Hampshire County Council

Property Services

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Bosmere Junior School

Assembly Hall Environmental Improvements

P14865

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Bosmere Middle School – now Bosmere Junior School – was designed in 1981–1982 and constructed between 1982 and 1983 by the Hampshire County Council Architect's Department. The project architects were Nev Churcher, Peter Galloway and Mervyn Perkins, with Perkins later designing a small extension in the late 1980s. The building received a commendation in the 1986 RIBA Architecture Awards and was designated a Grade II listed building in 2017 for its special architectural and historic interest.

The assembly hall currently experiences summer overheating which limits its usability. Listed Building Consent is therefore required for alterations to mitigate the overheating issues.

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE HERITAGE

2.1 Location and Setting

Havant is situated in south-east Hampshire near Langstone Harbour and the Hayling Island crossing, approximately 13 km from Portsmouth and 14 km from Chichester. The town centre retains its historic medieval street pattern, formed around the junction of the former Roman roads of West Street, North Street, East Street and South Street. St Faith's Church (c.1150), a Grade II listed building, occupies the south-west corner of this junction and gives its name to the surrounding conservation area.

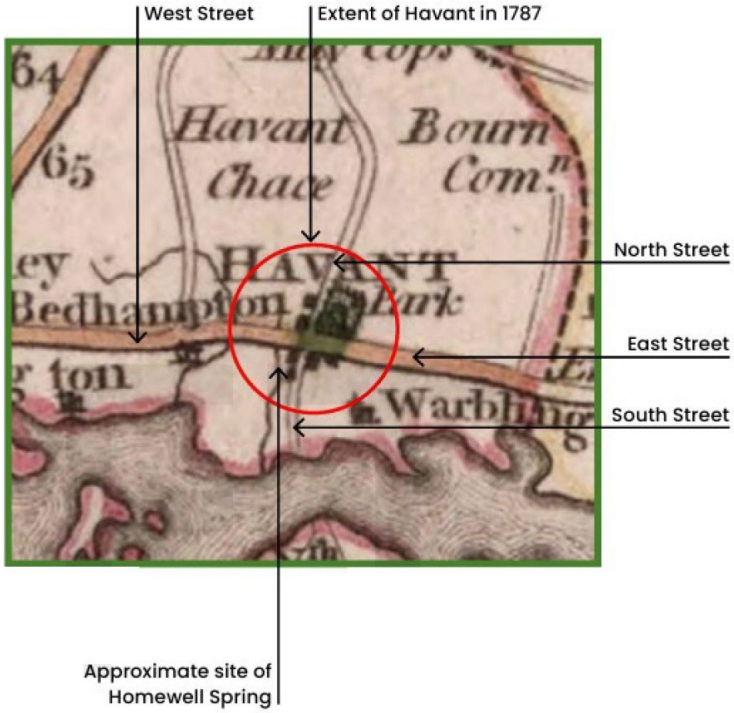


Figure 1:
John Cary's 1787 map of Hampshire illustrates Havant as a small settlement, arranged around the junction of two former Roman roads and functioning at that time as a modest market town.

Designated in 1994, the St Faith's Conservation Area encompasses the historic core of Havant, incorporating the principal street intersection, adjoining 19th- and 20th-century suburban development and the former parchment works at Homewell Spring.

South Street, once a principal route through the town, was shortened following the construction of the A27 bypass and now functions predominantly as a residential street.

The junction of the A27 and Park Road South defines the southern and western boundaries of the conservation area.

Bosmere Junior School, located at the southern end of South Street, forms a prominent local landmark, with grounds bordered by the A27 to the south and Park Road South to the west. Opposite the school is Newnham House, an early 19th-century Grade II listed building now in office use (see Figure 2).

