



Bid Proposal: Improving Safeguarding at Newlands Community Primary School

Summary

Newlands Community Primary School is seeking funding to replace the old gates with electronic gates and raise the height of the fencing around the school premises, including replacing the fencing bordering the derelict site. We currently have gates that require us to manually open and close them regularly throughout the school day. If locked all day, there would be no access to the school. We have Oakfield Short Stay Behaviour Unit on site which have buses coming and going throughout the day dropping off and collecting children therefore we cannot keep the gates locked all day. Additional staff are required to be out on duty, opening and closing gates in the morning and afternoon. The fence along the front of school is low, even if gates are locked, children could climb the adjacent trees and climb over the fence. The fence bordering the derelict building next door is flimsy, damaged and not fit for purpose. Intruders regularly enter the derelict site, there is then potential for them to enter Newlands through the damaged fence or watch our children out at playtime or PE lessons. Litter is often thrown onto our site.

This proposal outlines the pressing safeguarding issues the school is facing and how the proposed improvements will significantly enhance the safety and security of the children, staff, and the wider school community.

Safeguarding Concerns

Security Breaches and Incident Log

Newlands Community Primary School has experienced several security breaches that have compromised the safety of the children and the school premises. The incident log details the following events:

Date	Event	Actions/Outcome
01/10/2024	Child A escaped from the school grounds and accessed the main road	Additional staff deployed to monitor gates, but this is not a sustainable solution. Updated PHP, restorative practice, called parents, reviewed site safety plan
22/05/2024	Child B climbed over the fence at playtime and ran out to the front of school near the open gates	Additional staff on duty at break times and lunchtimes. Updated PHP, restorative practice, called parents, reviewed site safety plan
01/03/2024	Child C pressed the call point on the front door and ran out of school grounds onto the pavement.	All call points raised so that children cannot reach them. Updated PHP, restorative

Date	Event	Actions/Outcome
		practice, called parents, reviewed site safety plan
18/09/2024	Child D climbed over the front desk in reception, pressed the door release button and ran around to open the front door. Escaped onto the front driveway near open gates.	Quote for front office to be enclosed with a small hatch. Time delay reduced on door release button. Updated PHP, restorative practice, called parents, reviewed site safety plan
28/06/2024	Litter, including used needles, found on school premises, thrown over from the derelict site.	Staff have to check the premises carefully before allowing the children outside for break times, lunchtimes and PE lessons.

Impact on Teaching and Learning

The current safeguarding issues have had a significant impact on the school's ability to provide a safe and secure environment for the children to learn and thrive. The children are not able to safely access certain areas of the premises. The SLT and the school improvement partner have expressed serious concerns about the detrimental effect these issues are having on the children's well-being and the school's ability to deliver high-quality teaching and learning.

Professional Evidence

Council Safeguarding Team and Health & Safety Audit

The School Improvement Lead's Safeguarding visit and a Health & Safety audit have both highlighted the urgent need to address the security vulnerabilities at Newlands Community Primary School. The reports emphasise the significant risks posed by the low and damaged fencing, the ease of access to the derelict building, and the inability to effectively secure the school grounds.

Concerns Regarding Specific Children

The staff at Oakfield Short Stay Behaviour Unit (on site) have raised concerns about specific children who are at risk of running away from the school premises due to their complex needs. The current fencing and gate arrangements are not sufficient to prevent these children from escaping, putting them in danger and disrupting the learning of their peers.



Financial Impact

The security breaches and safeguarding issues have had a substantial financial impact on the school, including:

- £5,000 in works to raise the call points
- £3,000 in repairs to fencing
- £5,000 in works to enclose the office area
- £10,000 in additional staffing costs to monitor the gates during arrival and dismissal times

These costs have diverted valuable resources away from the school's core educational activities and have placed a significant strain on the school's budget.

Proposed Solution and Intended Outcomes

Newlands Community Primary School is seeking funding to replace the old gates with electronic gates and raise the height of the fencing around the school premises, including replacing the fencing bordering the derelict building. This solution will:

- Enhance the security of the school grounds, preventing unauthorised access and reducing the risk of children escaping
- Improve the safety of the children, staff, and the wider school community by creating a secure perimeter
- Alleviate the need for additional staffing to monitor the gates, allowing more resources to be dedicated to teaching and learning
- Provide a safe and secure environment that supports the well-being and educational outcomes of the children

Conclusion

Newlands Community Primary School is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for its children. The proposed improvements to the school's gates and fencing are essential to address the pressing safeguarding concerns and mitigate the significant risks and financial impact the school is currently facing. By investing in these upgrades, the school will be able to create a safer and more conducive environment for the children to thrive academically and personally.

