

The Heights Primary School –Frequently asked questions

Question: **Why are we adding more accommodation at The Heights Primary School?**

Answer: The permanent site for the school has not yet been fully approved to proceed. Therefore more accommodation is required to meet the needs of the growing numbers of pupils on the temporary site. It is simply not practicable for several reasons to cap numbers at the temporary site until the permanent site is ready; most notably these include the efficient staffing of the school and the need to accommodate large numbers of siblings of existing pupils.

Question: **How many more children will be admitted?**

Answer: A further 100 children over the next two years starting with 50 in September 2018 and another 50 in September 2019.

Question: **Why are we proposing a fenced area on Westfield Road recreation ground?**

Answer: For recreational purposes by pupils at break and lunchtimes as well as some PE lessons for younger pupils. Fencing is essential, regrettably, to contain and safeguard pupils with the resources available to the school.

Question: **Is the fenced area out of bounds to the public?**

Answer: The outside space on The Heights' temporary site is too small to safely accommodate all of the pupils at break and lunchtimes. The fenced area is for use by the school only within school hours for break times and lunch times; Break: daily 10.50-11.15, Lunch: daily 12.15-13.15 and PE Monday and Wednesday 13.20-15.20. The fenced off area will be fully accessible to the public outside of these hours.

Question: **What type of fencing is proposed on Westfield Road rec?**

Answer: As this is a temporary arrangement a 1.2m high timber picket fence has been proposed in order to safeguard the children. Timber gates will provide 2 points of access from this area; the precise location of these gates is still to be determined.

Question: **Are any of the existing paths at Westfield Road rec affected by the proposal?**

Answer: No, they will all remain accessible at all times of day, even when school children are using the fenced off area

Question: **Can I still use Westfield Road rec to walk my dog?**

Answer: Yes, but we would ask users not to take their dogs into the fenced area during designated hours and to pay particular attention to removing any mess.

Question: **What % of the Westfield Road rec will be taken up by the fenced area?**

Answer: The proposed fenced area represents less than 20% of the park.

Question: **Why not use St Anne's school playing field?**

Answer: There is a shared use agreement in place but the space and capacity is not sufficient to meet the growing needs of both schools.

Question: **Will the school use Christchurch playing field?**

Answer: Yes, we think that this will be a viable option for KS2 pupils but not for anything other than formal PE lessons.

Question: **What are the agreed terms of use for the existing fenced off tarmac area adjacent to the Westfield Road playground?**

Answer: The note on planning drawing E03620APL 1010 Existing Site Plan states '8. Playground Used by Heights Primary Only.' This is potentially misleading because the tarmac area is subject to a community use agreement which states the following; 'the current agreement allows the school to use the tarmac area between the hours of 08:45 and 16:30 during term time. When the area is not in use by the school the asphalt area will be available for use by the public. Use by the school is expected to be 20 hours per week although this may increase with growth in pupil numbers or changing school need'.

As part of the new works, it is proposed to erect signage detailing both the terms of use for the existing tarmac area and the proposed fenced off area of recreation ground. This would also be removed as part of the reinstatement works at the end of the 2 years.

Question: **What will happen in two years' time to the temporary school?**

Answer: If the planning application is approved, a planning condition will be included which will make clear the requirement to remove the buildings from site, reinstate St Anne's playing field and Westfield Park (including the removal of fencing) and determine the future use of the Gosbrook Road site.

Question: **Won't the council just keep applying for extending the period to allow the temporary school to remain on this site indefinitely?**

Answer: It is possible to apply for an extension to the planning approval period but this would be classed as a material amendment to the application. A material amendment requires the Planning Authority to re-run the formal consultation period giving the public full opportunity to comment or object in the same manner as per this application.