



Sport England Summary Document

New Sports Hall for Redmoor Academy

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CONTENTS

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Sports Hall for Redmoor Academy
- 03 Proposals
- 04 Outdoor Sports
- 05 Response to Consultation

Appendices

- A Drawings
- B Room Data Sheets
- C Sports Hall Line Marking Options
- D Summer and Winter Pitch Layouts

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01. Introduction

Surveyors to Educations are working with Redmoor Academy to deliver a new sports hall at the School with changing rooms and additional classrooms within the grounds of the School.

In September 2023, S2e provided proposals for Sport England's review and comment as part of the planning pre-application advice request with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

This document seeks to provide the clarity requested by Sport England and supply further information in order to avoid an objection on the soon to be submitted planning application.

This document will cover the primary requirement for the Sports Hall for school use, outlines the proposals including the siting of the building and provide detail on the existing playing fields.

02. Sport Hall for Redmoor Academy

The Local Authority, Leicestershire County Council, require the school to increase their pupil numbers by 195 students by 2025. In order to meet this increase in capacity, the School needs to expand its estate to accommodate these staff and students.

It has been identified by the net capacity information from the Local Authority in 2022 that the key areas where the existing building fall below the required facilities for these students is in classroom provision and hall, dining, and PE space. These are desperately needed for the existing students. **A new sports hall building is required to meet this demand for existing and additional students.**

The existing assessment of the school identifies that the existing gym hall is undersized already and does not meet Building Bulletin 103 requirements for a secondary school of this size. The existing gym is only 217m², well below the minimum 4 court sports hall included in BB103 at 594m² (33m x 18m) let alone the Sport England required 4 court sports hall at 690m² (34.5m x 20m). The BB103 guidance states for a School of this proposed size, that an activity studio of at least 150m² is also required of which there is none existing on site.

The wider uses of a sports hall within Schools are as important as its indoor PE facility. Large spaces are required for assembly and dining and sitting exams.

The lack of large spaces at Redmoor Academy causes disruption to the teaching and examination of the current student intake and this will be exacerbated with the additional 195 students. Currently during GCSE examinations the gym, hall and classrooms are required to seat all the students with no space for indoor PE during these periods.

The new sports hall will not only provide the additional large space that is required but also additional toilet facilities, changing facilities and opportunity for 4 additional general teaching classrooms, all of which are needed on site to accommodate the increase in students from 2025.

03. Proposals

The proposals seek to introduce a new 4 court sports hall with associated changing facilities and equipment storage. There will also be a small office at ground floor and 4 general teaching classrooms at first floor. The sports hall is designed to Sport England Guidance. The total GEA at ground floor is 1260sqm and GEA at first floor is 417sqm.

There will be two vertical circulation cores at each end of the building. Access to the first floor will be limited for school use only. The building will be fully accessible with the inclusion of a platform lift, accessible changing room and WC and will adhere to all other Part M requirements. Safeguarding requirements will also be fully considered in the design and access control.

Sports Hall

The 34.5m x 20m sports hall will comply with the Sport England guidance with regards to overall dimensions, proposed line markings and finishes. The internal ceiling height will be minimum 7.5m. The flooring to the sports hall is proposed as a high performance vinyl which will allow it to be suitable for alternative uses such as exams. The wall finishes will likely be coloured finishes to suit Badminton England recommendations with acoustic liners at high level. For further detail on the finishes, see the room data sheets in Appendix B. Lighting will achieve more than 500lx average. A full lighting scheme will be developed as part of the full application. Indicative proposals for the M&E is also included on the room data sheets.

The sports hall will be able to accommodate the following sports;

Badminton: club	Netball: community / training
Basketball: club/community/training	Volleyball: premier / training
Cricket (4 lanes)18: community / training	Hockey
Gymnastics: training	Table Tennis
Five-a-side football: club	Trampoline
Futsal: club	Judo
Handball: community	Short Bowls
Korfball: community	

See layouts from Sport England Guidance in Appendix C for possible configurations. The final line markings required and net locations will be confirmed with the School depending on the preferred curriculum but as many as possible will be accommodated.

