The School

North ridge High School is a 110 place, day-specialist support school for pupils with learning difficulties. The school admits pupils from the North District of Manchester covering the age range of 11 to 19 years. The school opened in September 2006. We meet the needs of pupils with a range of learning difficulties including moderate, severe and complex learning difficulties.

In 2007 the school moved to Higher Blackley Education Village into a brand new building shared with Our Lady's Roman Catholic High School. The new school was purpose built but after 5 years of operation, a few health and safety issues have become apparent.





Need for Improvement

This planning application is being made to address increased student capacity and to strengthen safeguarding in respect of community access. North Ridge is a specialist support school for pupils with persistent and complex special educational needs, aged 11-19 years. We are co located at Higher Blackley Education Village with Our Lady's RC High, a mainstream catholic high school.

As with the majority of specialist support schools, our student population continues to increase year on year. Our school capacity is 110, our current number on roll is 116 and we are looking at a further increase for September 2013. Our September student intake will mean an increase in the actual number of classes we have in school, therefore there is a requirement for additional classroom space, together with a larger staff room facility to accommodate the increase in related staffing. By moving the Headteacher into a room within the proposed extension we can utilise her current room as a classroom space, we also plan to move the Finance Officer and Business Manager into the extension, allowing the current meeting room to be extended to accommodate a suitable size staffroom. Our current staff room will then be used as the student review meeting room.

Within the proposed extension we would like to have an independent community entrance. The community entrance will allow access to an accessible gym and community room. We currently hold a significant number of community activities e.g. parent courses, parent/carers group meetings, 6th form run community café, behaviour management courses and resource drop in sessions. At present attendees at such events have to enter school via the main entrance and sign in using our visitor system, this can be an significant H&S issue as the entrance can become very congested. This has previously caused students who find crowds and noise very difficult to cope with, to go into crisis. At present the main school corridor provides access to both the meeting room and the toilet facilities, the proposed extension will provide independent access to both, improving safeguarding for our students and improved access for the community. Having an independent entrance and facilities will allow for increased community access, as there would be little or no impact upon the school day and access to

the main school will only be available via an access controlled door. We also intend to have a student gym installed within the extension allowing all our students to access this provision for both physio led mobility sessions and personal health. Currently a large number of our students visit a gym within the local area, however this is not accessible to our wheelchair users, our proposed school facility will ensure that all students have equal access to provision.

Proposals

The proposal is to provide a single storey extension with a new community entrance. The building will provide 3 Offices for staff, a Gym and a Multi Purpose room which is available for use by members of the local Community.

The doors and windows will be grey aluminium to match the existing; the external walls of the will be finished in brown facing brick with a white render surround to the entrance to match the existing building. The roof will be a flat roof with a single ply membrane hidden behind a parapet. The roof will have 4 sun pipes to provide natural light into the new internal corridor.

New brick faced retaining walls will be provided to allow construction of a new tarmac footpath to service the new entrance. The footpath will also extend through the existing fence line to provide a new means of escape from the back of the school. Existing grass and soft planting will be retained, with the grass being landscaped and replaced where necessary.

The new Entrance will be Approved Document M compliant with a level threshold and a 3m square level tarmac area directly in front of the door. The new footpath through the landscaped area to provide access to the new entrance will be finished in tarmac to match the existing paths. The ramps required will be Approved Document M compliant.

Before



After