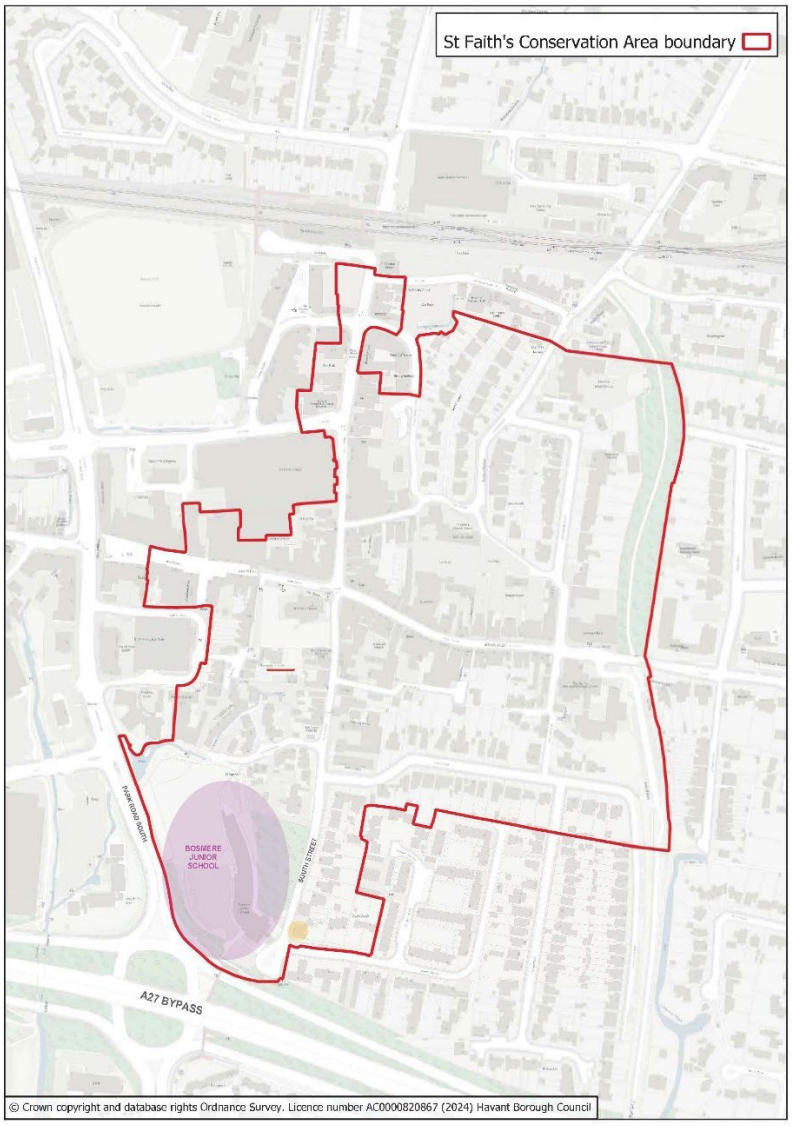


Figure 2:
Locations of Grade II Listed Bosmere Junior School (highlighted pink) and Grade II Listed Newnham House (highlighted yellow) within the St Faith's Conservation Area (boundary indicated by red line).

2.2 Architectural & Pedagogical Background

During the design and construction of Bosmere Junior School, the Hampshire County Council Architect's Department – led by Sir Colin Stansfield Smith – produced a distinctive and highly regarded body of educational architecture. The department's work represented a clear move away from system-built school models, instead adopting bespoke structural solutions that utilised traditional materials, expressive roof forms and carefully considered spatial planning. Within this context, Bosmere Junior School exemplifies the department's commitment to high-quality, child-centred design. Its emphasis on natural light, legible circulation and adaptable teaching spaces reflects the educational priorities of the era, aligning architectural ambition with evolving pedagogical approaches in Hampshire.

The building adopts a linear plan with a gentle double curve aligned north–south, a form dictated by the constraints of the site. To maintain continuity of school operations during construction, the new structure was positioned between existing prefabricated buildings and carefully aligned to avoid three mature trees and a small copse. This strategy produced a distinctive "tadpole-like" layout comprising a compact southern block containing the assembly hall, kitchen and administrative functions linked to an extended teaching wing via a glazed entrance.

The construction combines brick cavity walls with a laminated timber frame. Skylights and larger glazed elements are set within slender, red-painted metal frames, complemented by timber joinery used for windows, internal glazed screens and clerestory elements. The double-pitched slate roof is divided by a continuous double-glazed rooflight, which subtly varies along its length to accommodate changes in floor levels and room depths. The material palette prioritises durable, traditional construction methods while providing generous natural lighting.

The interior features a high level of architectural refinement and is sensitively scaled for its users. The dark-stained structural frame remains exposed throughout, complemented by finishes of red brick and natural timber boarding that provide texture and visual interest, enhanced by daylight admitted through skylights and clerestory glazing. The entrance sequence is carefully composed, incorporating paviours, low brick planters, glazed roofing and red entrance doors with circular

glazing. A red spiral staircase leads to an open bridge serving the staff room and administrative areas.

Figures 4 and 5:
Interior view of the glazed entrance atrium, demonstrating the building's architectural character through abundant natural light, warm brick and clay tile finishes with exposed timber frame and distinctive street-style lighting complemented by red-painted fixtures and fittings.

