includes the operation and maintenance of five secondary schools and thirty-six primary schools in Northampton over a 32 year period.

Abbey Primary is one of the primary schools covered under the PFI scheme.

Consultation has occurred with Northamptonshire County Council, local authority, PFI SPV (NSLP), the School and governors as well as NCC planning department and other relevant consultees to the planning process.

Refer to the Consultation section of the Planning Statement for a summary of the consultation that has taken place.
3.0 **Context**

Abbey Primary School is currently a 1.5FE mixed primary school for children of 5-11yrs with a current intake of 270 pupils. It is located in the south of Northampton in the Delapre Ward, the site is located in a mainly residential area, with Abbeyfield School, a large secondary school adjacent, which has recently gained academy status. It bounders the west and south boundaries of the primary school site. Abbey Primary, although occupying a small site, benefits from the shared use of the secondary school’s large sports pitches.

The rears of neighbouring two storey semi-detached houses are to the north and east of the school site, beyond a public right of way. The school is accessed by a long drive with an entrance off the corner of Winchester Road and Glastonbury Road.

The site does not lie within any areas of particular note, as shown in the map identifying zones of land use surrounding the school site. For full details of zones of land use surrounding the school site and other relevant planning policies please refer to the accompanying Planning Statement.

The existing school is mainly visible from the adjacent school and rear of the neighbouring houses located on Friar’s Avenue and Winchester Road. Care has been taken to ensure that the new development is sympathetic to views from these nearby residences.

The main entrance is located at the east of the site, where pedestrian and vehicular access occurs. There is an on-site car park for staff and disabled visitors in front of the school building, within the fenced ‘air-lock’. The refuse and recycling bins are also located in this area as is a private nursery which is housed within a temporary cabin building near the north boundary.

The nursery cabin will be removed as part of this application. It will be relocated to a more appropriate location on the school site, which will be covered under a separate planning application. This application will be a double classroom mobile cabin provided by NCC and leased to the private nursery. This will replace the current cabin like-for-like. The nursery currently has 30 pupils and 4 staff members. It operates from 8am to 6pm all year apart from holidays. Once relocated it will continue to operate as per its current arrangement. Note that the nursery staff take up 3 parking spaces.
3.1 The School Site

The school building is located at the centre of the 1.16ha site with hard play areas located to the north and south of the building and with soft play space occupying the south east of the school grounds.

From the main entrance at the front of the school access through the ‘air-lock’ is either into the building or via access gates to enter the site around the top or bottom of the building. The site is fenced and it contains a number of trees (none of which have TPOs).

As can be seen from the photographs on the following pages, the school building has been subject to a number of additions over the years in similar architectural styles. The school building is all single storey apart from the school hall which is the equivalent of two storeys high. The entire school is of a similar architectural language, monolithic rectilinear forms of bright red brick.
3.2 Site Photographs
On Site

Key plan showing views
3.2 Site Photographs

Off Site

Key plan showing views

1

2

3
4.0 Developing the Brief

The overall brief for the project, set by Northamptonshire County Council, was to develop a proposal for housing the additional intake required at Abbey Primary School to suit the specific constraints of the site and educational requirements of the school. To maintain external play space and deliver an extemporary, cost-effective and sustainable construction solution, whilst minimising the impact on the running of the school during construction.

The specific brief for the expansion which forms this proposal, was then developed through site analysis and consultation and dialogue with NCC, NSLP, Abbey Primary School and other consultants, listed in the Planning Statement.

Northamptonshire County Council gave specific request that the accommodation provided should adhere to the Department for Education’s Building Bulletins. The bulletins set out the types of spaces that school of a particular size should have and the areas of those spaces.

Northamptonshire County Council is also acutely aware of the potential traffic and car parking impacts that increasing school places can incur and in developing the brief Northamptonshire County Council has engaged with the highways authority and the school to ensure where possible impacts are limited by additional facilities provided on the school site.

Setting the Brief

In order to keep the impact on the day-to-day running of the school during construction as minimal as possible it was decided from the outset that all additional accommodation required be provided in a new stand-alone building and any works to the existing school building are minimised. This is also the best way to ensure that the expansion of the school can occur in the most cost effective manner (the budget for expansion is finite). Furthermore, as the school is run through PFI a stand alone building reduces the risk of lenders not approving the scheme.

