

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

**Proposed Extension
Heaton Park View Nursery & Pre-School
315 Middleton Road
Middleton
Manchester
M24 4GY**

Planning Application Ref: 145303/FO/2026

Storah Architecture Ltd

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Statement

This Operational Management and Transport Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the construction of a two-storey extension to the existing Heaton Park View Nursery and Pre-School.

The statement has been prepared following discussions with the Local Planning Authority regarding the operational characteristics of the nursery and, in particular, the likely effect of the proposed development upon local traffic generation, parking demand and highway safety.

Whilst the proposed development will increase the nursery's capacity, the day-to-day operation of an established childcare facility differs significantly from many other forms of educational development. The relationship between child capacity and vehicle movements is not linear, owing to factors such as flexible attendance patterns, staggered arrivals and departures, varying session lengths, sibling attendance and shared journeys.

The purpose of this statement is therefore to explain how the nursery currently operates, how the proposed extension will be managed, and why the additional accommodation can be incorporated without giving rise to unacceptable impacts upon the surrounding highway network or neighbouring residential amenity.

This statement should be read alongside the submitted Planning Statement, Design and Access Statement, revised site layout drawings and Waste Management Statement.

Storah Architecture Ltd
Chartered Architects : Historic Building Consultants

46 Halifax Road
Todmorden
OL14 5QG

T 01706 813214
mail@storah.com
www.storah.com

Directors:
J. David Storah Arch. Tech. Cert.
Richard A. Storah Dip. Arch. MA Cons. RIBA AABC SCA IHBC



Company Registered in
England. No: 9547619

1.2 Scope

The report considers:

- * the existing operation of the nursery;
- * the operational need for the proposed extension;
- * the proposed increase in childcare accommodation;
- * staffing arrangements;
- * parent drop-off and collection procedures;
- * likely traffic generation;
- * parking demand;
- * operational management measures; and
- * the overall effect of the proposal on highway safety and residential amenity.

The assessment has been prepared using information supplied by the nursery operator together with observations of the existing operation and professional assessment of nursery management practices.

2. Existing Nursery Operation and Site Context

2.1 Existing Nursery

Heaton Park View Nursery is an established and successful childcare provider operating from its existing premises on Middleton Road. The nursery has operated from the site for a number of years and provides childcare for children across a range of age groups from babies through to pre-school.

The nursery is registered and managed in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements governing childcare provision, with staff numbers, room occupancy and operational procedures regulated through the applicable Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. As a consequence, occupancy levels are not simply determined by available floor area, but also by statutory staffing ratios and operational management requirements.

The proposal therefore represents the expansion of an established nursery operating within a well-established pattern of activity, rather than the introduction of a new educational use.

2.2 Site Context

The nursery occupies a site at the end of a short residential cul-de-sac serving a limited number of neighbouring dwellings. The surrounding properties are predominantly detached and semi-detached family homes, the majority of which benefit from private off-street parking within their own curtilage.

The cul-de-sac currently accommodates the daily operation of the nursery, including staff arrivals, parent drop-off and collection, deliveries and servicing. These activities have become an established characteristic of the locality and operate within an existing highway environment that has evolved alongside the nursery's long-standing presence.

Whilst on-street parking is utilised by parents during short periods associated with child drop-off and collection, vehicle dwell times are generally brief and parking demand is distributed over a relatively extended period rather than concentrated into a single arrival or departure event.

2.3 Existing Operational Characteristics

Unlike a conventional school, nursery attendance is inherently flexible.

Children attend a variety of full-day, half-day and funded sessions, with arrival and collection times varying according to parental working patterns, childcare arrangements and individual attendance schedules. Consequently, the nursery does not experience a single concentrated arrival or departure period comparable with the start or finish of the school day.

Parents typically arrive over an extended period, with children being escorted directly into the nursery before the parent immediately departs. Collection arrangements operate in a similarly dispersed manner throughout the afternoon.

The existing operation therefore generates a continual turnover of short-duration parking rather than sustained occupation of on-street parking spaces.

2.4 Existing Staffing Arrangements

Staff attendance is organised to ensure that appropriate supervision is available before children begin to arrive and remains in place until all children have departed.