The teaching wing is arranged around an open circulation spine – the "internal street" which runs the length of the wing and links to the glazed entrance. Open to the roof structure, this space incorporates gentle curves and subtle level changes to enhance acoustics, improve privacy and create a more intimate environment. Practical rooms occupy the western side, while elevated small-group learning spaces overlook the street. Classrooms are placed to the east to maximise views and connection to the landscape. This layout reflects the principles of the 1967 Plowden Report, promoting flexible learning spaces, strong links to nature and dedicated areas for small-group teaching.

Figures 6 and 7:
Interior views of the teaching wing's split-level 'street', overlooked by small-group learning spaces and characterised by natural materials, generous daylight and street-style light fittings.

This distinctive, child-focused interior is further animated by red-painted fixtures, white globe "street-light" fittings in the entrance and internal street and exposed ventilation ductwork, which introduces playful, rocket-like features to the open-plan group spaces.

3.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 Evidential Value

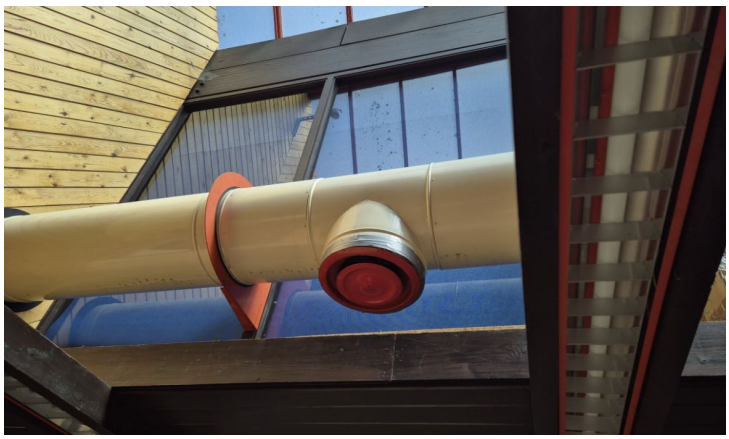
The school remains largely unchanged since construction, making it one of the most intact examples of Hampshire's forward-thinking school design from its period.

3.2 Historical Value

The school represents a notable example of innovative educational architecture developed by the Hampshire County Council Architect's Department during a nationally important phase of school building. The layout supports varied teaching styles, with direct outdoor access from every classroom and a carefully considered mix of practical and quiet spaces.

3.3 Aesthetic Value

Quality of materials and detailing: the interior demonstrates a high standard of materials and detailing, combining warm brick, clay floor tiles and stained timber with distinctive street-style circulation lighting. Red-painted fittings – including internal doors, metal handrails, radiators, suspended lighting and slender metal glazing frames – provide consistent visual accents throughout. The exposed ventilation ductwork is a deliberate architectural feature that contributes to the building's character and enhances the visual interest of the internal environment.



Figures 8 and 9:
Interior views of the teaching wing's central circulation spine and adjoining small-group learning spaces, highlighting the use of natural materials, red-painted fittings and generous daylighting. The exposed ventilation ductwork, accented in red, contributes to the building's visual character.

The school's traditional materials, inventive sectional planning and generous glazing create a distinctive environment appropriate to children.

3.4 Communal Value

Navigation and orientation: The school building and its grounds form a prominent landmark within the local area. The school's linear form and mature, tree-filled grounds – many protected by Tree Preservation Orders – create an effective buffer between the conservation area and nearby road infrastructure, helping to preserve the quiet, semi-rural character of South Street.

Collective resource: the school is an important educational and community asset for Havant and the wider area. Alongside its primary role in educating local children, the school hosts a wide range of events and activities throughout the year. The assembly hall plays a key role in supporting these functions and contributes significantly to the school's ongoing success and community engagement.

3.5 Summary of Significance

Bosmere Junior School, for the values outlined above, is considered a building of recognised heritage significance, both nationally and within the local community.

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

4.1 Proposed changes to Bosmere Junior School

The proposals are defined on the submitted drawings P14865 HCC M-8800 P1, P14865 HCC M-8801 P1 and P14865-A-301 T1

4.1.1 Installation of 2No. new high-level, wall mounted heat pump units below the internal windows complete with refrigeration, condensate drain and wiring enclosed in the white PVC trunking below running below the units.

4.1.2 Installation of 5No. high-level, electric destratification fans within the assembly hall, mounted to the sides of the two downstand structural timber beams supporting the roof.

Figures 14 and 15:
Images showing the two proposed types of destratification fan to be installed.

4.1.3 Creation of 2No. new high level holes in the east wall of the assembly hall, 50x50mm, to accommodate a new high-level refrigeration pipework and all associated wiring from the external condensing unit.

4.1.4 Installation of a new low-level, wall mounted external heat pump unit adjacent to the existing units, located on the external elevation facing service path and not visible from the road.

