

Olive School

Noise Management Plan for Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), Grass Pitch and Cricket Practice Nets

Introduction

This Noise Management Plan has been developed to mitigate and manage potential noise impacts from the operation of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) grass U11 football pitch and cricket practice nets as part of the Olive school development.

It addresses potential noise sources, proposes control measures, and outlines operational procedures to ensure that the facilities remain compatible with the surrounding community.

Both facilities will primarily be used by the school and local junior groups as part of a Community Use Agreement.

Operating Hours and Usage

To minimize noise impacts, the following restrictions on hours and usage will be implemented:

- **School Building:** As specified within the original submission letter the general hours of opening for the school will be between 7:30am and 4pm Monday- Thursday and 7:30am and 2pm on Fridays (these hours are inclusive of breakfast club and afterschool enrichment activities). Site supervisors and caterers may access the building from as early as 6:30 am.

With regards to ad-hoc evening events, the school will run parent and carer attended events mostly within the school day. These will include special assemblies, sports days, plays and performances etc. Other parent and carer open evenings and other after school drop in events will not normally be more than two or three times annually and between 4pm - 7pm. Other than allowable community use hours, teaching and admin staff will generally have left site by 6pm Monday - Friday. The school will keep the local community regularly informed of any evening events through regular newsletter and or links through their web site.

- **MUGA & Grass Pitch Operating Hours:** The MUGA and or Grass Pitch will be available during daylight hours only including weekends. No floodlighting will be installed, ensuring usage will cease by dusk.

- **Cricket Nets Operating Hours:** The cricket practice nets will follow the same operating schedule as the MUGA, restricted to daylight hours only. This will prevent noise disturbances from evening and nighttime practice sessions.

- **Community Use:** Under a Community Use Agreement Plan, the MUGA will be

available for local junior groups. No adult hire or use will be permitted. Community usage is capped at 21:00 during midsummer (when daylight hours are longest) and will end earlier in other seasons in line with sunset. No floodlighting will extend the usage period, ensuring that activities do not continue into the night.

Access to the KS1 And KS2 play areas, the MUGA, the Grass Pitch and the Cricket Nets will not be possible outside of the permitted hours as there will be secure 2.4m high perimeter fence gates, authorized access only, CCTV and remote monitoring.

No formal games will be played on KS1 or KS2 play areas.

Potential Noise Sources

The primary noise sources associated with the MUGA grass U11 pitch and cricket nets include:

- **MUGA:** Sports activities such as football, basketball, and other team-based games. These activities generate intermittent noise from player interactions, ball impacts, and foot traffic on the playing surface.
- **U11 Grass Pitch:** Sports activities such as U11 football, summer training for U11 and possible cricket fielding practice. These activities generate intermittent noise from player interactions, no ball impact and no foot traffic on the playing surface.
- **Cricket Nets:** Batting and bowling practice within the cricket nets. The impact of cricket balls on bats and nets will generate noise. To reduce noise levels, traditional leather cricket balls are prohibited, and softer alternatives will be used and provided by the school.

Nearby Sensitive Receptors

Residential properties and other sensitive receptors may be located near the school site. Noise sensitive receptors include:

- **Local Residences:** Houses or flats situated near the boundaries of the school. Noise impact on these properties will be minimized by design and operational measures described in this plan.

Materials and Surface Design

- **MUGA Surface:** Low level hooped railings are used to enclose the MUGA securely clamped with resilient fixings to avoid vibrations. Sheet metal signs or hoardings will not be installed,
- **U11 Grass Pitch:** The grass pitch is not enclosed by a boundary fence, with the

nearest perimeter welded mesh security fence situated more than 10 meters away. Additionally, the pitch lacks drainage systems and will be out of use during adverse winter weather conditions.

- **Cricket Nets:** The cricket nets are constructed from high-quality, sound-absorbent netting to reduce the noise generated by ball impacts. Traditional leather cricket balls are banned from use, and only softer alternatives such as tennis balls, soft training balls, or rubber-coated balls will be permitted. This will significantly lower the impact noise produced during training sessions.

Equipment Maintenance

- **Regular Maintenance and Inspections:** The MUGA grass pitch and cricket nets will undergo regular maintenance checks to ensure that all facilities remain in good working condition. For the cricket nets, regular inspection of netting and frame structures will be conducted to ensure no damage or wear compromises their noise-mitigating properties. Well-maintained equipment also ensures reduced noise from unexpected sources like loose fittings or damaged surfaces.
- **Replacement of Worn Materials:** Any worn-out or damaged parts of the cricket nets or MUGA will be promptly replaced to avoid increased noise due to deterioration.

Community Use Regulations

- **Junior Groups Only:** The MUGA will only be available for junior community groups, which tend to generate less noise compared to adult groups due to smaller group sizes and less intensive physical activity.
- **Restricted Group Sizes:** The number of participants allowed to use the MUGA and cricket nets simultaneously will be limited. The MUGA and Grass Pitch will not be used simultaneously. This will prevent large, noisy gatherings and help maintain manageable noise levels during community usage.

Prohibited Noise-Generating Devices

- **No Amplified Sound:** The use of amplified sound systems, loudspeakers, or whistles during activities will be strictly prohibited. This will prevent sudden, sharp noise spikes that could disturb nearby residents.
- **No Music or PA Systems:** Background music or public address (PA) systems

will not be allowed during community or school use of the facilities.

Time Restrictions

- **Usage Curfews:** Use of the MUGA grass pitch and cricket nets will cease by sunset. During midsummer, usage will be permitted until 21:00. During the rest of the year, operating hours will align with natural daylight, ensuring that activities conclude well before evening hours.

Community Feedback and Complaint Management

- **Complaint Procedure:** A clear and accessible process will be established for the community to report noise complaints. The school or facility management will provide a designated contact for residents to lodge complaints. All complaints will be logged, and a timely response will be provided, including any necessary adjustments to usage or further noise mitigation measures.

Review and Continuous Improvement

This Noise Management Plan will be reviewed annually or as required in response to changes in usage patterns, operational issues, or community feedback. Adjustments will be made to ensure the plan remains effective and meets the evolving needs of the school and surrounding community. Continuous improvement strategies may include:

- **User Training:** Additional training or awareness programs for users may be developed to promote responsible behaviour and noise minimization.
- **Policy Review and Update:** Regularly reviewing and updating noise management policies to incorporate best practices and address emerging challenges.

Conclusion

This Noise Management Plan establishes a framework for minimizing the impact of noise from the MUGA U11 grass pitch and cricket practice nets on the surrounding community. By implementing appropriate design, operational controls, and regular monitoring, the school will ensure that the facilities can be enjoyed by users while maintaining a harmonious relationship with local residents.