DESIGN, ACCESS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

Peel Brow Primary School Fir St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 0BJ
Partial Safeguarding & Associated Works

at

Peel Brow Primary School Fir St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 0BJ

prepared by

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Introduction

This design, access and heritage statement has been prepared by LMM on behalf of Vision Multi Academy Trust and forms part of the planning application for providing new 2.4metre high fencing to the perimeter of the school for compliance with both t is also necessary for the school to comply with

The Department of Education School Output Specification 2023 and The Education (School Premises) Regulations: Section 6

Health, safety and welfare; along with the LPS(Loss Prevention Council 1175 A1 (SR1) grade of fencing. for keeping children safe.

The deficiencies in the fencing and gates identified where then addressed by way of application for grant funding based on the above guidelines.

Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016' - Without the improvements to safeguarding highlighted in the independent 'Report on Security Enhancement Recommendations', it is unlikely the school can fulfil its duties under the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016' and as such is non-compliant in its duty of safeguarding and as such will lose its outstanding OFSTED categorisation

This statement sets out the design principles and justification for the proposed work and its impact on the school. It is to the read in conjunction with the drawings and information submitted as part of the planning application.

Vision Multi Academy Trust and Peel Brow Primary School have been exploring options to provide a safeguarding environment for their pupils and staff in compliance with their obligations under the Education (School Premises) Regulations: School premises must be maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

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If approved, the school are aiming to commence works in Summer 2026.

Site Analysis – Description of Building

Peel Brow School is situation on the boundary of the Ramsbottom Conservation Area

The perimeter of the suite has had site has a Health and Safety report provided as part of the recent Condition Improvement Funding bids and this is attached.

The current boundary is deficient in respect of the

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The perimeter is separated from local adjacent buildings by various foliage and hedges. However, these do not provide the necessary security required by the regulations.

The open mesh fence which is SR1 rate is sympathetic to the environment and provides the necessary security for compliance with the regulations and has been used sympathetically in similar areas and does not detract from the local environment.

Project Need

The school has severe Safeguarding and Crime issues require the proposed fencing enclosure with controlled points of assess and egress to protect the pupils, staff and general public.

Accessible access to the school is maintained as pedestrian gates are a minimum 1000mm wide.

Local residential properties are not adjacent to the site and therefore the fencing would not impact on views significantly.

Historic Context

The google earth image clearly shows residential and foliage located on sides on the boundary.

This view will not be affected by the open mesh fencing proposed in the drawings attached.

Ramsbottom Conservation Area was originally designated in 1977 and extended in 1988 and 2004. At the time of the 2004 extension, the adjacent Tanners and Bury New Road Conservation Areas were designated.

Ramsbottom is located about five miles north of Bury in Greater Manchester, on the edge of the West Pennine Moors. It is a good example of a Pennine textile town which developed around the manufacturing and processing of cotton in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The town and its industry prospered from around 1800 to the early part of the 20th century. After a period of decline and the loss of many mill buildings, the conservation of the town's heritage has helped to build on its role as a visitor and shopping destination, and a popular stop on the East Lancs heritage railway.

By the early 1890s a dense pattern of terraced housing on streets to the north and south of Bridge Street, to the west and above Bolton Street and along Peel Brow had taken shape. Bolton Street had been substantially developed to the junction of Dundee Lane and Nuttall Lane, with a low-density suburb towards its south end.

Statement of Significance

The proposed fencing is not obstructing any views of the buildings or landscape mentioned in the Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan

Architectural Aesthetic

The open message fencing blend sin with the surround hedges and foliage to the boundary of the school.

Communal Value

Security to the local pupils and staff attending the school are paramount along with allowing the school to comply with their statutory obligations under the School Premises Regulations.

Sources

We have considered the following sources in assessment of these proposals:

The Education (School Premises) Regulations: School premises must be maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016' - Without the improvements to safeguarding highlighted in the independent 'Report on Security Enhancement Recommendations', it is unlikely the school can fulfil its duties under the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016' and as such is non-compliant in its duty of safeguarding and as such will lose its outstanding OFSTED categorisation.

To deter unwanted intruders, fencing and gates should be at least 2m high in a design certified to LPS 1175 **A1 (SR1)**.

Industry standards suggest that a security fence should be at least 2.4 feet tall. This height is considered sufficient to deter intruders from attempting to climb over.5 Jan 2024

British Standard-Compliant Fencing for Schools
The British Standards Institution (BSI), a highly respected standards agency, has established comprehensive guidelines for mesh steel fencing that are endorsed by the Department for Education. According to these guidelines, boundary fences should have a minimum height of 2.4 meters and employ a mesh with horizontal wires of at least 4.5mm thickness and vertical wires of at least 3.75mm thickness.

In line with Output Specification 2022(OS) Technical Annex 2B: External Space and Grounds, Section 8 Fencing and Barriers, 8.1 Boundary Fencing
8.1.1.1 – The new fence to the site boundary shall: -
(a) be a minimum of 2.4m in height
(b) panels of anti-climb weldmesh with no horizonal footholds

Design Proposals

The proposals are to provide 2.4-metre-high perimeter fencing as on the drawings and accessible gates to provide safe and secure areas for staff, pupils and visitors to and from the boundary.

The existing and proposed plans are included

The nature of the works does not affect the appearance significantly and the greater good of providing a safe environment for the children and compliance with the legislation previously stated should provide special consideration in respect of this application.

Historic Information

No historical structure is affected

Additional Design Comments

Controlling access to school premises. Schools need to keep their students safe, so all school grounds are private, and they control who is allowed in and when.

Fencing is a vital necessity within any educational setting as it plays two very important roles. It adds security and, it is aesthetically pleasing. Blocking any unauthorised visitors from accessing the premises keeps staff and students safe.

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Blocking any unauthorised visitors from accessing the premises keeps staff and students safe. Also preventing children from walking off the premises and putting themselves in unnecessary dangerous situations such as walking onto a busy road. Security fencing is often one of the first things a prospective parent or OFSTED inspector will look for when first arriving at the school.

Therefore, if you are installing security fencing into a school you need to be aware of its main aims, safety and aesthetics.

Under Occupiers Liability Act 1984 and places a duty of care to others such as trespassers, visitor who gain access to the occupier's land, and limitation to proceedings can be made by appropriate fencing, signage. Therefore, scaling a low-level fence increases risk of harm to trespassers whereas legal precedent set that scaling a 2.4 metre fence means that that person has come with intent and is therefore not offered the same decree of care by the occupier and cannot therefore seek compensation for injury.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

In compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework:

No works to obscure view of local heritage buildings is affected.

The fence is self-maintained and open mesh and whilst providing SR1 security rating is still open mesh and similar to that existing. It is also sympathetic in colour and will be green to blend in with the environment.

This makes a social contribution to the local area by protecting the local community children whilst at school.

It is considered that there is little or no effect on the detrimental views to the surrounding areas which will not outweigh the statutory requirement of safeguarding children.