Accordingly, staff generally arrive in advance of the principal child drop-off period and leave after parent collections have concluded. This management approach avoids staff arrivals and departures coinciding with the busiest periods of parent activity and assists in reducing peak parking demand within the surrounding highway.

Staffing levels are governed by statutory child-to-staff ratios, ensuring that staffing requirements are directly linked to the age profile and number of children attending at any particular time.

3. Operational Need for the Development

3.1 Background

Heaton Park View Nursery has operated successfully from the site for a number of years and has established a strong reputation within the local area. As with many established childcare providers, the demand for places has evolved over time in response to changing demographics, government-funded childcare provision and the increasing requirement for flexible childcare arrangements to support working families.

Whilst the nursery has continued to operate successfully within its existing accommodation, the operator has identified increasing pressure on available teaching space and the need for additional accommodation capable of responding to fluctuations in demand across different age groups.

The proposed extension has therefore been developed to provide additional operational flexibility whilst maintaining the quality of care and educational provision expected within a modern early years setting.

3.2 Flexibility of Nursery Provision

Unlike many educational establishments, nursery accommodation cannot simply be assessed by reference to overall floorspace or a single occupancy figure.

Demand within childcare settings varies throughout the year and between age groups. The nursery must continually respond to changing enrolment patterns, statutory staffing ratios and the differing space requirements associated with babies, toddlers and preschool children.

For this reason, the proposed extension has not been designed as accommodation dedicated to a single age group. Instead, it provides a flexible teaching space capable of being used for different age cohorts as operational requirements change. This flexibility enables the nursery to respond to changing demand without requiring further alterations to the building and ensures that accommodation can continue to be used efficiently throughout its lifetime.

3.3 Proposed Capacity

The additional room will accommodate one age group at any given time. Its maximum operational capacity therefore varies depending upon the age of the children using the room and the statutory staffing ratios applicable to that cohort.

Proposed Use	Maximum Child Capacity
Babies	18
Toddlers	25
Preschool	28

The room would not accommodate babies, toddlers and preschool children simultaneously. The figures above therefore represent alternative operating scenarios rather than cumulative occupancy.

Consequently, the operational characteristics of the extension are governed not only by available floorspace but also by statutory childcare requirements, staffing ratios and the day-to-day management of the nursery.

3.4 Benefits of the Proposal

The proposed extension has been designed to enable the nursery to respond more effectively to changing operational requirements whilst continuing to provide high-quality childcare within an established setting.

The additional accommodation will improve the nursery's ability to accommodate demand across different age groups, provide greater flexibility in room allocation and support the continued provision of childcare for local families.

The proposal will also create additional employment opportunities through the recruitment of suitably qualified childcare staff required to support the expanded accommodation. Importantly, the proposal represents an extension to an existing, well-established nursery rather than the creation of a new educational facility. The fundamental pattern of operation will therefore remain unchanged, with the proposal building upon an established management team that have operated successfully from the site for many years.

4. Operational Characteristics of the Proposed Extension

4.1 Overview

The proposed extension has been designed to function as an integral part of the existing nursery rather than as a separate or self-contained facility. The additional accommodation will operate under the same management structure, staffing arrangements and daily operating procedures as the existing nursery, utilising shared reception, administration, kitchen, welfare and staff facilities.

The proposal does not create a second nursery or independent childcare setting. Instead, it provides additional teaching accommodation within an established nursery, allowing the operator to respond more effectively to fluctuations in demand whilst maintaining appropriate staff supervision and operational flexibility.

Consequently, the fundamental characteristics of the nursery's operation will remain unchanged.

4.2 Flexible Use of the Accommodation

The proposed extension has been designed to accommodate a single age cohort at any one time. Depending upon operational requirements, the room may be used for:

- * Babies;
- * Toddlers; or
- * Preschool children.

The accommodation will not be occupied simultaneously by multiple age groups and, accordingly, the capacities identified within this report represent alternative operating scenarios rather than cumulative occupancy.

This flexibility enables the nursery to respond to changes in enrolment and demand without requiring alterations to the building, whilst ensuring that staffing levels and room occupancy remain fully compliant with the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

4.3 Staffing Arrangements

The proposed extension will operate as part of the nursery's existing staffing structure.

