Congerstone Primary School
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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
17 JUN 2008
RECEIVED

Eco-Schools Award 2004

Congerstone Primary is a relatively small rural school with a rising NOR, based on in-catchment admissions from its six catchment area villages.

Situated on a spacious, beautiful site, the school itself is hampered by the restrictions of an ageing building. The main structure dates from the 19th century and has two main, high ceilinged classrooms. A third, Foundation Stage room is a more recent addition. Improvements over the past 10 years have included a separate Headteacher's office and an extension to the previously inadequate hall. These were funded by local charities, the Friends' Association (PTA) and the school budget.

As the school has increased from 3 to 5 classes, as a result of its high local reputation for standards, music, sport and environmental work, 2 already second-hand mobiles were added to the rear field. These are now in imminent need of replacement by a new double mobile to retain the accommodation status quo.

However the school community would like to take this opportunity, utilizing economy of scale, to provide an extra space within this planned double mobile. Despite excellent work in ICT (we have been nominated for 2 L.A. Laptop Initiatives within the last 5 years) and with over 25% of our KS2 pupils taking peripatetic music lessons, we have no discrete area for either, nor a withdrawal space for differentiated groups, either S.N. or M.A.

At present, music lessons for individuals and small groups take place in a large store cupboard. Withdrawal groups meet in the small library, open to passing traffic which can only accommodate 5 pupils plus adults at a time. There is literally no spare space; cloakrooms are integral to each classroom, the medical room doubles as staff toilet. Even use of the staff room is limited as it is asbestos lined.

An extra space would facilitate so many of the enrichment activities for which Congerstone is so popular. At present our 9 OSHL activities are squashed into existing classrooms, limiting preparation time. Music lessons, specific working groups, even cross-curricular activities could be so much more successfully sited.

Our recent (April 2008) Ofsted confirmed ours as an Outstanding School. Our May 2007 KS2 Level 5 SATs results placed us 12th in the country. With additional useable space, we can achieve even more, offering our great children a much more 21st century environment in which to learn and thrive.