Changing Rooms and Toilets

There will be two large communal changing rooms and these will most likely be male and female. The changing rooms will be 51sqm each including showers and lobbies. The finishes will be robust and suitable for the environment. See room data sheets in Appendix B for further detail. The changing rooms are designed to suit the School's need for a year group to change at one time therefore the facilities are larger than the Football Foundations guidance. Separate toilets are provided with 3 cubicles in each.

The proposals include for a fully accessible shower room with WC to Part M requirements at 6.2m². This space can also be used for staff or officials changing.

Storage

The proposals include for a 77sqm equipment store which is accessible both from the sports hall and externally. The external access therefore provides additional storage options for equipment for the outdoor sports.

04. Outdoor Sports

Redmoor Academy currently has 3 full size football pitches and a rugby pitch. It also accommodates a 200mm athletics tracks, softball, 2 rounders and a cricket pitch.

The site of the proposed sports hall is on an area of playing field which is not suitable for a full size pitch for U11 or older. This area is used at break times so often has impromptu goals although a pitch layout is not longer demarcated. There is **no** use of that area for PE lessons. There is **no** use of that area by community sports clubs.

As this pitch is not used, there is no loss of a playing pitch to the School or the community resulting from the proposed sports hall.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Facilities Framework Strategy 2021 supports the need for more indoor sports courts compared to an outside space that is not used by school nor community and cannot accommodate a full size rugby or football pitch.

We appreciate that Sport England do not want to see any potential for a playing pitch to be lost and we welcomed their suggested relocation of the Sports Hall in order to retain that area of field. Having explored this option it is unfortunately not feasible for several reasons but primarily relating to vehicle access, a reduction in existing car parking provision and being too far from existing PE facilities.

We acknowledge that the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report from 2019 identifies 4 football pitches at Redmoor Academy. This is out of date as there are only 3 which are used by the School or community. These are larger than stated in the PPS.

Identified by the PPS

7x7 pitch
7x7 pitch
9x9 pitch
11 x 11 youth pitch

Actually on Site

9 x 9 pitch
11 x 11 youth pitch
11 x 11 pitch

Redmoor Academy were not identified as a site where there is a pressure on current provision.

Official's changing and toilet facilities are already available on the site. The toilets in the new sports hall are separate from the changing rooms and therefore can be used by spectators. For officials, there is an existing shower room which can be used by officials. The accessible shower room in the new sports hall can be used as the second officials changing. Although it is available, currently the officials turn up and leave in their kit and therefore do not use the facilities.

We believe this, along with the introduction of a much needed indoor sport facility and additional toilet and changing facilities, would offset the 0.2 hectare loss of playing field.

05. Community Use Agreement

Redmoor Academy are currently drafting a community use agreement for Sport England, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council's review and comment.

The School already has a busy lettings programme for football on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. The School are keen to promote their outdoor and indoor sport facilities more within the local community and the new sports hall will provide a catalyst for this. Conversations with the suggested sporting authorities will be welcomed.

06. Response to Consultation

The consultation response received from Sport England was split into the following headings. Below is a summary of these and how they have been or will be addressed:

Need for the facility

Clarification provided in section 2 of this document. The existing gym and changing facilities will be retained. Both are required for a secondary school with the current and future pupil places. Existing and proposed floor plans will be provided as part of the full application.

Technical Suitability

Clarification provided on the sports hall dimensions, finishes and lighting in section 3 of this document and appendices. All to meet Sport England guidance.

Match day facilities and officials changing will be accommodated in both the new and existing facilities. Toilet facilities within the new sports hall will be available for spectators.

Community Use Agreement

A community use agreement is being drafted and will be submitted with the full application. No existing spaces or facilities are being demolished and will not be affected by the works therefore construction phasing plans are not required at this time.

Replacement Playing Field

The options have been considered and detailed in section 4.