Bridgewater Primary School
Design + Access Statement
March 2013

Construction of a new single storey teaching block with 9 classrooms, staff room and small hall to enable the school intake to increase from 420 to 630 places. Relocation of the school office and main entrance in the existing building. External works including a new hard surfaced all weather pitch, enlarged staff car park, dedicated on-site pupil drop-off, widening of the school access road and enlarged attenuation pond.
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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 Bridgewater Primary School in Northampton.

Full planning approval is sought for the construction of a new single storey, nine classroom teaching block and associated external works at Bridgewater Primary School, to enable the school intake to increase from 420 to 630 places (2 to 3 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 420 pupils. This is based on 60 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 9992sqm. The proposal involves a single storey stand alone block located to the north of the existing school, with a gross internal floor area of 969sqm. The existing school building has a gross internal floor area of 2290sqm. Works will also include relocating the existing pupil and visitor access to the front end of the existing building to provide improved access. It is also proposed that the staff car park be increased in size, a dedicated on-site pupil drop-off/pick-up area be created on site, enabled through the widening of the site access road. Also a new hard surfaced games court is to be created and the existing attenuation pond be increased in size to accommodate additional water run-off.

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 Bridgewater Primary, details of how the brief was developed and a 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 included a period of consultation with a final Cabinet Member decision in 2012.

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 Lings 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.
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 new housing development. The BBC Politics Show on 25 November 2012 featured Northamptonshire in its item on rising demand for primary school places, including input from Northamptonshire County Council officers and the Portfolio Holder. There is particular pressure in Northampton town and Northamptonshire County Council expects that over 4,000 primary places need to be added into the system by September 2014.

The proposed expansion at Bridgewater Primary aims to add 210 places into the Abington Vale area of Northampton by making the school three forms of entry (630 pupils) instead of the current two (420 pupils). The next three nearest primary schools have already increased their capacity (Weston Favell, Abington Vale and Standens Barn) and the three primaries in the town centre (Stimpson Avenue, Barry Road and Vernon Terrace) do not have large enough sites to expand. The extra places at Bridgewater therefore meet the need in the immediate Abington Vale area and provide capacity at the next nearest school to the town centre, where the greatest pressure exists.

Bridgewater Primary was newly built in 2007 as part of the PFI contract to support the schools’ re-organisation from three to two tier and has operated as a primary school from the former middle school site. The school benefits from a large site area of 2.8 hectares, extra provision of playing fields and changing rooms. The school is oversubscribed and filled an extra 30 Reception places in September 2012 through the provision of temporary mobile classrooms.

The statutory consultation process regarding expansion has been undertaken and the Public Notice was published on 8 November 2012. The period of representation concluded on Thursday 6 December 2012 and Northamptonshire County Council did not receive any responses to this stage of the consultation. Consultation responses at stage 1 were included in the report for the Cabinet Member Decision on 29 October 2012. Two particular concerns were raised as below:

| The extra children that attend the school will not be from the local area. | Analysis of the September 2012 Reception intake indicates that the first 60 places were allocated to: 1 pupil with exceptional medical / social needs; 31 siblings; 13 pupils who live closer to the school than any other and 15 out of 108 other pupils using the distance tiebreaker. The last pupil to be allocated a place within the others criterion lives 0.648 miles from the school. When the additional 30 places were made available, the pupil living the furthest distance from the school was 1.059 miles. |
| Car-parking and traffic congestion will increase and it is already a bad situation. | The proposed school extension addresses the traffic issues: additional car-parking is provided on site and it is proposed to develop a turning circle and drop-off zone for parents to use at key times of the school day. The Governing Body also has a responsibility to update its School Travel Plan and the local PCSO has been involved in design discussions along with representation from Highways. |
The Governing Body unanimously voted to support the proposed expansion to three forms of entry at its meeting in September 2012. The Headteacher and Governing Body have been involved in specifying the scope of works and are contributing funding to the overall package of works. This has involved a review of how the wrap-around and after-school facilities are provided on site and accessed out of school hours.