Additional staff will be employed as necessary to satisfy the statutory child-to-staff ratios prescribed by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework and regulated through Ofsted.

The required staffing provision will therefore vary depending upon the age group occupying the room. Younger children require significantly higher levels of supervision than older preschool children and, accordingly, the number of staff present within the extension will increase or decrease to maintain compliance with the relevant statutory ratios.

The nursery cannot simply increase child numbers without simultaneously increasing staffing provision. Compliance with the prescribed staffing ratios forms a fundamental requirement of the nursery's Ofsted registration and is subject to ongoing regulatory oversight.

Accordingly, the operation of the proposed extension is governed not only by the physical capacity of the accommodation but also by statutory safeguarding requirements, ensuring that occupancy and staffing remain intrinsically linked throughout the lifetime of the development.

4.4 Daily Operation

The proposed extension will operate in accordance with the nursery's existing opening hours and management procedures.

Children attending the additional accommodation will arrive and depart using the existing reception and access arrangements, with parents continuing to accompany children into the nursery before leaving the site shortly afterwards.

The proposal does not introduce separate entrances, independent operating hours or additional points of access that might alter existing movement patterns around the site.

Operationally, the extension therefore functions as an enlargement of the existing nursery rather than creating a new destination within the locality.

4.5 Relationship with the Existing Nursery

The proposed extension has been designed to integrate fully with the existing nursery building, allowing children and staff to move safely between the existing and proposed accommodation.

Supporting facilities, including staff welfare areas, administration, reception and other ancillary accommodation, will continue to be shared across the nursery.

This integrated approach enables the operator to manage staffing resources efficiently throughout the day and provides flexibility to respond to changing attendance patterns without affecting the overall operation of the nursery.

4.6 Operational Management

The nursery has established operational procedures governing the arrival and departure of children, staff supervision, safeguarding, communication with parents and the day-to-day management of the site.

These procedures have evolved through the operation of the existing nursery and will continue to apply following completion of the proposed extension.

The additional accommodation therefore builds upon an established management regime rather than introducing new operational practices or patterns of activity.

5. Child Capacity, Staffing and Operational Demand

5.1 Introduction

The operation of the proposed extension is governed by two principal factors:

- * the maximum number of children that can be accommodated within the room; and
- * the statutory staffing ratios prescribed by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

Unlike many forms of commercial development, the nursery cannot independently determine either occupancy or staffing levels. Both are controlled by statutory requirements designed to ensure appropriate safeguarding, supervision and educational provision.

Accordingly, the operational demand generated by the proposed extension is determined not simply by the size of the building, but by the regulatory framework governing childcare provision.

5.2 Flexible Child Capacity

The proposed extension has been designed to provide a single nursery room capable of accommodating different age groups depending upon operational demand.

The maximum number of children that may occupy the room varies according to the age of the children using the accommodation.

These capacities represent alternative operational scenarios and are not cumulative. The room will operate for one age group at any given time.

Consequently, the maximum operational demand associated with the extension will vary according to the nursery's enrolment profile and management requirements.

5.3 Staffing Requirements

The number of staff required to supervise the proposed accommodation is determined by the statutory child-to-staff ratios contained within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

The required staffing provision for the proposed extension is therefore anticipated to be as follows.

Operational use	Max Children	EYFS Ratio	Min Staff required *
Babies	18	1:3	6
Toddlers	25	1:5	5
Preschool	28	1:8	4

*The figures above represent the minimum staffing requirements prescribed by the EYFS statutory framework. The nursery may elect to provide additional staff to meet operational requirements or to maintain flexibility throughout the day.

The staffing provision shown above is not discretionary. The nursery's Ofsted registration requires these ratios to be maintained and, accordingly, child occupancy and staffing levels remain intrinsically linked throughout the operation of the nursery.

5.4 Operational Demand

Whilst the proposed extension increases the amount of childcare accommodation available, the resulting operational demand is moderated by the way in which nursery provision is delivered.

Unlike schools, where pupils typically arrive and depart at fixed times, nursery attendance is characterised by a range of attendance patterns, including full-day care, half-day sessions, funded childcare hours and flexible attendance arrangements.