With this starting point, analysis of the existing spaces within the school was undertaken in order to identify the additional accommodation required to enlarge the school from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry. This was completed in conjunction with the school in order to ensure that the best educational solution was reached.
4.1 Existing School Analysis

The main circulation route forms a spine like connection, running along the centre of the school. The classrooms are currently orientated both to the north and south of this central spine with views out onto the landscape.

A main consideration in a 2FE school is that the two classrooms in each year group are kept as a pair, so with this in mind 14 pairs of classrooms are required in the enlarged 2FE school (as well as other support and shared accommodation).

Northamptonshire County Council use area and space standards as set out in the 2003 document *Building Bulletin 99: Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects* as a guide for primary school provisions in the County. It was against these space standards that analysis of the existing building was undertaken in order to determine the additional spaces required.

The conclusion of this analysis was that four additional classrooms and associated accommodation (such as WC’s and stores) would be required for the school to enlarge to a 2FE intake of 420 pupils. The school curriculum is also supported by the wrap around and additional services provided by the nursery site. Both the school and Northamptonshire County Council wish to see these services on site.
4.2 Expansion Options

The new building could potentially be located in a number of locations. However creating a successful circulation link back to the new building will provide the best possible solution of the proposed location as the link needs to run off the existing central circulation routes.

The next step was to analyse the most desired locations on the site for locating the new stand-alone block. This would ideally be as near to the existing school building as possible, whilst minimising the impact on sports and play space. Through discussion with NCC and the school three possible locations were indicated for the new classroom development.

The following principles and practises were employed in the analysis of location options for the additional accommodation:

(i) The location that would have the least impact on the private amenity of surrounding neighbours.
(ii) The location best suited due to site constraints e.g. protection of green spaces for sports, construction access, protection of the environment.
(iii) The location best suited to support the circulation of pupils within their year groups and key stages.

The diagram below illustrates the potential locations that were identified for siting the building. Two of these options (shown in blue) were deemed less appropriate;

Option B is situated on an area of soft landscaping that is currently occupied by play equipment. It is also too far away from the existing school building and would require pupils to travel an unnecessary distance across the hard play area and increased impact on neighbours private amenity.
Option C takes up a large amount of soft play area and is not ideally situated by the reception years play area and has an increased impact on neighbours amenity.

Option A is the most favourable site for the new classroom block as it sits comfortably within the existing site and is most considerate to the current building arrangement. Option A is located on an existing hard play area that would require relocating. The proposal includes the provision of new hard surfaced all weather courts so that there is no total loss of actual hard play area.
4.3 Brief Requirements

In order for Abbey Primary School to become a 2FE school, four new classrooms and associated support spaces are required within the new teaching block. The diagrams below display the rooms necessary for this expansion, and how they have been arranged to generate the new building.

Ingredients

- Classrooms
- Support Spaces (W.C’s, Stores etc)
- Plant Room
- Group Area

Combination

This diagram shows the arrangement of the spaces required by the school over one floor of the new build block. The classrooms are in pairs with communal and support spaces between.

Proposed Plan

This drawing represents how the diagram has been translated into a material form. The plan form is compact so as to minimise its footprint which reduces its impact on the school site. The group space is open to circulation to enable maximum use of space in the building.
5.0 **Design**

The basis of the concept revolves around the rationalisation of spaces, as previously discussed in section 4.3.

From this point the building layout was developed through an iterative process of consultation, design and redesign. The opportunity for the school to gain brand new teaching spaces gave the opportunity for the proposal to be designed to meet the aspirations of a modern teaching environment: to maximise natural lighting and natural ventilation; to reduce solar gains and energy use; and to create inspirational teaching and learning environments.
5.1 Layout

The new teaching block is arranged as four pairs of classrooms over one floor with shared support spaces in the core of the building. The design consolidates the relationship of the classrooms with the shared amenities core into a rational layout that is efficient both in terms of general use and construction. The classrooms have windows on two external walls to maximise natural daylight. Internally each space meets the requirements of a modern teaching environment as set out in the DfE ‘Building Bulletin’ guidance.

The classrooms all have external doors to allow direct access outdoors. The service core consists of boys and girls WCs, a disabled WC (also for use of staff), a curriculum and cleaner’s store, a small plant room and IT hub room. A portion of the circulation space doubles up to provide a group area/break out space.