A pre-planning consultation session was held on 16 January 2012 to provide the opportunity for parents and local residents to see the plans prior to the planning application being submitted. A number of factors have influenced the favoured design option and the location of a stand-alone block of additional accommodation:

- Site restrictions including the drain and habitat area.
- Classroom organisation of three classes per year group.
- Other site users including the Nursery and “Woodies” After-School Club.
- Aim to minimise disruption on school operation during construction.
- Minimal works to the existing new building.
- Aim to improve car-parking and parent drop-off arrangements.
- Mitigate the visual impact on neighbouring properties that are closest to the site boundaries.

Consultation

This Planning Statement has been prepared by Architecture Initiative, who have been appointed by Northampton Schools Limited Partnership to develop a proposal for Bridgewater 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.

Bridgewater 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, teachers, parents and local community as well as NCC planning department and other relevant consultees to the planning process.

Refer to the Consultation section in the accompanying planning statement for details of the consultation that has taken place.
3.0 Context

Bridgewater Primary School is currently a 2FE mixed primary school for children of 5-11yrs with a current intake of 420 pupils. It is located to the east of Northampton town centre in the Weston Ward, the site is located in a mainly residential area, with two large clusters of allotments also in the vicinity, to the north and south east of the school site. The surrounding residential buildings are relatively homogeneous, mainly consisting of detached and semi detached two storey houses.

The site is bounded by an empty site of the previously demolished school to the north, which is owned by Northamptonshire County Council and is designated for residential development and allotment gardens and an area recognised by Northampton Borough Council as ‘Proposed Recreational Leisure’ to the east. To the west and south, the gardens of the two storey semi detached and detached houses back on to the site boundary.

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. The site is however located in an area at risk of sewer flooding. An attenuation pond is present on site to mitigate the potential effects of flooding. 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 properties gardens and the allotments. Care has been taken to ensure that the new development is sympathetic to view from these nearby residences.
3.1 The School Site

The school building is located near the eastern boundary of the 2.9ha site, with a hard play area to the south of the existing building and grass pitches and soft play spaces stretching along the west of the school grounds.

The only pedestrian and vehicular site access point is located from a long access road, off Bridgewater Drive. There is an on-site car park for staff and disabled visitors in front of the school building. The refuse and recycling bins are also located in this area.

The 2.9ha school site is fenced and it contains a few trees (none of which have TPOs). There is a fenced attenuation pond to the north of the existing school building, which has been transformed into a habitat area and pond. A private nursery is located near the site entrance at the north of the school site.

As can be seen from the photographs on the following pages, the school building is a mixture of single and two storey elements, all with flat roofs and of relatively modern architectural language; rectilinear forms of brightly coloured rendered panels with red brick sections and large glazed façades.
3.2 Site Photographs

On Site

Key plan showing views
3.2 Site Photographs

Off Site

Key plan showing views

1

2
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 Bridgewater Primary School to suit the specific constraints of the site and educational requirements of the school. To maintain external play space and deliver an exemplary, 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, Bridgewater 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 insure 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 small as possible it was decided form the outset that all additional accommodation required would be provided in a new stand-alone building. Any works to the existing school building are also 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).

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 2 to 3 forms of entry. This was completed in conjunction with the school in order to ensure that the best educational solution was reached.
**Existing School Analysis**

The main circulation routes runs directly through the center of the school on a north south access. The classrooms are currently orientated along the west side of this circulation route with views out over the soft play areas and grass pitches to the western side of the school site.

A main consideration in a 3FE school is that the three classrooms in each year group are kept as a group, so with this in mind 21 classrooms in 7 groups are required in the enlarged 3FE school (as well as other support and shared accommodation).