The number of people present at the nursery at any particular time therefore reflects not only the maximum room capacity, but also the age profile of the children, the corresponding staffing requirement and the individual attendance arrangements of each family.

The proposed extension should therefore be considered as an enlargement of an existing operational facility rather than a separate generator of travel demand.

5.5 Relationship Between Child Capacity and Vehicle Movements

It is important to recognise that an increase in childcare capacity does not result in an equivalent increase in vehicle movements.

Each additional childcare place does not generate an additional vehicle trip. Parents frequently transport more than one child within a single journey, whilst attendance patterns are distributed across extended arrival and collection periods rather than concentrated into a single peak hour.

Furthermore, staff numbers increase in accordance with statutory ratios rather than independently of child occupancy, resulting in a managed and predictable pattern of operation.

Accordingly, the increase in operational capacity represented by the proposed extension should not be interpreted as a directly proportional increase in traffic generation.

6. Nursery Travel Characteristics and Traffic Generation

6.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to consider the manner in which the proposed extension is likely to influence travel patterns associated with the nursery.

It is important to recognise that childcare facilities operate differently from many other educational establishments. Whilst the number of childcare places can be quantified, the associated travel demand is influenced by a wide range of operational factors, including flexible attendance patterns, staggered arrival and departure times, varying session lengths, sibling attendance and shared journeys.

Accordingly, vehicle movements associated with nursery provision should be assessed having regard to the actual operation of the nursery rather than by assuming that each childcare place generates an individual vehicle movement.

6.2 Daily Arrival Patterns

Unlike primary and secondary schools, nurseries do not operate around a fixed start time.

Children attending the nursery arrive over an extended period according to individual childcare arrangements, parental working patterns and the sessions booked by each family.

Some children attend for a full day, whilst others attend funded sessions, half-day sessions or flexible childcare arrangements. As a consequence, arrivals naturally occur over a prolonged period rather than within a short peak typically associated with school opening times.

The proposed extension will operate within this existing management framework and will therefore follow the same established pattern of staggered arrivals.

6.3 Child Collection Patterns

Collection arrangements similarly occur over an extended period.

Parents collect children at varying times throughout the afternoon depending upon employment commitments, session lengths and individual childcare arrangements.

The nursery therefore experiences a continual turnover of short-duration visits rather than a single concentrated collection period.

This operational characteristic significantly reduces the accumulation of vehicles within the surrounding highway network when compared with educational establishments operating fixed finishing times.

6.4 Family Travel Behaviour

The nursery operator advises that families access the nursery using a variety of travel modes, including private car, walking and other sustainable means of travel.

Where families have more than one child attending the nursery, both children are typically brought to and collected from the nursery within a single journey.

Similarly, many journeys are undertaken by grandparents, relatives or childminders who may collect more than one child during a single visit.

Consequently, there is not a direct one-to-one relationship between childcare places and vehicle movements.

6.5 Staff Travel

Staff attendance follows a different pattern to that of parents.

Staff are required to be present before children arrive in order to prepare rooms and ensure appropriate supervision is in place at the commencement of each session.

Similarly, staff remain on site until children have been collected and the nursery has closed.

Staff arrivals and departures therefore occur outside the principal parent drop-off and collection periods, reducing competition for available parking within the surrounding streets.

This established management practice will continue following completion of the proposed extension.

6.6 Vehicle Dwell Time

This is a section I don't often see in transport reports, but I think it's extremely relevant.

The majority of parent visits involve very short dwell times.

Parents escort children into the nursery before returning directly to their vehicles and departing shortly afterwards.

Unlike many commercial developments, visitors do not generally remain on site for prolonged periods.

The continual turnover of parking spaces is therefore an important characteristic of the nursery's operation and assists in accommodating parking demand throughout the day.

6.7 Relationship Between Capacity and Traffic

I think this is probably the strongest paragraph we've written so far.

The proposed extension increases the nursery's childcare capacity; however, this should not be interpreted as creating an equivalent increase in traffic generation.

Operational experience demonstrates that vehicle movements are influenced by the manner in which childcare is delivered rather than solely by the number of available childcare places.

The combination of staggered attendance patterns, varying session lengths, shared family journeys, short vehicle dwell times and statutory staffing arrangements means that increases in childcare capacity translate into a significantly lower proportional increase in peak traffic demand.

