

Heritage Statement

Richmond Primary School, Hinckley

Proposed Roofing Works



5th July 23

INTRODUCTION

Richmond Primary School became grade II on 3rd October 2017 due to its unique design. It is the simplest and most dramatic example of a mature primary school designed according to the Leicestershire Plan, expressing new ideas of learning through discovery instead of by rote in its distinctive circular plan in which the library forms its physical and metaphorical heart; * the use of a very deep, top-lit plan instead of large areas of glazing from the sides, is a significant development in Leicestershire school planning, whilst the side-lining of the hall, another striking feature, is typical of the schools in the county; * the plan form has survived well despite some alterations, and the sympathetic replacement of the doors and windows has preserved the original architectural character of the building.

The collaboration between architects and educationalists successfully provided a planning solution to the pedagogical philosophy of the day, clearly demonstrating the aspirations of a progressive educational authority.

The modular building which is to be replaced has surpassed its life expectancy. It is no longer fit for purpose and has multiple issues which are regularly impacting on teaching and learning. The school is close to capacity in terms of numbers and there are no other spaces available within the main school building to accommodate the Foundation Stage pupils. In December 2023 the Success Multi Academy Trust applied for funding from the ESFA through their Condition Improvement Funding Scheme to replace the dilapidated mobile classroom with a more permanent solution. The funding was approved in May 2023 and the school intend to carry out the work as soon as practical.

PROPOSALS

The proposal is to demolish the existing mobile classroom and to install a new modular building of a similar size, to be located on the same footprint. The new classroom will be of a modular construction in order to minimise the construction period on site, thus reducing the level of disruption to the school. It will be of a thermally efficient construction, which will help to reduce the school's energy costs whilst providing a much better teaching environment for both children and staff.

The exterior will be partially clad with timber cladding, with rendered panels to match the main school building. The colours chosen will compliment the existing structures and will blend in well with its surroundings.

CONCLUSIONS

The existing mobile classroom has surpassed its expected life and is considered to be beyond economical repair. The most viable solution is to replace the existing building with a new modular building, built to current regulations, which will address current accessibility issues, whilst providing a thermally comfortable and compliant teaching environment which is dry, safe, and free from draughts & water ingress.

The proposal will mimic the design and colours of the newer Blocks B & D, which will help to tie it in with the rest of the school providing a sense of unity and harmony across the school site.

The benefits of carrying out these works are as follows:

- ☐ The proposal aims to retain the existing Educational Facility for the local community, providing a warm and comfortable learning environment.
- ☐ The new building will mimic the main school building with regard to external finishes and will be far more aesthetically pleasing than the existing.
- ☐ The new building will be thermally efficient, and utilise energy saving technologies which will help reduce the schools carbon footprint.