STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WHITLEY PARK PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL, BRIXHAM ROAD, READING, RG2 7RB

ON BEHALF OF READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2026

Shrimplin
Planning & Development
www.shrimplin.co.uk

Title	Statement of Community Involvement
Project	Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School, Brixham Road, Reading, RG2 7RB
Client	Reading Borough Council
Issue	Final
Job Number	25121
Document reference	RP20260924
Produced by	James Garside MRTPI
Authorised by	Robert Shrimplin MRTPI MPhil TP

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Shrimplin Planning and Development on behalf of Reading Borough Council in support of a hybrid planning application: Full planning application (Phase 1) for car park extension with reconfigured internal vehicular circulation, landscaping, play equipment, boundary treatment and various associated works; Outline planning application (Phase 2) for up to 890sqm (GIA) of additional Learning and non-residential institutions use (Class F1), an additional car park extension, landscaping and various associated works, with all matters reserved except access (hereafter referred to as the "Application Proposal") at Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School, Brixham Road, Reading, RG2 7RB (hereafter referred to as the "Application Site").

1.2 The Application Site currently contains a 3 form entry primary school which accommodates 630 pupils aged between 4 and 11 years. It has an on-site nursery accommodating 30m pupils. It has been identified, along with The Ridgeway Primary School, to accommodate a new 168-place Special Educational Needs (SEN) school for children aged 3–16 with Learning Difficulties, Autism, ADHD, Speech, Language and Communication needs, and dysregulated behaviours, addressing a shortfall in SEN provision within the Borough. The new SEN school will comprise a 96-place SEN secondary school at Whitley Park Primary School and an 72-place SEN primary school at The Ridgeway Primary School. Whitley Park Primary School will be reduced to a two-form-entry school (420 pupils) and nursery (26 pupils).

1.3 This SCI sets out the strategy of engagement with local residents, school staff and local politicians to notify them about the proposals and seek their feedback ahead of the submission of the planning submission to Reading Borough Council.

2.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 The objective of the consultation process was to ensure that key information on the project was communicated clearly to stakeholders and local residents and to collect feedback on the plans for consideration ahead of the submission of the planning application.

2.2 The consultation process included:

- Distribution of letters to residential addresses around the site, with an invitation to the engagement exhibition.
- Drop-in exhibition for parents and public engagement exhibition held at Whitley Park Primary School on 20 July 2026, 3.15pm – 6.30pm.

2.3 The consultation process focussed on reaching out to neighbours within the vicinity of the site most affected by the Application Proposal. A letter (Appendix 1) was distributed to local residents which included key information on the Application Proposal, the date and time of the exhibition and an email address to send any comments or queries. It was distributed to residents on the following roads within the local catchment area:

- Buckland Road
- Dawlish Road
- Carousel Court
- Basingstoke Road
- Merton Road South
- Merton Road North
- Lamerton Road
- Hartland Road
- Corinne Close
- Merivale Gardens
- Stockton Road
- Whitstone Gardens
- Camelford Close
- Templeton Gardens
- Redruth Gardens

- Helston Gardens
- Newlyn Gardens
- Callington Road
- Brixham Road
- Meavy Gardens
- Ashmore Road
- Landrake Crescent
- Northumberland Avenue
- Stratton Gardens
- Sheldon Gardens
- Chagford Road
- Padstow Gardens
- Kingsbridge Road
- Churchill Close
- Dawlish Road
- Kingston Gardens
- Chudleigh Gardens

2.4 Parents and staff were also notified ahead of the public exhibition by text message inviting them to the engagement exhibition. Ward councillors were also notified directly by email on 10 July.

2.5 A public engagement exhibition was held at the school on 20 July 2026, 3.15pm – 6.30pm to allow interested parties to come and find out more about the proposals and speak with members of the project team.

2.6 The proposals were presented on exhibition boards (Appendix 2). Members of the project team were available to discuss the plans and answer any questions that attendees had. Members of the project team in attendance at the public consultation event included the Applicant (Reading Borough Council), Architects (Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt), Planning Consultant (Shrimplin Planning & Development) and Transport Consultant (Scott White and Hookins). The exhibition boards were left on display for parents to view following the engagement events.