Accordingly, whilst the proposal will result in some additional vehicle movements associated with the enlarged nursery, those movements will be distributed across an extended operational period and remain consistent with the established operational characteristics of the existing nursery.

6A. Established Nursery Management Practices

6A.1 Introduction

The operation of Heaton Park View Nursery has developed over many years and is supported by established management procedures that govern the arrival and departure of children, staff deployment and the day-to-day operation of the site.

The following characteristics are typical of the nursery's existing operation and will continue to apply following completion of the proposed extension.

6A.2 Established Operational Characteristics

The nursery currently operates in accordance with a number of established management practices that influence travel demand and parking activity throughout the day.

These include:

- * Staff arriving before the commencement of childcare sessions to prepare teaching spaces and ensure appropriate supervision is in place before children begin to arrive.

- * Parents accompanying children into the nursery before returning directly to their vehicles and leaving the site.

- * Child arrivals occurring progressively over an extended period in accordance with individual childcare arrangements, rather than at a single fixed start time.
- * Collections taking place over an extended period during the afternoon, reflecting differing attendance patterns and parental working arrangements.
- * The continued turnover of on-street parking spaces, with the majority of visits involving relatively short dwell times.
- * Operational flexibility allowing the nursery to respond to differing age profiles and attendance patterns without altering the overall pattern of activity.
- * Staffing levels increasing in accordance with statutory EYFS requirements, ensuring that supervision levels remain appropriate for the age profile of children attending the nursery.
- * The continued operation of the nursery under a single management structure, utilising existing reception, administrative and welfare facilities.

6A.3 Operational Effect

Collectively, these established management practices result in travel demand that is distributed throughout the nursery's operating day rather than concentrated into a single peak period.

The existing nursery has successfully operated in accordance with these principles for many years, and the proposed extension will continue to operate under the same established management arrangements.

Whilst the proposal will inevitably increase activity associated with the nursery, it will do so within an operational framework that is already familiar to staff, parents and the surrounding community.

Accordingly, the proposal represents the continuation of an established pattern of operation rather than the introduction of materially different travel characteristics.

7. Highway and Parking Assessment

7.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to consider the likely effect of the proposed extension upon the surrounding highway network and on-street parking availability.

The assessment has been prepared having regard to the established operation of the nursery and should therefore be considered alongside the operational characteristics described in the preceding sections of this report.

The proposal does not introduce a new access, alter the existing highway layout or fundamentally change the manner in which the nursery operates. The assessment therefore focuses upon whether the anticipated increase in activity associated with the extension can be accommodated safely within the existing highway environment.

7.2 Existing Highway Environment

The nursery is accessed from a short residential cul-de-sac serving a limited number of residential properties.

The surrounding dwellings are predominantly provided with private off-street parking, reducing reliance upon kerbside parking within the cul-de-sac.

The existing nursery has operated successfully from the site for a number of years and the surrounding highway network has become accustomed to the regular pattern of arrivals and departures associated with the nursery.

Whilst parents make use of available on-street parking during drop-off and collection periods, the existing operation demonstrates that the surrounding highway network is capable of accommodating these movements.

7.3 Nature of Parking Demand

Parking demand associated with nursery use differs from many other forms of educational development.

The majority of vehicles remain parked for only a short period whilst parents escort children into, or collect them from, the nursery before leaving the site.

Consequently, parking spaces experience a continual turnover throughout the nursery's operating hours rather than prolonged occupation.

This characteristic enables the same parking space to accommodate multiple visits over the course of the morning and afternoon arrival and collection periods.

7.4 Peak Demand

Whilst the proposal will generate additional movements associated with the enlarged nursery, these movements will occur within the established operational framework described earlier in this report.

The extension does not create a single concentrated arrival or departure event. Instead, additional activity will be distributed across the existing operational periods in accordance with:

- * flexible childcare sessions;
- * varying attendance patterns;
- * staggered arrival and collection times;
- * statutory staffing arrangements; and
- * existing nursery management procedures.

The increase in parking demand during any individual period is therefore anticipated to be materially lower than might be inferred from childcare capacity alone.