Plan of proposed new teaching block

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Area per room (m²)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Area (m²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWCs / Staff WCs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaner’s Store</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Room</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hub/Server</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Room</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partitions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total GIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>346</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.1 Layout

External Works

The proposal includes a number of external works including a new hard surfaced all weather court to replace the play space lost to the new building. Traffic issues are addressed by creating a pupil drop of and pick up on the school site. The access road is widened to allow for two-way traffic and a new pedestrian access is created off the public footpath to the north. Additional staff car parking spaces are also provided.
5.2 Form & Scale

Form of the Proposal

The form of the proposed new teaching block is designed to respond to and was directly inspired by the existing school building.

The scale and rhythm of the existing elevations have been emulated in the proposed teaching block. However contemporary details have been added so that the teaching block is read as a modern addition to the school site.

The overall result is one that sits lightly within the landscape while providing a valuable and sensitive addition to the existing built fabric.
5.2 Form & Scale

Scale within the Existing Context

The proposal is designed to sit comfortably in relation to its surroundings and the existing school.

The single storey building is of an appropriate bulk and mass and is situated ideally away from the school site boundary and within appropriate proximity to the existing school building to allow easy access to the new classrooms whilst not detrimenting daylighting or views from the classrooms in the main building.

The overall affect of the new build block on the existing context is minimal. The proposal sits lightly within its surroundings and compliments the landscape through carefully considered detailing and contemporary design.
5.3 Materiality

The materiality of the new teaching block has been carefully considered to respond to the existing school building, creating a link between the two buildings and helping to consolidate the existing materials and therefore defining the image of the school within its context.

The existing school building is brickwork. The existing roof is mainly flat with a pitched roof over the two storey main building.

The proposed new building relates to and directly responds to this design and as such is to be constructed from a red brick to match the existing school building.

Facing brickwork was chosen as it was felt these would best fit in with the context as well as being durable and secure. The brick colour will be chosen to compliment the brickwork while becoming a feature elevation and complementary to the surrounding landscape.

The flat roof of the proposal will be finished in a single ply membrane or asphalt. With a thin profiled, powder coated aluminium coping.

The double glazed windows and external doors are aluminium framed, powder coated grey to provide an attractive a durable finish.

Example of proposed facing brickwork (colour to match existing brickwork)
5.4 Detail Design

The suspended ceiling is set back from the internal wall to let more daylight penetrate deeper into the classrooms.

The one brick return helps to control daylighting inside the classrooms whilst also reducing cleaning and maintenance.

Windows at eye level allow for surveillance of the external play areas.

Windows are raised from ground level and together with the one brick return help to reduce cleaning and maintenance.

Floor to ceiling windows allow for full height views out onto the surrounding landscape and natural light to reach deeper into the classroom. South facing windows utilise solar control glazing. Mid-level slide open windows provide easy access for natural ventilation. The windows open within the recessed opening.

The internal skirting visually aligns with the external window finish and also reduces maintenance.

The single storey height to match existing school building.
5.5 Daylight & Ventilation

Natural Daylighting

The principles of natural lighting and ventilation are realised throughout the design of the classroom spaces.

The classrooms have full height windows with the suspended ceilings set back to allow natural light to penetrate into the rear of the spaces during the winter.

In summer months, solar control is used to prevent over heating within the classrooms. The proposal utilises solar control glass, which is both cost effective and easier to maintain than alternate forms of solar shading such as canopies or bries soleil. All windows have internal blinds for user control of light levels.

Natural Ventilation

The classrooms are naturally cross ventilated via mid-level opening windows situated on each of the adjacent external walls.

The support spaces are also all naturally ventilated (with the obvious exception to the required extract to all WC’s).
5.6 Play Space

The external spaces at Abbey Primary are a great asset to the school and although a small site, the school has a wide variety of play spaces. The grass area at the south east of the site is too small to be used as a sports pitch, however the school are able to use the external pitches of the neighbouring Abbeyfield Secondary School.

It is paramount that the construction of the new teaching accommodation not impact negativity on the play and sports provisions of the school. This has been addressed in the design layout of the new block to minimise its footprint.

Although the new build teaching block is positioned on an existing hard play area, the proposal includes a new all weather hard surfaced court located to the north east of the school building. The new court means that there has not been a loss in play space as a result of the new building. The additional hard play space created also ensures that play space requirements are met.