As previously noted, 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 nine additional classrooms and associated accommodation (such as WC’s and stores) would be required, as well as a new staff room and small hall, for the school to enlarge to a 3FE intake of 630 pupils. It was also decided to to relocate the main entrance to the existing building to it’s northern end in order to improve access and circulation.
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 located on an area of existing hard play space and would have a detrimental affect on the schools sports facilities. It is also very close to neighbouring residential properties. Option C is situated on the existing pond and ecological area that cannot be relocated due to the possibility of housing species of protected newts. Option D is located in the area where the school car park currently is. This location does not work because it is not possible to fit the extension block in this space.

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 arrangement of the school sand its grounds and play areas.
4.3 Brief Requirements

In order for Bridgewater Primary School to become a 3FE school, nine 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. An efficient footprint and use of space is achieved by integrating group areas and support spaces within the circulation areas.

Ingredients

- Small Hall and Staff Room
- Classrooms
- Support Spaces
  - (W.C’s, Stores etc)
- Group Area
- 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 in the new build block. The classrooms are in threes 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.
The new teaching block is arranged as three groups of classrooms 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. All of the classrooms have full height windows on the external wall to maximise natural daylight. Internally each space meets the requirements of a modern teaching environment.

The classrooms all have external doors to allow direct access to 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 hub room. A portion of the circulation space doubles up to provide a group area/break out space.

<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>9</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Room</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support Spaces</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pupil WCs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled WCs</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff WCs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</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>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Store</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Area</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hub/Server</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Room</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Partitions</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total GIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>970</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.1 Layout

External Works

The entrance road to the school will be widened with a new pupil drop-off / parent waiting area. The existing staff car park will be extended, creating new parking spaces. The private nursery near the main entrance to the school will receive its own dedicated entrance gate with a new ‘air lock’ fence. There will also be a new hard surfaced all-weather court. The attenuation pond will be increased in size as required.
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 height of the proposed new teaching block is similar to the single storey wings of the existing school building. The roof is flat, the same as much of the existing school building.

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 existing school building is of a modern architectural language; rectilinear forms, 1 and 2 storeys in height, of brightly coloured rendered panels with red brick sections and large glazed façades.

The proposed single storey teaching block fits well within the school site being of similar scale to the existing school building. Its positioning has been chosen so as not to interfere with the existing football pitches. The colours of the existing school building are mirrored in the proposed school building by matching the brick used and colouring the doors to match the brightly coloured render featured in the existing building. It was decided that for maintenance as well as aesthetic reasons the new building would be of brick and not coloured render.

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 a mixture of brightly coloured render and brickwork. The existing roof is entirely flat over both the single and two storey elements. The windows are grey aluminium frames in appearance.

The proposed new building relates to and directly responds to this design. The building is to be constructed from a red brick to match the existing school building. Windows are to be similar, made from grey aluminium frames. The coloured render of the existing building will be mirrored in the proposed building by making the doors a matching colour to the variety of bright render colours. A grey aluminium coping to the top of the building will be similar in colour to the existing school roof.

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

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

Material study of existing elevation

Example of proposed facing brickwork (colour to match existing brickwork)

Sample of elevational view
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.

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.

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.

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

Single storey height to match existing school building.

The internal skirting visually aligns with the external window finish and also reduces maintenance.
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 ventilated via mid-level opening windows situated on each of the adjacent external walls. They are shallow enough to enable single sided ventilation.

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

The external spaces at Bridgewater Primary are a great asset to the school and local area; the grass pitches and hard play areas to the south and west of the school site and soft play/habitat areas to the north.

It is paramount that the construction of the new teaching accommodation not impact negatively 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. The proposal was situated in order to ensure minimal impact on the school's hard play areas and grass pitches as well as the habitat area.

Provision for staff car parking and pupil drop off has been addressed by providing a new car park and drop off/parent waiting area in front of the existing school building and providing better access to the main entrance to the site by widening the access road.