1 PROJECT PLANNING

1.1 APPROPRIATENESS OF SOLUTION

The effectiveness and appropriateness of the proposed scope of works is demonstrated by proposals which only address the identified high priority issues and tackles a range of wider issues including health & safety/breach of legislation thus securing valuable efficiencies compared to addressing issues separately.

1.1.2 Costed Options Appraisal: The appropriateness of solution is further demonstrated by the inclusion of an appropriately scaled **costed options appraisal** with **quantified benefits** that supports the solution and clearly underpins the decision making process on scope, specification and cost and seeks to identify the best value for money option. The methodology used is taken from the DfE publication 'Finding the Right Solution: A Guide to Option Appraisal'.

The option appraisal considers energy efficient and environmentally sustainable options when replacing components in and around buildings in the move towards reducing carbon emissions and future proofing estates.

Quantified Benefits of the Preferred Option

- a. Site designed to be safe and secure so that pupils and staff feel safe and secure
- b. Secure line agreed for the School which separates members of the public from pupils.
- c. Well-defined and secure boundaries to help control who gains access to their sites and buildings, and to ensure that vulnerable pupils do not wander off
- d. No more disruption to Teaching and Learning caused by the issues requiring lockdown procedures during security incidents
- e. No more disruption to Teaching and Learning caused by SEN pupils absconding the school premises requiring additional staff
- f. Reduce risk of attempted child abductions and children absconding from the premises together with trespassers and on site.
- g. Eradicate Ad-hoc repairs and additional staff cost
- h. Vandal-resistant: anti-climb and anti-cut
- i. Secure and discreet
- j. Efficient deterrence
- k. Excellent visibility through the fence
- l. Secured by Design, LPCB and CPNI rated systems available
- m. Eradicate the risk of the school being put into special measures by Ofsted because the grounds being too accessible to the public.

Please Note: detailed costs for various alternate options identified within the Options Appraisal are included in the supporting evidence



School Improvement Lead Note of Visit

DfE Number:	8552180
Setting Visited:	Newlands Primary
Date of Visit:	30 th September 2024
Previous Ofsted inspection and Grade:	Requires Improvement 27 th and 28 th June 2023 https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50227638 conversation to Academy 1st January 2024
Trust Grade:	Requires Improvement pending external report
Present at visit:	Jenny Cooling – Acting Headteacher

Visit focus:

Support for HT re teaching staff performance management, lesson drop ins

Observations

One year two pupil was observed absconding from site. Pupils is known to leaders and relevant paperwork in place including RA. Leaders reviewed following incident – action taken radio for adults working with pupil and supply staff to be updated should they be working with pupil.

Date of next visit: 14th October 2024

Fences and gates

Craig Collins

9 December 2024 at 11:09

To: Jenny Cooling [REDACTED] sch.uk>, Rachel Fisher [REDACTED]

Hi both

FYI we had an incident on Thursday where a pupil was reluctant to come into the school building and was out on the front near the disabled parking bays with their parent and staff member - during this time, a car (member of the public) suddenly came in and then out the other gate to do a u-turn.

On seeing this the pupil then absconded through the open gate and luckily the parent caught up with them but could've been dangerous.

Thanks

Craig Collins

Headteacher (Interim)

Oakfield Short Stay School



Fences and gates

3 December 2024 at 14:13

Hi Jenny

It was good to talk earlier about the possibility of improving the external gates and fences, which I think would help us to keep our children safe. Since we have been at the site, we have had several children abscond, including one who hid in Tesco and one who walked in the direction of Earl Shilton, where he risked getting lost as our children are not local. We addressed this by moving the height of door fobs and emergency door releases and no longer play outside on the front, but the risk remains e.g., when we need to congregate at the front of the school for fire alarms and at school pickup/drop off times. Our children often find transitions hard and therefore may struggle entering and leaving school safely.

We currently have a child who is at high risk of absconding, having done this several times from his sending school. He has only been here a couple of weeks but has already tried to climb over the fence and into the staff car park. Any children who have previously tried to abscond from Oakfield have an individual risk assessment in place to manage this risk as far as possible, but we continue to use outside areas with them as they often need this most.