Sport England have a statutory obligation to protect sports pitches, therefore building on a pitch will be opposed by Sport England unless the net overall sports pitch usable area on-site be maintained and improved.

The proposal does not affect the grass pitches or play areas located to the south of the site.
6.0 Access

Proposed site access is detailed below. Please refer to the Transport Statement, School Travel Plan and access drawing for further details.

Entering the Site

Access to the site has been improved by the addition of a new pupil pick-up/drop off area for the school.

Pedestrian / bicycle access
The site can be accessed by pedestrians from the main access off Winchester Road, located to the north east of the site or the new pedestrian access on the northern boundary of the site. To minimise the possibility for pedestrians to cross the path of vehicles, this additional access point is suggested on the road to the right hand side of the entrance. The school travel plan indicates a clear intention, working with parents, to introduce active measures to reduce the reliance on vehicle use.

Pick up/Drop off
A new pupil pick-up/drop-off area is proposed to deal with the potential increased traffic to the site. The access road will also be widened. During the peak times when parents gather to drop off or pick up their children at the beginning or end of each academic day, the entrance gates will be open and monitored by members of staff. Pupils and parents will be able to congregate on the new hard play area and the central traffic island, which is accessed by dedicated pedestrian crossings.

Teaching hours
During teaching hours, all access gates to the secure part of the site are locked. Visitors can still access the car park and drop off area. Any visitors must enter the site via the secure entrance/reception area, with access into the school through an electromagnetically locked door.

Non-teaching hours
Subject to out of hours uses or holiday use the main entrance gates will usually be securely closed. All visitors will have to wait off-site for the facilities manager to allow them access. The private nursery is sometimes in use out of hours at weekends or during holidays. Because of this a secondary security fence is proposed which separates the main access road, drop off area and private nursery from the rest of the school.

Parking

For this section the Northamptonshire County Council’s Supplementary Planning Guidance (March 2003) was consulted with regards to parking standards. Northamptonshire County Council, via public consultation, has become fully aware of the concerns from local residents regarding parking. Northamptonshire County Council has taken measures to reduce the impact of parking related problems associated with the school, as outlined in the planning statement.

Cycling provision
NCC Planning guidance asks for 5 cycle parking spaces to be provided for every class at a primary school. Therefore in the case of Abbey Primary School this adds up to 70 cycle parking spaces, 5 for each of the 14 classes. NCC
planners advised that additional spaces can be added incrementally, as and when they are required by the school. At its current 1.5 form entry size (315 pupils) very few pupils currently cycle to school. It is hoped that as they expand to 2 form entry, pupils will be encouraged to cycle to school. There are currently 26 cycle spaces already provided on site, therefore it is proposed that this is sufficient to meet current requirements.

Car parking
Six additional spaces are proposed in the staff car park increasing provision to 28 spaces, to allow for the increase in staff came from the client brief from NCC. It is hoped that staff will be encouraged to car share, use public transport, cycle or walk to work.

Disabled Spaces / Mobility Standard Spaces
There are disabled/mobility standards parking spaces provided on site to meet the standards set out in NCC’s Parking: Supplementary Planning Guidance (March 2003). There will be three disabled spaces provided near the entrance of the school.

Delivery access / parking
All delivery vehicles to the school or school kitchen enter the school site off Winchester Road. There is a service entrance gate that allows deliveries into the school.

Maintenance
Refuse collection
The bin store contains separate refuse and recycling bins. Refuse collection will occur via the Winchester Road site entrance. There is no change in location of refuse collection: The refuse vehicle enters the school site then reverses down the staff car park to the bin store and then exits the site in forward gear.

Service/maintenance access
The site is to be accessed via the Winchester Road entrance, managed by the facilities manager.

Emergency Access
To occur via the Winchester Road site entrance, with vehicular access gates into the secure part of the school site.

Inclusive Access
The new building has been designed to provide an inclusive environment, in accordance with current legislation that provides for the need of all users. Guidance referred to:

- The Building Regulations of England & Wales (most specifically Part M)
- Building Bulletin 91: Access for Disabled People to School Buildings (published by DCFS)
- Building Bulletin 94: Inclusive School Design (published by DCFS)

The building is designed to be fully accessible to all members of society, the design of the building is inclusive for children who may be dependent upon wheelchairs or have varying degrees of visual or aural impairment. All visitors access the building via the same entrance; no segregation occurs. The new building is fully accessible a disabled WC provided.