

**LPA Ref: 69222 - OUR LADY OF LOURDES RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, RUDGWICK DRIVE
BL8 1YA - SE Ref: PA/23/NW/BUR/63778**

Sport England – Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly Paras 98 and 99) and assesses any application where comment is required in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (notably Paras 98 & 99) and against its own planning objectives, which are Protect - To protect the right opportunities in the right places; Enhance - To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision; Provide - To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations. Further information on the objectives and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within its 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document':

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all/part of a playing field, unless one or more of the five Exceptions stated in its policy apply.

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

This proposal seeks to create a single storey extension to form two additional classrooms, office, toilets and link corridor with external works to the KS1 play area and formation of an additional play area. This site contains a playing field which is over 0.2ha and is identified on Sport England's Active Places Power database as providing 2 existing mini soccer (7v7) pitches. Due to an approximate 10m southward protection of the proposed building and creation of additional play area, the proposal will result in the inability to use at least one of those pitches.

In addition, the provision of the haul road will result in the temporary loss of both pitches and the application has not demonstrated either the timescales or details for pitch re-instatement.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

The development would be constructed on playing field that in the past has been used for sports pitches, rendering the inability to use one of those pitches. Additionally, construction impacts resulting from the creation of the haul road and potentially developer compound/s are likely. There is insufficient information about precisely what will be required for these, how long they will be in place and what operations would be required to remove them and reinstate the playing field to an acceptable quality on completion. As such Sport England considers that the development does not accord with any of the Exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy or with Paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

No information has been provided by way of mitigation for the loss of the playing field during the course of construction.

Sport England notes with disappointment that work has been undertaken on the playing field between March 2017 and April 2018 creating a footpath which has resulted in the inability to mark out the previously 2 x 7v7 mini soccer pitches. The development to create the footpath does not appear to have had the benefit of planning permission and Sport England were not made aware of its creation. Were a consultation to take place, Sport England would raise a statutory objection as the footpath has resulted in the loss of the use of a significant part of the

playing field, restricting the space available to mark out pitches. As it stands, whilst enforcement action is within the jurisdiction of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Sport England would welcome the opinion from LPA on what their intended approach will be in this case.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Sport England **object** to the current proposal.

Should the local planning authority be minded to grant planning permission for the proposal, contrary to Sport England's objection then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Casework Unit.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, we would like to be notified in advance of the publication of any committee agendas, report(s) and committee date(s). We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me.

Yours sincerely
Planning Manager