

Purbrook Park School

Trust School and Language College

Headteacher: Paul Foxley MA



Author KGE

Purbrook Park School Site Development Statement July 2014

Introduction

Purbrook Park School, a popular and oversubscribed school for many years suffered from a shortage of teaching spaces until the 1980s. In 1987 when numbers declined to approximately 850 children, the temporary classroom huts were removed from the school playing fields. Little additional building has been added to the school since then.

The Local Authority has invested in some Capital Projects in partnership with the school including re-roofing the main school building. The School purchases a Service Level Agreement from the Local Authority to ensure the buildings are maintained to a reasonable standard, however Devolved Capital Income has reduced by over 80 % over 5 years which means the school has not been able to improve school facilities during this period.

The school works hard to accommodate changes to the curriculum when they arise, by carefully timetabling the facilities available to us. When absolutely essential the Local Authority has invested in the School to meet pressing curriculum needs. For example in 2011 an IT classroom was extended and converted into a Food Technology room. Whilst this enabled us to meet the curriculum with regard to Food Technology, this left the school with one less IT suite, at a time when Computer Technology had to be taught across key stages 3 and 4.

KEY AREAS ADRESSED BY THE DEVELOPMENT

1 Not all teachers have a dedicated classroom

- Every teacher will have their own classroom dedicated to a particular subject with the correct resources in place
- A consistent classroom for each teaching group will have a positive impact on pupils' organisation and behaviour, and again the correct teaching and learning resources will be in place
- Departments will be housed together to encourage collaborative working and sharing of resources
- Classes will begin promptly as all pupils will know where to find their timetabled class
- Classes that are not timetabled in a specific classroom generally start on average 5-10 minutes late, this means that a teacher without a dedicated room loses approximately 12 % of their teaching time or 109 hours per academic year

2 Food Technology has to be taught outside of the Standard Timetabled Teaching Week, after 3pm

- Food Technology will be taught during the school day. Pupils and Staff will not have to work outside of a normal working day to enable all pupils to meet the minimum required Food Technology lessons per week.
- Food Technology theory lessons will be taught in a specialist teaching space.

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3 Pupils are unable to access IT facilities during lessons and for independent learning

- Teachers will be able to lesson plan, to include bookable IT facilities to meet their curriculum plan, and pupils will be able to carry out and conclude course work during the school day.
- Pupils will be able to meet more than the minimum requirement teaching time for Computer Science.

4 Performing Arts will have a purpose built teaching area which meets all Health & Safety requirements

- Currently lessons have to be cancelled in the dance studio (formerly an outdoor science room) when certain weather conditions prevail, as condensation makes the floors slippery. The room does not have a sprung floor, the ceiling is too low and there are no mirrors. Considerable investment in the teaching space including a new floor and air conditioning has failed to remedy the problem. Classes cannot always be rescheduled in the hall as other school functions, i.e. exams, assemblies and lunch break, are also timetabled in this space, which is not yet an ideal teaching space.
- The school has no school choir, orchestra, music ensembles, or school bands as there is not a space for them to rehearse.
- There is not a dedicated Music Technology area for pupils to record their GCSE music and only 1 music practice room for peripatetic music teaching; this results in poor uptake of individual music lessons and music as a GCSE subject at Key Stage 4. This has had an impact upon uptake of GCSE music at key stage 4 and GCSE results in music.

5 The site will be DDA compliant

- Currently wheelchair users are unable to access, the main school building, the first floor classrooms, and disabled toilets. Pupils on crutches are unable to access any classrooms on the 1st floor which means they miss valuable teaching time.
- The holistic approach favoured by MH Architects has considered every aspect of the school environment, and identified mobility and fluidity around the site as being one of the key factors which needed addressing in their designs across the split level campus. Completion of the proposed works in 2017 will make the whole School DDA compliant which means that every child who chooses to come to Purbrook Park will be able to do so with dignity, and engage in all aspects of school life.

6 Lack of Social areas for pupils including dining facilities

- The school is committed to improving the lifestyle choices and health of pupils through diet and exercise. The school Dining room can only seat 200 covers, this means that priority must be given to pupils purchasing a hot meal from school. Packed lunches are eaten in the hall or often 'on the hoof'. The additional dining space will double the amount of children able to access and eat hot food during the school day, and children will not need to eat in corridors or classrooms.
- The improved indoor and out door breakout areas will give children space to eat packed lunches and relax in a safe and tranquil environment between classes.



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Demographics of the Havant Area

The demand for school places in the Havant Area has declined during the last five years however the demography of the area suggests that there will be an increase in demand for School places for 11-16 year olds with growth forecast from 2016-17. Purbrook Park School needs to be prepared to accommodate these children with sufficient outstanding teaching spaces.

Graph identifying the decline and forecast of pupil numbers at PPS from 2010

