

Design and Access Statement – April 2024

Whitehaven Academy – Proposed Dining room and changing room extension

The Whitehaven Academy is a comprehensive co-educational secondary school with academy status, located in Whitehaven, in West Cumbria, England off the Cleator Moor Road and to the Southeast of Whitehaven Town Centre.

In mid 2018 the new sponsor for The Whitehaven Academy was named as Cumbria Education Trust.

The past three years have seen significant developments for the school with: rising student numbers; the expanding West Coast Sixth Form, improving academic performance, increasing capacity in staff and a successful move to the new build in spring 2022.

With the success of the school and student numbers rising Day Cummins was approached to consider proposals to extend with a new dedicated dining hall to expand the provision of dining space with a small servery to serve drinks and snacks. In addition the school advised the current sports and drama changing room facilities are not adequate in terms of what the existing changing rooms was able to accommodate and extension plans should also include expansion of the changing rooms. Any extension was to be located on the rear elevation connected and adjacent existing changing facilities.

The Site

To the rear of the school is a large tarmac play ground with the existing school building on two sides and landscape soft play area to the south. The area accommodates several picnic tables.



Google image



Existing Site Plan

Scale and Appearance

The proposal is for a single storey extension accommodating a dining room extension and two new changing rooms and located adjacent the existing sports hall and existing changing rooms. Proposed external materials are textured facing brick to match existing with a composite cladding at high level, single ply roof and aluminium powder coated windows and doors. A large roof overhang provides shade to the south facing windows and shelter over entrances.

Layout/Access

The dining room extension connects to the existing entrance lobby and stair on the rear elevation with a large open plan dining space and small servery which will provide snacks and

drinks. The changing rooms is adjacent the dining room with a corridor between providing access to the new changing rooms and leading to outside.

The extension is at ground floor level and fully accessible on the one level.

There is no increase in pupil numbers and toilets etc are located a short distance away within the existing school together with toilets within the new changing room extension.

Landscape

The building is sited on a tarmac play area so as no negative affect on Biodiversity. If required to provide a positive affect on Biodiversity trees and/or raised planters could be provided elsewhere on the site and could be a condition of any planning decision.

Drainage

The building is located on a drained tarmac area and therefore there would be no increase in surface water run off and it is proposed the new extension would connect to the existing drainage system which is attenuated before connections off site.