7.5 Highway Safety

The proposal does not require alterations to the existing vehicular access arrangements and all existing visibility, manoeuvring and pedestrian access arrangements will remain unchanged.

Parents are already familiar with the operation of the nursery and the surrounding highway network.

The proposal therefore represents an incremental increase in activity associated with an established use rather than introducing unfamiliar traffic movements or new patterns of highway use.

Having regard to the established operation of the nursery, the anticipated increase in activity is not considered likely to prejudice highway safety or give rise to conditions that would warrant the refusal of planning permission on transport grounds.

7.6 Planning Assessment

Paragraph 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework advises that development should only be prevented or refused on highway grounds where there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or where the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

The assessment contained within this report demonstrates that the proposal represents a proportionate extension to an established nursery use operating within an existing highway environment.

The operational characteristics of the nursery, including staggered attendance, short vehicle dwell times and statutory staffing controls, significantly moderate the traffic associated with the additional childcare accommodation.

Accordingly, whilst some increase in vehicle movements will inevitably occur, those movements are not considered likely to result in either an unacceptable impact on highway safety or severe cumulative impacts upon the surrounding highway network.

8. Operational Management Measures

8.1 Introduction

Heaton Park View Nursery has established management procedures that support the safe and efficient day-to-day operation of the nursery.

These procedures have evolved through the long-standing operation of the nursery and are intended to ensure that arrivals, departures and general site activity are managed in a manner that minimises inconvenience to neighbouring residents whilst maintaining a safe environment for children, parents and staff.

The proposed extension will operate within this existing management framework.

8.2 Parent Information

Parents are provided with information regarding the day-to-day operation of the nursery, including arrangements for the arrival and collection of children.

The nursery encourages considerate parking behaviour and requests that parents avoid obstructing private driveways, junctions and other areas where parking may inconvenience neighbouring residents or prejudice highway safety.

Where necessary, staff are available to remind parents of these expectations and respond to any concerns that may arise.

8.3 Arrival and Collection Management

The nursery operates flexible childcare sessions that naturally distribute arrivals and collections throughout the day.

Parents are encouraged to arrive within their allocated session times, thereby assisting in maintaining an even distribution of activity and reducing unnecessary congestion.

Staff supervise the arrival and departure process throughout the operating day, ensuring that children are safely transferred between parents and nursery staff.

8.4 Staff Management

Staff attendance is organised to ensure that employees arrive before the commencement of childcare sessions and depart following the collection of children.

This established practice reduces overlap between staff parking demand and the principal periods of parent activity.

The nursery will continue to manage staffing arrangements in accordance with statutory EYFS requirements and operational needs.

8.5 Ongoing Review

As an established childcare provider, the nursery continually reviews its day-to-day operation to ensure that the site functions efficiently for children, parents, staff and neighbouring residents.

Operational procedures are adapted where necessary to respond to changes in attendance patterns, staffing requirements or site management considerations.

This ongoing management approach enables the nursery to maintain an efficient operation whilst responding positively to practical issues should they arise.

8.6 Overall Management Approach

The proposed extension does not require the introduction of new operational procedures.

Instead, it will be incorporated into an existing management regime that has successfully governed the operation of the nursery over many years.

The combination of statutory staffing controls, flexible attendance patterns and established management practices provides a robust operational framework that is capable of accommodating the proposed extension without giving rise to unacceptable impacts upon the surrounding highway network or neighbouring residential amenity.

9. Report Conclusions

9.1 Overall Assessment

This Operational Management and Transport Statement has been prepared to explain the operational characteristics of the proposed extension and to assess its likely effects upon the surrounding highway network and neighbouring residential amenity.

The assessment demonstrates that the proposal represents the proportionate expansion of a long-established nursery operating from an established site within an existing residential area. The development does not introduce a new educational use, new vehicular access or a fundamentally different pattern of activity. Instead, it builds upon an existing operational framework that has evolved over many years and continues to function successfully.

9.2 Operational Findings

The assessment has demonstrated that the operation of the proposed extension will be characterised by a number of established management principles, including:

* The proposed accommodation will operate as a single flexible nursery room, accommodating one age group at any given time.