3.0 FEEDBACK

3.1 There were 18 adults and 7 children in attendees at the event, comprising a mix of staff and local residents. Attendees were able to share their feedback on the proposals through discussions with the team.

3.2 Feedback was broadly positive, with recognition of the need to provide SEN provision. Some issues were raised in relation to the changes to the nursery and existing highway, traffic and parking issues associated with the operation of the school. These included existing traffic congestion, parking, drop-off and pick-up arrangements and the general operation of the highway network around the school.

- General interest in the plans for the site, access arrangements and the planning process. Support for SEN provision. Good to have in the local area.

  Response: noted and welcomed.

- Comments around proposed reduction in capacity to existing nursery

  Response: The existing nursery at Whitley Park is to be reduced in size (from 30 places to 26 places). The implications of this minor reduction in the nursery's capacity has been fully considered having regard to the identified nursery needs of the local area. The nursery would continue to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the identified nursery needs arising within the catchment area, particularly when considered alongside the capacity available at other nurseries within the local area. The proposed changes would therefore not result in a shortfall in nursery provision for the local area.

  The proposals have sought to balance the continued provision of nursery accommodation along with the requirements of the existing school and meeting specialist education need through the new SEN provision. The nursery

will be provided with newly refurbished space and a bespoke play area that will provide high quality nursery provision.

- Comments around safety and the potential interaction between older students and other pupils on the site.

  Response: The Applicant acknowledges the importance of maintaining a safe well-managed environment for all pupils. There is new fencing proposed to separate the two the schools. The management and supervision of pupils, including the interaction between different age groups and the implementation of appropriate safeguarding measures, is an operational matter for the schools.

- Concerns over traffic on local roads (particularly Brixham Road) and problems on residential roads at peak times with congestion and parents parking to drop off / pick up children.

  Response: The Applicant acknowledges the issues raised by local residents and recognises that these are matters of importance to the local community. It is important to distinguish between matters that relate to the operation of the existing school and the impacts arising from the proposed development. The focus of the planning application is assessing and mitigating any impacts arising from the proposed development. The Application Proposal is supported by a Transport Statement which considers the transport impacts associated with the proposals and sets out arrangements to manage traffic associated with the SEN school within the site, rather issues being displaced on to the public highway. The Application Proposal will therefore not worsen existing highway issues around the site.

  The school will continue to engage with local residents on any issues raised and work with the local authority in resolving existing highway issues.

- Interest in adding a secondary access to Brixham Road and/or widened access to Brixham Road with access-control

  Response: An additional or widened access to Brixham Road would raise highway considerations and would impact on trees. These proposals are not under consideration at this stage. The Application Proposal is supported by a Transport Statement which demonstrates that the proposed arrangements can be accommodated via the current access.

- Highway and parking issues associated with pedestrian access on Callington Road

  Response: The pedestrian access to Callington Road was re-opened in 2021. As above, the Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised by local residents, particularly around cars being parked inconsiderately in front of driveways when pupils are dropped off /picked up, and recognises that these are matters of importance to the local community. It is important to distinguish between matters that relate to the operation of the existing school and the impacts arising from the proposed development. The focus of the planning application is assessing and mitigating any impacts arising from the proposed development. The Application Proposal is supported by a Transport Statement which considers the transport impacts associated with the proposals and sets out arrangements to manage traffic associated with the SEN school within the site, rather issues being displaced on to the public highway. The Application Proposal will therefore not worsen existing highway issues around the site.

  The school will continue to engage with local residents on any issues raised and work with the local authority in resolving existing highway issues.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Applicant has sought to engage extensively with local residents and the school community on proposals for the site. A drop in exhibition for parents and a public exhibition for local residents took place on 20 July 2026. These events provided an opportunity for school parents and local residents and stakeholders to learn about the proposals from the project team and provide feedback.

4.2 Feedback on the proposals was broadly positive, with support for the new SEN school. Some issues were raised in relation to the reduced capacity of the nursery and existing highway, traffic and parking issues associated with the operation of the school. These included existing traffic congestion, parking, drop-off and pick-up arrangements and the general operation of the highway network around the school.

4.3 The feedback received has been carefully considered in finalising the proposals for the site.

4.4 The Applicant remains committed to engaging with residents and stakeholders throughout the determination of the application and thereafter.