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 new teaching block is partially sited on the schools playing field meaning some grassy playing field is lost to the new building, however, the scheme delivers a net increase in usable sports pitches for the school, thereby satisfying Sport England's requirements. By partially sitting the new building on the playing field area approximately 400 sqm of usable space is lost, but by providing a new hard, all weather pitch approximately 500 sqm of sports pitch is added to the school sports pitch provision. A net increase of approximately 100 sqm of sports pitch will be added to the school.
5.7 Ecology

Due to the close proximity of the habitat area / attenuation tank to the proposed construction sites, a habitat survey has been carried out to determine the effect on which any development will have on this area. A summary of this is described below. Please see the full habitat survey for further details.

Desk Study

The purpose of the desk study was to collect baseline data held by statutory and non-statutory consultees and to obtain any views they may have about the proposals. A secondary purpose of the desk study was to collect records of species that may not be present at the time of survey and identify any protected species or habitats which may potentially be affected by the proposals. Information was requested for the site as well as a 2km radius around the site in line with the IEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2012). This information was gathered from Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC) (with the full information presented in Appendix II of the Habitat survey report).

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The aim of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was to provide information to establish the ecological value of the site and to determine any further assessments. During the Phase 1 Habitat Survey the dominant plant species present were recorded and the habitats classified according to their vegetation types. This information is presented in accordance with the standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey format with habitat descriptions and a habitat map (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2010), presented in Appendix III. In addition Target Notes providing supplementary information, for example relating to species, composition, structure and management are also presented on the Habitat map. In addition invasive weeds were also searched for during the Phase 1 Habitat Survey. This assessment has followed the current baseline ecological survey guidance as set out in the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management’s Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2012).

Great Crested Newts

The Great Crested Newts are a European protected species and there is the potential for their presence on the school site. A newt survey has been carried out to determine whether there are newts present in the habitat area / attenuation pond. The survey has been completed and no evidence of Great Crested Newts has been found on or nearby the school site.
6.0 **Access**

**Entering the Site**

Pedestrian / bicycle access
The site can be accessed by pedestrians from the main access located to the north of the school site, off Bridgewater Drive.

Pick up/Drop off
As is the current arrangement, 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 proposed drop off/ waiting area.

Teaching hours
During teaching hours, all access gates to the secure part of the site are secured. Visitors can still access the car park 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 be securely closed. All visitors will have to wait off-site for the facilities manager to allow them access.

Entrance road widened
Due to the anticipated increase in traffic to the school, the access road to the main school gate is to be widened to 5 metres.

Nursery Access
A new dedicated entrance to the private nursery has been added close to the main school gates.

New teaching block
Access to the new teaching block will be via an external hardstanding path from the main school building to the new teaching block.

**Parking**

For this section the Northamptonshire County Council’s Supplementary Planning Guidance (March 2003) was consulted with regards to parking standards.

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 Bridgewater Primary School this adds up to 105 cycle parking spaces, 5 for each of the 21 classes. NCC planners advised that additional spaces can be added incrementally, as required by the school. At its current 2 form entry size (420 pupils) very few pupils currently cycle to school. It is hoped that as they expand to 3 form entry, pupils will be encouraged to cycle to school. Therefore it is proposed that 10 additional cycle spaces be provided, 30 in total, to meet future requirements.
Car parking
Twenty additional spaces are proposed in the staff car park and overflow facility increasing provision to 51 spaces, to allow for the increase in staff in line with 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 are currently five disabled spaces to the entrance of the school.

Pick-up / Drop-off
A dedicated on-site pick-up and drop-off area is created on site. This will be monitored by members of staff and the school site manager.

Delivery access / parking
All delivery vehicles to the school or school kitchen enter the school site off Bridgewater Drive. The proposed pupil drop off provides through access so there is no need for vehicles to reverse.

Maintenance
Refuse collection
The bin store is located adjacent to the new pupil drop-off area on the school site (including for recycling bins). Refuse collection will occur via the Bridgewater Drive site entrance. There is no change in location of refuse collection. The refuse vehicle can enter and exit the site in forward gear. For further information refer to the auto track analysis in the transport statement.

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

Emergency Access
To occur via the Bridgewater Drive site entrance through the car park, with vehicular access gates in to 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.

Please refer to the Transport Statement, School Travel Plan and access drawing for further details.