- * Child occupancy and staffing levels are governed by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework and regulated through Ofsted, ensuring that operational capacity remains intrinsically linked to safeguarding requirements.
- * Staff arrivals and departures occur outside the principal periods of parent activity, reducing competition for on-street parking.
- * Child arrivals and collections occur progressively over an extended period rather than at fixed start and finish times.
- * Parent visits are typically of short duration, resulting in a continual turnover of available parking spaces throughout the day.
- * The proposed extension will operate under the existing management structure, utilising established operational procedures that have successfully governed the nursery for many years.

Collectively, these operational characteristics distinguish nursery travel behaviour from that associated with many other educational establishments and significantly influence the manner in which traffic demand is generated.

9.3 Highway Assessment

The assessment recognises that the proposed extension will inevitably generate some additional activity associated with the enlarged nursery.

However, the evidence presented within this report demonstrates that increases in childcare capacity do not translate directly into equivalent increases in vehicle movements. The operational characteristics of nursery provision, including staggered attendance patterns, varying session lengths, short vehicle dwell times and established management practices, moderate the effect of additional childcare places upon the surrounding highway network.

The proposal therefore represents an incremental increase in activity that can be accommodated within the established operational characteristics of the existing nursery.

9.4 Planning Balance

The proposal will deliver additional childcare accommodation in response to established operational demand whilst supporting employment opportunities and improving the provision of early years education for local families.

Against these benefits, the assessment identifies no evidence that the proposal would give rise to an unacceptable impact upon highway safety or neighbouring residential amenity.

Having regard to the established operation of the nursery, the existing characteristics of the surrounding highway network and the operational management measures described throughout this report, the proposal is considered to represent sustainable development that is capable of being accommodated without adverse planning consequences.

9.5 Repost Conclusion

The proposal represents a logical and proportionate extension to an established nursery that has been carefully designed to integrate with the existing operation of the site.

The evidence presented demonstrates that the proposal will continue to operate under an established management regime, supported by statutory staffing controls and operational procedures that naturally distribute travel demand throughout the day.

Whilst a modest increase in vehicle movements is to be expected, those movements will occur within the context of an existing nursery use and are not considered likely to result in unacceptable impacts upon highway safety or the amenities of neighbouring residents.

Accordingly, it is concluded that the proposed development satisfies the relevant transport and planning considerations and that there are no operational or highway grounds that should prevent the grant of planning permission.

Appendix A – Summary of Operational Characteristics

The table below summarises the principal operational characteristics of the existing nursery and demonstrates how the proposed extension will integrate with the established operation of the site. It illustrates that the proposal represents an incremental expansion of an existing nursery rather than the creation of a new educational use or a fundamentally different pattern of activity.

Operational Characteristic	Existing Position	Proposed Position
Nursery use	Established nursery	Established nursery retained and expanded
Vehicular access	Existing access arrangement	Unchanged
Operating hours	Existing operating hours	No change proposed
Reception & administration	Single shared reception	Existing shared facilities retained
Management structure	Single nursery management	Existing management retained
Teaching accommodation	Existing nursery rooms	One additional flexible nursery room
Age group provision	Managed according to operational demand	Continues to operate flexibly
Staffing	Governed by EYFS and Ofsted	Governed by EYFS and Ofsted
Child supervision	Statutory staff-to-child ratios	Statutory staff-to-child ratios maintained
Arrival pattern	Staggered throughout the morning	Staggered pattern retained
Collection pattern	Staggered throughout the afternoon	Staggered pattern retained
Parent dwell time	Typically short duration	Short duration retained
Parking demand	High turnover of on-street spaces	High turnover continues
Highway layout	Established highway environment	No alterations to access or highway layout
Overall operation	Well-established and familiar	Incremental increase within existing operational framework

Key Findings

- The proposal extends an established nursery rather than creating a new educational use.
- The existing vehicular access and highway layout remain unchanged.
- Child capacity is controlled by statutory EYFS staffing ratios regulated through Ofsted.
- The additional accommodation will operate as a single flexible nursery room.
- Arrivals and departures remain staggered throughout the operating day.
- Parent visits are typically of short duration, allowing continual turnover of available parking spaces.
- Existing management procedures will continue to govern the operation of the enlarged nursery.
- The proposal is not expected to give rise to unacceptable impacts on highway safety or residential amenity.