APPENDIX 1

LETTER SENT TO RESIDENTS

Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU

☎ 0118 937 3787

E-mail: educationpropertydevelopment@reading.gov.uk

Resident

Date: 9 July 2026

Your contact is: Laura Mahoney, Principle Education Property Development Officer

Dear resident,

Creating schools for the future in line with the Government's Education Estate Strategy

As part of plans to revitalise our school estate, ensure our schools are fit for the future and deliver vital local education for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Reading Borough Council is developing Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School.

Falling pupil numbers in primary schools is a national trend, as is the increasing additional support children need to attend an appropriate school to meet their needs.

Work is being carried out to use the spare capacity of the school site to introduce much-needed local SEND provision.

We will be holding a drop-in session at the school on Thursday 16 July between 15.15 – 18.30pm. Here, you will be able to see the proposals, and our design team will be on hand to answer any questions and hear your thoughts. There will be further opportunities to submit formal comments on the planning application later in the year.

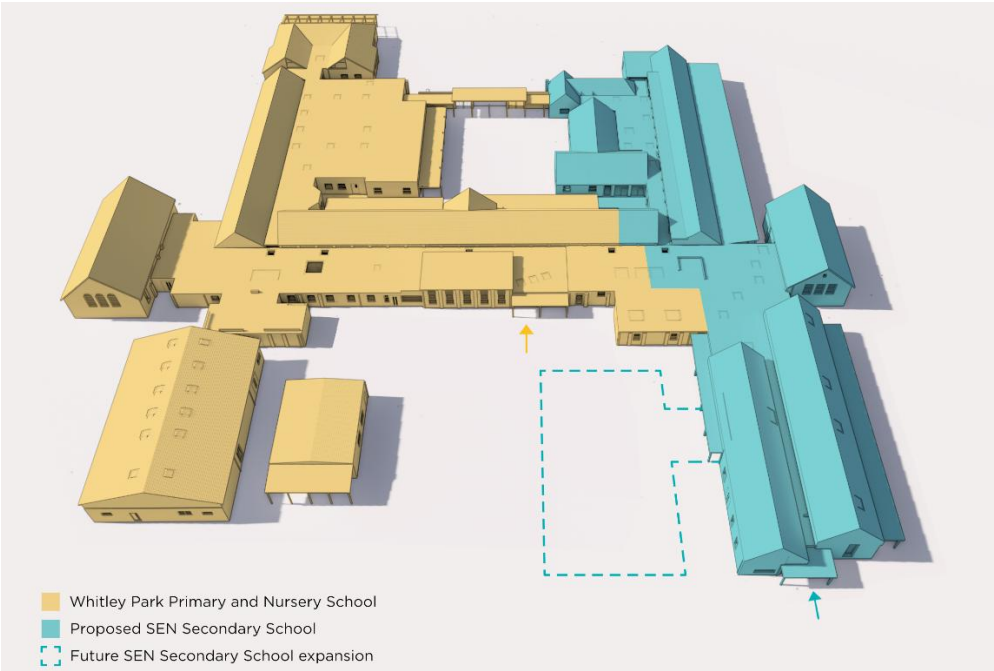
Whitley Park Primary School site has been identified as one of the best locations to deliver the proposals, which include:

- Retaining and improving the current 2FE mainstream primary school and nursery, with the addition of:
  - An improved play area for early years pupils
  - A new improved dining hall floor
  - New toilets
- A new provision for Secondary SEND pupils using the spare capacity on site, via:
  - A refurbishment of the existing spare classrooms, making them suitable for SEND teaching
  - Redesigned external outdoor spaces allowing for SEND external play
  - Improved site access and partitioning between the two school provisions
  - Extended car park and drop-off area
  - An extension to create space for further SEND teaching and ancillary spaces.

The improvement works to the mainstream primary school site is expected to be completed in summer 2026, with works to create SEND places and external works to be carried out in 2027, with the extension following in the future if funding is available.

Kind regards

Laura Mahoney
Principal Education Property Development Officer



APPENDIX 2

PRESENTATION BOARDS

WHITLEY PARK SCHOOLS PROJECT

This project is an exciting opportunity to create a stronger, more inclusive school site, with improvements to the mainstream primary school alongside the delivery of a new specialist SEND school.

