

All Saints Seven Hills BSF Scheme Summary
16/09/09

Scheme Position: Submitted for planning approval, July 2009

Commencement on site: November 2009.

Expected Completion Date: September 2011.

Scheme budget: £27,000,000

New build teaching - 5312m², Refurbished teaching - 7124m², New caretakers house - 101m²

The All Saints Catholic High School is located on Granville Road approximately half a mile from Sheffield city centre. The site is well served by public transport and is short walking distance from train and bus stations. The adjacent Norfolk Heritage Park and the tree lined school boundary give the site a pleasant green aspect.

The Seven Hills is a new special education needs school and is to be located on the same campus as All Saints Catholic High school. The co-location aims to provide innovative opportunities for both schools to exploit and maximise inclusive learning opportunities.

The two schools are to be linked physically and will share key elements of accommodation. This will include a shared suite of post-16 facilities providing integrated sixth form learning and social space. Dining areas, recreational and sports facilities will be shared by pupils across the campus and staff will also have the opportunity to work together through access to a range of work and meeting facilities.

The original school building was constructed in 1960 and consists of a four and two storey building, together with a separate two storey block connected by an open bridge at first floor level. The four storey block consists of concrete frame with brick plinth to the ground floor and steel curtain wall to the upper floors and flat felted roof. The two storey block is identical to the four storey leg.

The later extensions include two storey steel frame buildings. The external envelope is mainly brick with timber frame windows linked to the original building at first floor level via glazed bridge links.

There are four mobile classrooms on site which will be demolished and the accommodation provided in the new extension.

The school also benefits from new Sports facility built on site in 2006 which comprises of two sports halls with changing facilities, sport science laboratory, therapy and sensory rooms and 10 floodlit synthetic 5-a-side football pitches.

There is also a caretaker's house which will be relocated and rebuild on site.

PROPOSED SITE ACCESS ORGANISATION

Access will be required for minibuses bringing pupils at the start and collecting them at the end of the day, for staff and visitors arriving by car and for delivery, refuse and emergency vehicles. Vehicular and pedestrian needs be separated and clearly identifiable, however, there will be some conflicts around the

site entrance that need to be diminished. The scheme therefore proposes to create a one-way system for staff and mini-buses through the site with access from Norfolk Park Road. This enables the site to be used for 25 mini-buses queuing to drop off student to Seven Hills.

The school days of All Saints and Seven Hills are staggered which ensures that all the All Saints staff and pupils will be starting the school day before the minibuses start arriving.

It is proposed that the existing parking spaces allocated to the sports facility are made available to staff and visitors to the special school during the school day, as these are mostly used in the evenings by users of the Goals faculties. Other existing parking to the North of the site will be retained and developed whilst the mini-bus parking will double up as visitor parking during the day.

The main pedestrian access will remain from Granville Road through the main school gates. A new entrance plaza will be formed to prioritise pedestrian access. This will provide a welcoming, identifiable feature that provides access for all.

THE BUILDINGS

The design proposals have been developed to utilise the existing spaces in the All Saints site and complement these with appropriate areas of new build.

The dining areas of both schools needed to be shared to utilise the existing kitchen, and this requirement set the location of the new build elements and the approach to level changes across the site.

The new build Seven Hills located to the west side of the existing buildings will create a new entrance for both schools seen from the site entrance and the main pedestrian access. A new mall which will link the entrance to the dining spaces will form the spine of All Saints linking the existing facilities. Community areas will be located on the ground floor whilst the large hall, chapel and gym will be adapted to create dance and drama areas in a suite on the first floor. Highly serviced areas, such as DT or those requiring specific acoustic requirements, such as music, will be located in the All Saints new build whilst the remaining blocks are to be refurbished / remodelled. In most departments a number of internal walls are to be removed creating large, flexible spaces supported by a mix of classroom, breakout areas and tutorial spaces.

Seven Hills layout is designed around a courtyard, enabling the classrooms on the West side of the existing buildings to retain their light and aspect. The therapy block, the main community facility, will be located close to the main entrance at the end of the mall. A mix of general teaching and specialist rooms is then located on both floors supported by stores, group rooms and sensory classrooms. Single sided corridors enable links with the courtyards and create the visual link between the site entrance and playfields.

Toilet and hygiene rooms will be located throughout the proposals and will match those provided in All Saints to provide a uniform design approach.

The upper floor of Seven Hills will be accessed from the west block of All Saints and by new stairs and two large lifts.

The 6th form areas of both schools will be co-located to the south of the proposals in part of the new build of Seven Hills and part of the refurbished areas of existing building.

Staff facilities will be similarly split between shared areas in All Saints and Seven Hills promoting a unified campus.

The external design has been developed to create various hard and soft areas of landscape that is an important contributory educational resource for the school.

SUMMARY

The following specific measures have been integrated into the proposed development:

- Extensive reuse of existing structures
- Retention of the maximum practicable quantity of existing landscaping and trees, with special attention paid to retaining the highest quality specimens
- Use of environmental modelling to maximize natural ventilation and daylight through building design
- Provision of habitat roofs
- Provision of recreation decks on roofs, reducing the requirement for hard landscaping
- Use of locally sourced materials and/or BRE "A" rated materials wherever possible
- Use of thermally efficient high-performance windows in the new-build
- Provision of external solar shading to control solar gain through south elevations
- Provision of high levels of insulation in the new-build, informed by the use of thermal modelling to optimise building envelope u-values
- Improvements to thermal performance of existing building where elements are refurbished or replaced
- Design for inherent robustness & longevity
- Incorporation of local project renewables as teaching resource, i.e. access to bio-diverse roof
- A commitment to achieving a BREEAM "very good" rating
- Provision of automatic lighting system to supplement and enhance daylight levels
- Design of artificial lighting to supplement any insufficient daylight levels
- Provision of dimmable lighting controls to provide a smooth transition between varying light conditions
- Provision of infrared movement detectors with delay settings within ancillary areas

External areas:

- Welcoming entrance plaza with improved vehicular and pedestrian routes and access

- A variety of different play areas will be provided to take into account the differing needs of the pupils from both schools. These include hard play areas, a contained play area for boisterous play and quiet seating areas.

- Habitat area and science garden as educational spaces
- Teaching terraces linked to classrooms
- Areas where pupils from both schools can mix and socialise together
- Open greenspace with sports pitches
- Kick about space and 10No all weather 5-a-side pitches
- A separate area for post-16 pupils is to be provided through roof terraces
- Existing mature trees retained where possible
- Formal tree and shrub planting
- Cycle provisions
- Fencing to form secure boundary from Granville Road