4.1.5 Addition of solar filming to South West facing wall of the school hall

4.2 Statement of Impact

Installation of a new high-level, wall mounted heat pump units:

The impact of the heat pump units will be negligible in terms of harm to the fabric of the building, and as they are surface mounted the installation is also reversible.

Installation of five high-level, electric destratification fans:

The impact of the fansunits will be negligible in terms of harm to the fabric of the building, and as they are surface mounted the installation is also reversible.

Installation of a new low-level, wall mounted external condenser unit:

The impact of this unit will be negligible in terms of harm to the fabric of the building, and as they are surface mounted the installation is also reversible. The pump is located within the service area of the building adjacent to two other existing pumps.

Installation of solar control film.

The physical impact of this installation will be negligible in terms of harm to the fabric of the building, as the film is fully removable. Visually it will have moderate impact on the appearance of the elevation.

4.3 Justification and Mitigation

The assembly hall suffers from considerable summertime overheating, restricting its effective use. Upgrading the mechanical ventilation system and addition of solar film is therefore necessary to enable the building to continue to function adequately.

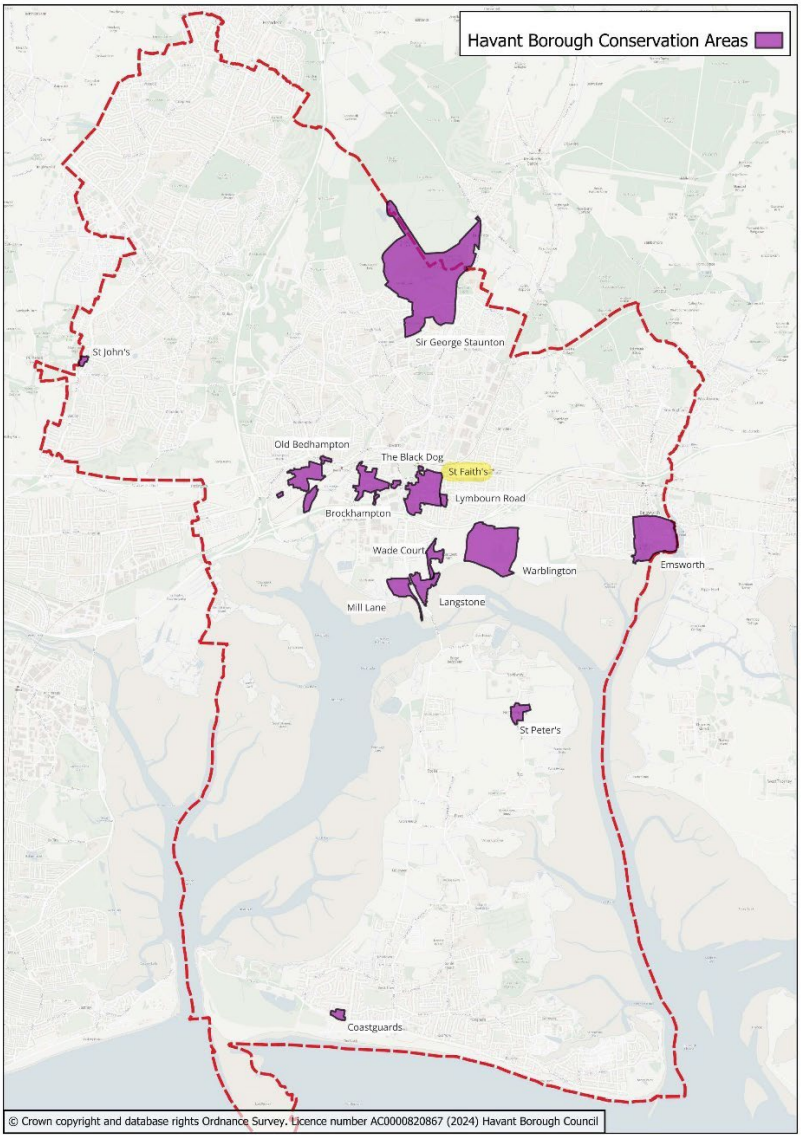
Overall, the proposals will enhance the environmental performance and operational use of the assembly hall, while remaining sensitive to the building's architectural and historic character. The works will preserve the heritage significance of Bosmere Junior School as a Grade II listed asset.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Plowden, B. (1967). Children and Their Primary Schools: A Report of the Central Advisory Council of Education England. London: H.M.S.O.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A – Map of Conservation Areas within the Havant Borough Council boundary



Note: St Faith's Conservation Area is situated at the centre of the town (highlighted yellow).