Our proposals focus on creating the right learning environments for both schools, making best use of the existing buildings on site, and delivering improvements that will support pupils, staff, and families into the future. By carefully planning the changes, the project aims to meet growing educational needs while enhancing the overall quality, functionality, and long-term sustainability of the site.

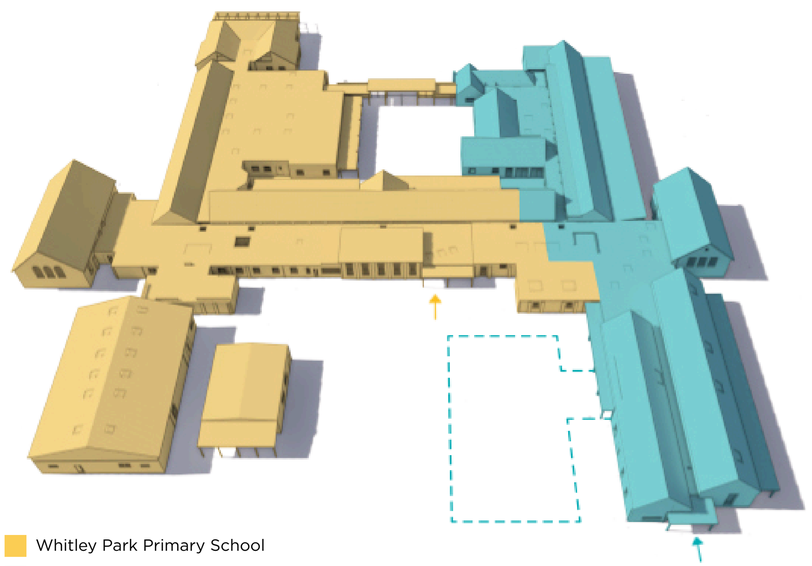
- **Designing for Diverse Needs:** creating learning environments that are tailored to the needs of both schools. This means providing high-quality, inclusive spaces that support a broad range of learners, while ensuring each school has accommodation that is appropriate, effective, and welcoming.
- **Making Best Use of Existing Buildings:** thoughtfully reconfiguring the existing school estate to create two well-functioning educational settings on one site. By adapting and improving existing buildings, the proposals make efficient use of available space while delivering long-term value and purpose.
- **Creating Social Value:** supporting more children and families through a broader offer of educational provision. Alongside creating a new SEND school, the project will also invest in the mainstream school environment, helping the site continue to serve as an important community asset with benefits for the wider area.
- **Minimising Disruption:** ensuring that the day-to-day life of the existing school is carefully considered throughout design and delivery. The proposals will be developed with a strong focus on safe access, clear phasing, and maintaining a positive learning environment during the transition.
- **Delivering at the Right Time:** delivering the project in line with the need for school places in the 2027 and 2028 school years. A clear and carefully coordinated programme will help ensure both schools are ready to support pupils at the right time.
- **A Truly Sustainable Development:** creating a site that is sustainable in educational, social, and environmental terms. By reusing and improving existing buildings, investing in long-term school infrastructure, and planning for future needs, the project aims to deliver lasting value for both schools and their communities.