Regards,

Rachel Fisher

Interim Deputy Headteacher

Oakfield Short Stay School

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Message me on TEAMS

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Staff INSET - Friday 23rd August 2024

Safeguarding training – Keith Culverwell

See powerpoint

Site security

Due to some incidents with the derelict site next door, staff on duty at playtimes and lunchtimes need to check that the playground is secure before letting the children out to play. If the fence needs repairing, please inform site staff immediately. Site staff will do a walk around every morning when they unlock to check everywhere is safe.

Staff Handbook and Code of Conduct

Jenny went through and highlighted key changes. All staff have a copy and it is saved on the drive.

Individual Pupil Risk Assessment

Pupil: J

Class:

Hazard Identified	Person/s at risk	Hazard rating	Control measures	Review																									
Risk of absconding J may try to climb over the school fence.	J	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Likely severity of consequence:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Likelihood of occurrence</th><th></th><th>1slight</th><th>2serious</th><th>3major</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 seldom</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2 sometimes</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>3 Frequently</td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> 1=insignificant risk 9=extremely high risk	Likely severity of consequence:					Likelihood of occurrence		1slight	2serious	3major	1 seldom					2 sometimes					3 Frequently			7		- J may run away from adults; staff will need to keep a close eye on J due to the risk of absconding. - Staff to encourage J to make the right choices and take himself to a safe space. - Safe spaces visuals to be shown - Staff to try a distract him with something he is interested in. - If J climbs the fence fix and stabilise and call for help - If J leaves the school ground, SLT and mum will need to be informed. If J continues to avoid adults and walks away, staff do not chase but observe from a distance and call the police for assistance.	Constantly reviewed
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J can become agitated towards others and may show signs of anger that could result in physically hurting pupils/staff	- Pupils - Staff	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Likely severity of consequence:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Likelihood of occurrence</th><th></th><th>1slight</th><th>2serious</th><th>3major</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 seldom</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2 sometimes</td><td></td><td></td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>3 Frequently</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> 1=insignificant risk 9=extremely high risk	Likely severity of consequence:					Likelihood of occurrence		1slight	2serious	3major	1 seldom					2 sometimes			6		3 Frequently					- Staff to encourage J to make the right choices and take himself to his safe space. - Safe spaces visuals to be shown - Staff will need to keep a close eye on J due to the risk of absconding. - Staff to remove the audience - Staff to use block and move - If behaviours escalate, staff may need to physically intervene	Constantly reviewed
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Risk of absconding During morning registration, J may try to leave through the school gates.	James	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Likely severity of consequence:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Likelihood of occurrence</th><th></th><th>1slight</th><th>2serious</th><th>3major</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 seldom</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2 sometimes</td><td></td><td></td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>3 Frequently</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> 1=insignificant risk 9=extremely high risk	Likely severity of consequence:					Likelihood of occurrence		1slight	2serious	3major	1 seldom					2 sometimes			6		3 Frequently					- J may run away from adults; staff will need to keep a close eye on J due to the risk of absconding. - Staff to encourage J to make the right choices and take himself to a safe space. - Safe spaces visuals to be shown - Staff to try a distract him with something he is interested in. - Staff to be located at each gate to reduce risk - If J leaves the school ground, SLT and mum will need to be informed. If J continues to avoid adults and walks away, staff do not chase but observe from a distance and call the police for assistance.	Constantly reviewed
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Risk of J climbing the scaffolding around the building	J	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Likely severity of consequence:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Likelihood of occurrence</th><th></th><th>1slight</th><th>2serious</th><th>3major</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 seldom</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2 sometimes</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Likely severity of consequence:					Likelihood of occurrence		1slight	2serious	3major	1 seldom					2 sometimes					J may run away from adults; staff will need to keep a close eye on J due to the risk of absconding.	Constantly reviewed					
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	3 Frequently			8					

Prepared by: SFT123 Date: 22/08/24

Authorised by: _____ Date: 22/08/24

I have read the above and fully understand the risks and mitiaations in place. Please sign and date.

Head teacher

Key adult _____

Key adult _____

Key adult _____ Date: 22/08/24 Date 22/08/24

Class teacher

Carer

Date 22/08/24

Date