Whitley Park Primary School Works - Summer 2026

Refurbishment of existing building and associated landscaping - Summer 2027

Potential new build extension and associated landscaping to be confirmed

SEQUENCE OF PROPOSED WORKS

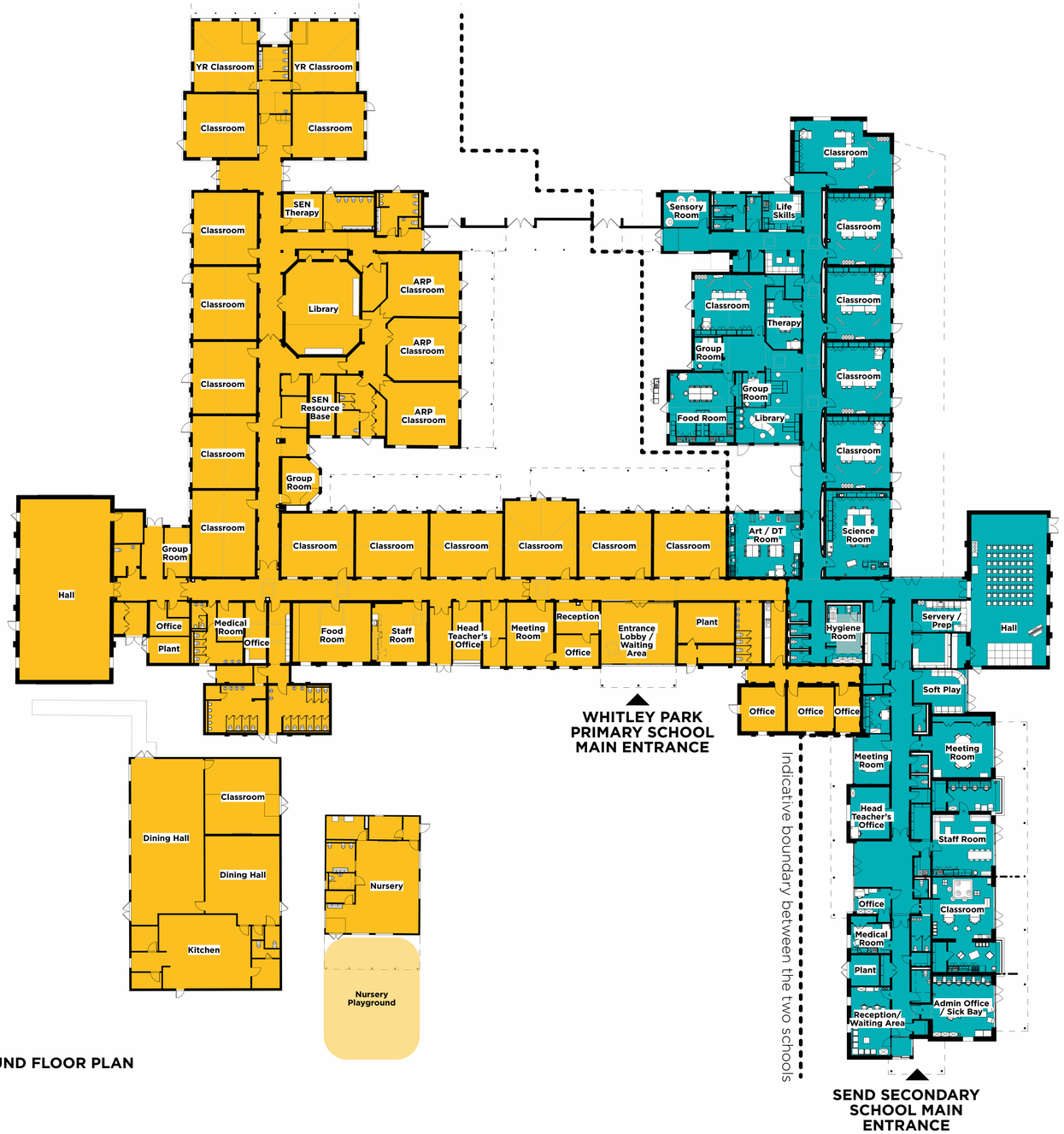


Whitley Park Primary School

Proposed SEND Secondary School in Existing Building

Proposed SEND Secondary School Potential New Build Extension

PROPOSED AERIAL VIEW



PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN

0m 10m 20m

north

- All dimensions in millimetres unless otherwise indicated. All levels in metres relative to Ordnance Datum and are positive (AOD) unless otherwise indicated.
- Figure dimensions only to be taken from this drawing. Dimensions and levels to be checked on site.
- Scaling suitable for planning purposes only, when drawing is reproduced at indicated size.
- All civil/structural matters including existing and proposed services, sub-base construction, site structures and retaining walls are subject to design/confirmation by an appropriately qualified Engineer. Refer to information by others.
- The original version of this drawing was produced in colour - monochrome copies should not be relied upon to accurately reflect all drawing elements.
- This drawing has been prepared for planning purposes only and should not be used for quantification, tender or construction.

Site boundary

Boundary showing extent of enabling works

Existing tree to be retained and protected in accordance with BS 5837:2012

Existing vegetation retained

Asphalt

Grass

Artificial grass

Concrete paving slabs

Brick pavers

Wood chips

Sand pit

New blue coloured rubber crumb underneath recently installed play area

Canopies to be retained

rev.	date	by	chk	notes
P02	25/06/26	DB	RB	Updated following comments.
P01	09/06/26	DB	RB	First issue.

project
Reading SEN

dwg no
WTL-TFC- XX-XX-DR-L-1000

title
Existing site plan

suitability
For Information

stage
Stage 3

scale @ A1
1:500

terrafirma
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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Tel: +44 (0)1730 242 040
Web: www.terrafirmaconsultancy.com

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GAD-0052-1.08

P:\PROJECTS\2582 Reading SEN School\RB\2582 CAD\2582 For public consultation\WTL-TFC-XX-XX-DR-L-1000 existing site plan for public consultation

Key:

- Site boundary (suggested) (19748.33 sqm)
- Boundary showing extent of enabling works
- Existing tree to be retained and protected in accordance with BS 5837:2012

Hard Landscape

- Existing asphalt to be retained
- Proposed vehicular asphalt
- Proposed pedestrian asphalt
- Proposed vehicular block paving
- Existing concrete paving slabs to be retained
- Proposed concrete paving slabs to match existing
- Brick pavers to be retained as existing
- Wood chips to be retained as existing
- Existing artificial grass to be retained
- Proposed safety surface- rubber crumb- to play areas
- Proposed rubber crumb to informal social space by library
- Proposed artificial grass
- Proposed MUGA surfacing
- Proposed brushed concrete underneath bins and cycle store

Fencing

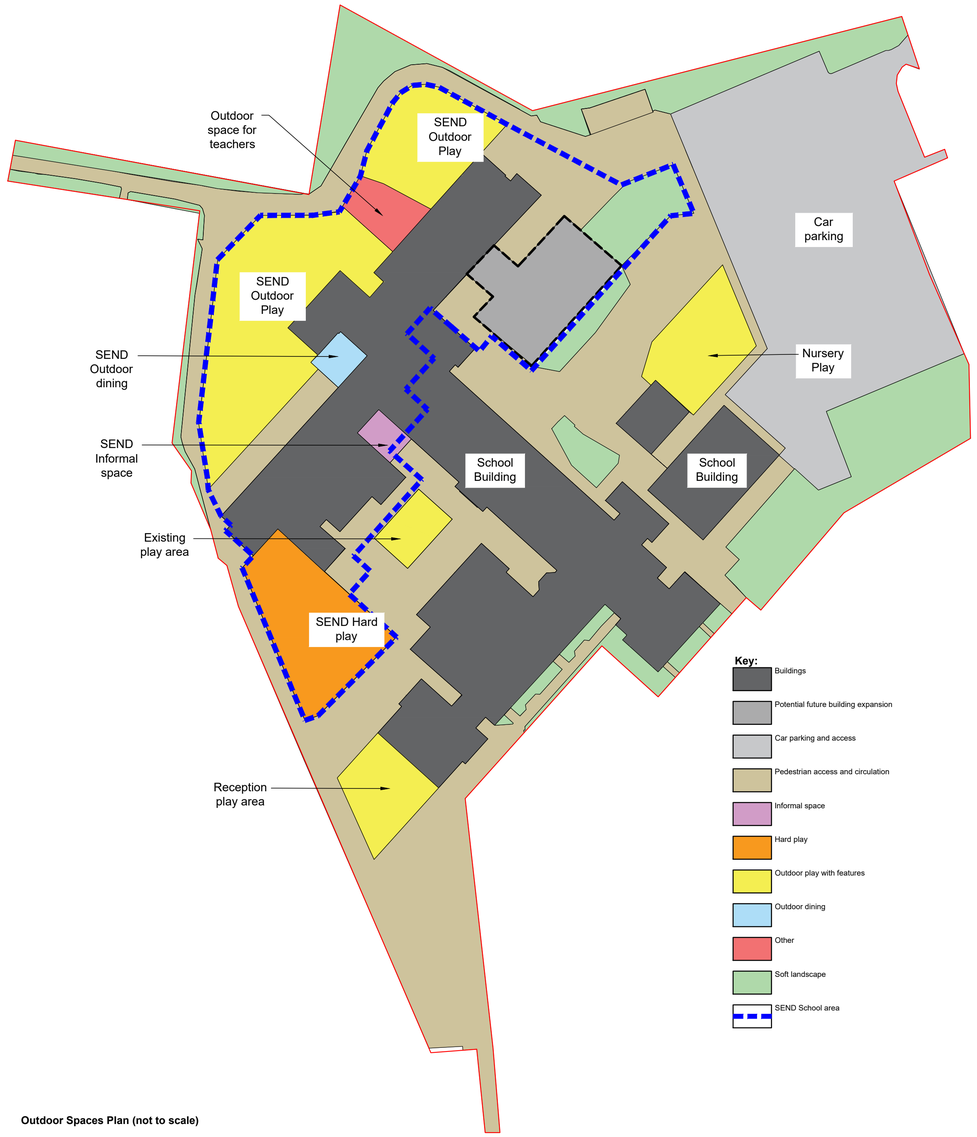
- Existing fence to be retained
- Proposed fence with matching gates
- Proposed bowtop fence to classrooms with matching gates
- Proposed 3m high ball stop fence to classrooms with matching gates

Soft Landscape

- Existing grass to be retained
- Proposed mown grass path (1.8m wide)
- Proposed grass area
- Proposed tree
- Proposed raised planters
- Proposed 750mm wide hedge
- Proposed shrub and groundcover planting bed
- Proposed sensory planting

Furniture

- Proposed benches
- Proposed picnic tables to staff outdoor space
- Proposed table and chairs
- Proposed EV charging units to new parking
- Proposals for future potential EV charger
- Bib tap locations
- Proposed shed; 1.85x2.29m
- Retain existing canopy
- Proposed canopy
- Drop off/pick up - vehicles moving
- Drop off/pick up - vehicles queuing to drop off / pick up
- Drop off/pick up - vehicles dropping off/picking up



Key:

- Buildings
- Potential future building expansion
- Car parking and access
- Pedestrian access and circulation
- Informal space
- Hard play
- Outdoor play with features
- Outdoor dining
- Other
- Soft landscape
- SEND School area

Outdoor Spaces Plan (not to scale)

Landscape General Arrangement

0m 10m 20m

north

- All dimensions in millimetres unless otherwise indicated. All levels in metres relative to Ordnance Datum and are positive (AOD) unless otherwise indicated.
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- This drawing has been prepared for public consultation only and should not be used for construction.

rev.	date	by	chk	notes
P03	10/07/26	DB	RB	Enabling works areas updated; car park updated; graphical and annotation updates.
P02	25/06/26	DB	RB	Updated following comments.
P01	09/06/26	DB	RB	First issue.

project
Reading SEND

dwg no
WTL-TFC- XX-XX-DR-L-1010

title
Landscape General Arrangement

suitability
For Information

stage
Stage 3

scale @ A1
1:500

terrafirma
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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Notes

GENERAL

- This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant Engineers and Architects drawings and with the Specification.
- For setting out refer to Architects drawings.
- All dimensions are in millimetres and levels are in metres unless noted otherwise.
- Contractor to take all relevant dimensions on site. Any discrepancies to be advised to the Engineer.
- Contractor to check/scan for services prior to construction to avoid any damage during works.

47 Car Parking Spaces for Existing School Staff

65 Car Parking Spaces for SEND School Staff

As shown in the drawing, during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, vehicles will enter the site from Brixham Road and exit the same way.

The proposed layout allows six vehicles to drop off or pick up at a time, with a queuing lane for a further 26 vehicles. This means all vehicle traffic during peak times is managed within the site, and no congestion will occur on roads in the surrounding area.

The school will manage traffic on site using marshals and by communicating with the vehicle drivers.

PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Rev.	Amendment	Drn.	Chkd.	Appd.	Date
P02	Updated Drawing	JH	JH	JH	15.07.26
P01	For Information	JH	JH	JH	09.07.26

Project

Whitley Park Primary School & proposed Secondary SEN School Development

Drawing

Proposed Site Plan showing existing & proposed car parking & pick-up/drop-off

Client

Reading Borough Council

Scott White and Hookins

Structural Engineering | Civil Engineering | Sustainability and BREEAM | CDM Consultancy

Scale at A1 - 1:200

304906-SWH-ZZ-XX-D-H-5915 P02

Project | Originator | Zone | Level | Type | Role | Number | Rev.

CP004-01_FM_ST_008_D

DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING