CHORLTON HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

Canopy, Food Kiosk and associated External Works Proposals

DESIGN and ACCESS STATEMENT

26 June 2026

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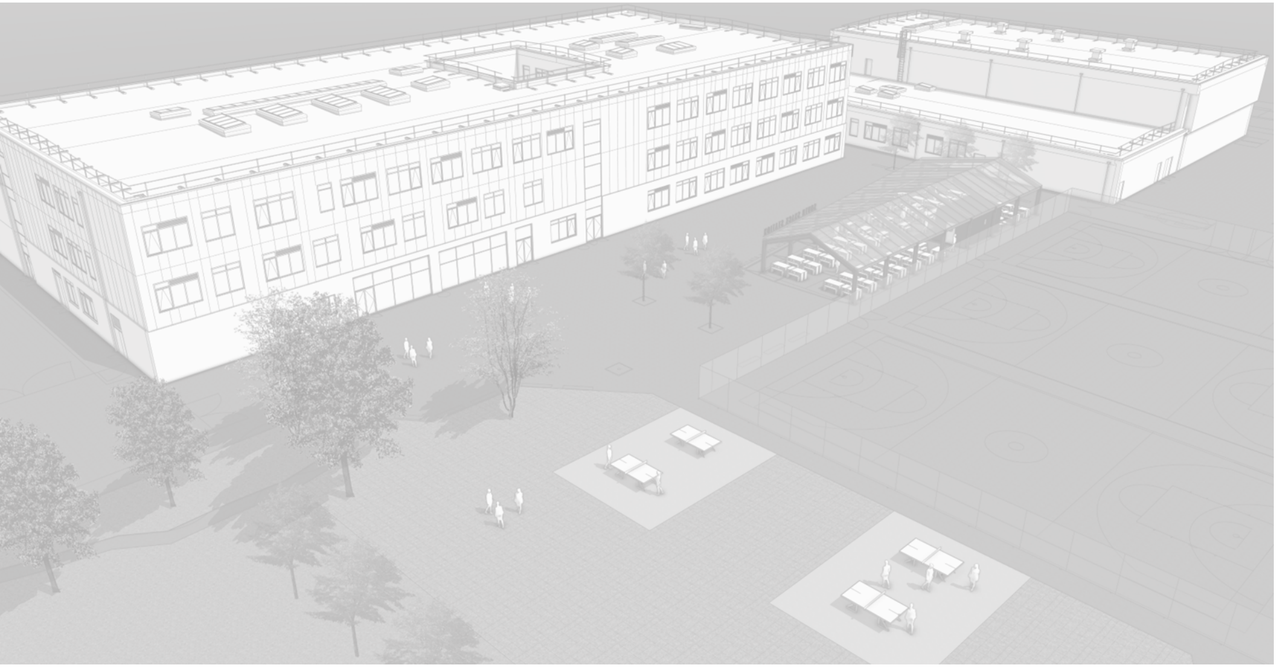
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Prospere LEARNING TRUST



1.01 APPLICATION DETAILS

Project: CHS South – Canopy, Food Kiosk and Associated External Works
Site Address: Chorlton High School South, 451 Mauldeth Road West, Manchester M21 7SX
Applicant: Prospere Learning Trust
Architect: Grated Apple
Proposal: Erection of a food kiosk and installation of a detached canopy to form an external dining area within the existing playground, together with associated landscaping, drainage improvements, biodiversity enhancements and external works to adjacent soft landscape areas.

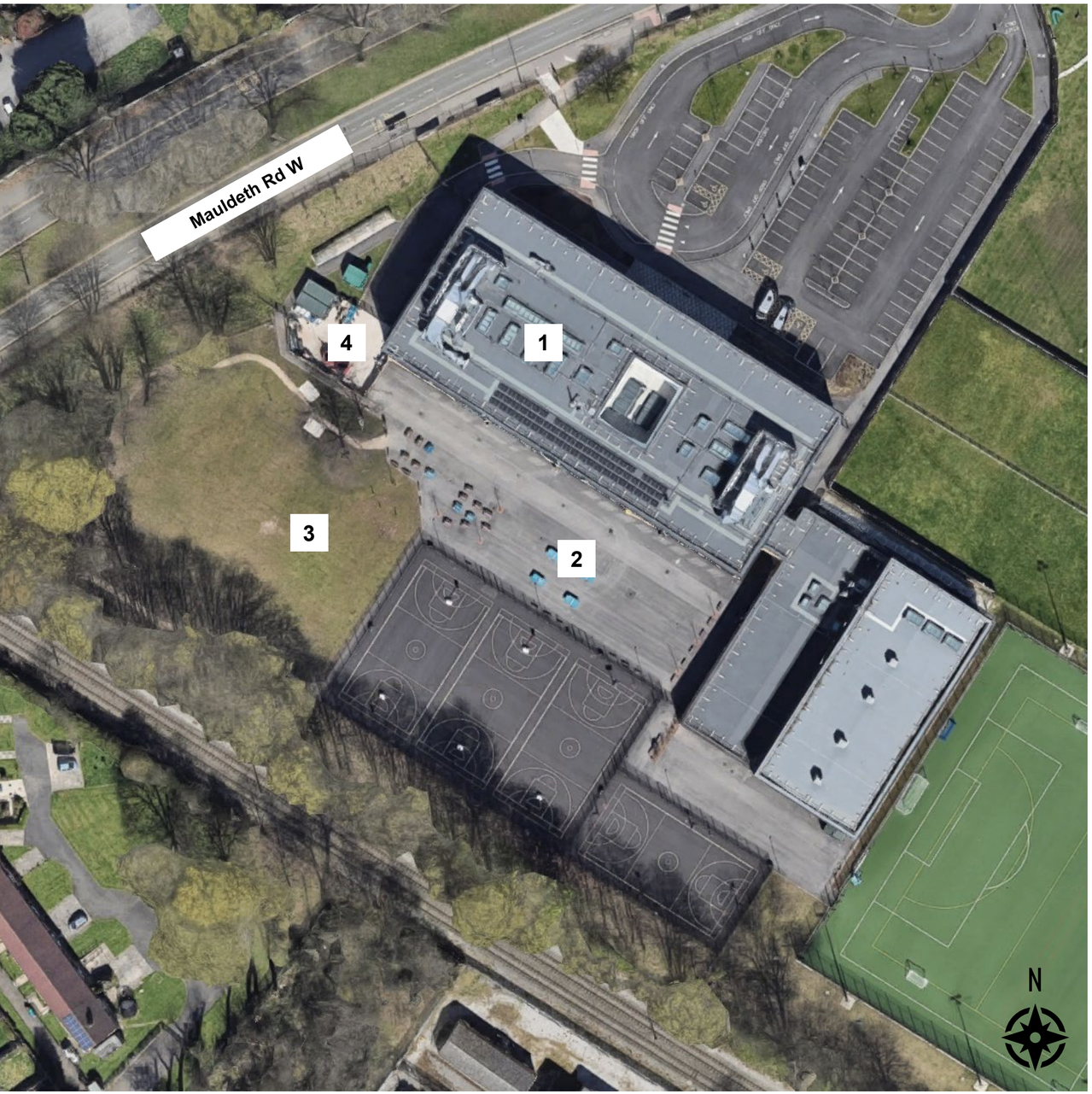
1.02 PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the provision of a food kiosk, detached dining canopy and associated external works at Chorlton High School South.

The proposals seek to enhance the school's lunchtime facilities through the creation of a covered outdoor dining environment supported by a dedicated food kiosk, whilst also improving an existing underutilised area of school grounds through drainage improvements, reinforced grass surfacing, biodiversity enhancements and informal recreation facilities.

The statement explains the site context, design rationale and operational benefits of the proposals, demonstrating how the development will contribute positively to pupil wellbeing, outdoor engagement, landscape quality and the overall functioning of the school campus.

The statement also explains the rationale behind the detached canopy arrangement, which forms an important element of the school's brief.



Extract from Google Maps

SITE DESCRIPTION

Chorlton High School South is a modern secondary school located on Mauldeth Road West, Manchester.

The application site forms part of the existing school campus and comprises areas of hard surfaced playground and adjacent grassed grounds.

The proposed canopy and food kiosk are located within an existing hard surfaced playground area between the main school building and the outdoor multiuse game courts. The location is currently used by pupils during break and lunchtime periods and accommodates informal outdoor seating and social activity.

To the west of the playground lies an area of existing grassed landscape which is presently underutilised due to poor drainage and seasonal waterlogging. The proposals include drainage improvements, reinforced grass surfacing, informal recreation facilities and additional tree planting to improve the usability, environmental quality and biodiversity value of this part of the site.

The proposals are entirely contained within the established school campus and do not affect neighbouring residential properties, highways or public open space.

1 **Main School Building**

2 **Existing Outdoor Play and Social Space**

3 **Existing Grassed Area** (currently affected by poor drainage and seasonal waterlogging)

4 **Service Yard, Refuse Store**

3. EXISTING SITUATION



Photo of the existing playground where the canopy is proposed, showing:

- Existing outdoor dining tables already in use.
- Existing table tennis tables.
- Existing temporary snack station van.
- Large expanse of hardstanding.
- Existing outdoor social activity.

Chorlton High School South already makes extensive use of outdoor space during break and lunchtime periods.

The existing playground accommodates informal outdoor dining, social interaction and recreation, including picnic tables and table tennis facilities. Pupils make regular use of these areas throughout the year.

To support increasing demand for catering services, the school currently operates a temporary mobile snack station within the playground. While successful, this arrangement was intended as an interim solution and does not provide the quality, capacity or weather protection required for the longer term.

Adjacent to the playground is an area of grassed landscape which experiences seasonal waterlogging and is consequently underutilised for significant periods of the year.

The proposals seek to address these issues by providing permanent catering facilities, a covered outdoor dining environment and improvements to the usability and environmental quality of the surrounding landscape.



Existing grassed area currently affected by seasonal waterlogging and limited year-round usability.

4. DESIGN OBJECTIVES



The proposals have been developed to enhance the quality of the lunchtime experience at Chorlton High School South and to create an environment that encourages healthy eating, social interaction and positive engagement with the outdoor environment.

The school recognises that the quality of the dining environment is an important part of the overall educational experience. Comfortable, attractive and welcoming dining spaces can encourage pupils to enjoy their meals, spend time with friends and develop positive lifelong attitudes towards food and wellbeing.

The proposals seek to achieve the following objectives:

• Improve Catering Provision
Provide a permanent food kiosk to complement the existing catering facilities and improve access to food during busy lunchtime periods.

• Create a Distinct Outdoor Dining Destination
Provide a covered dining environment that offers pupils a genuine alternative to the internal dining hall and creates a relaxed, informal and sociable atmosphere.

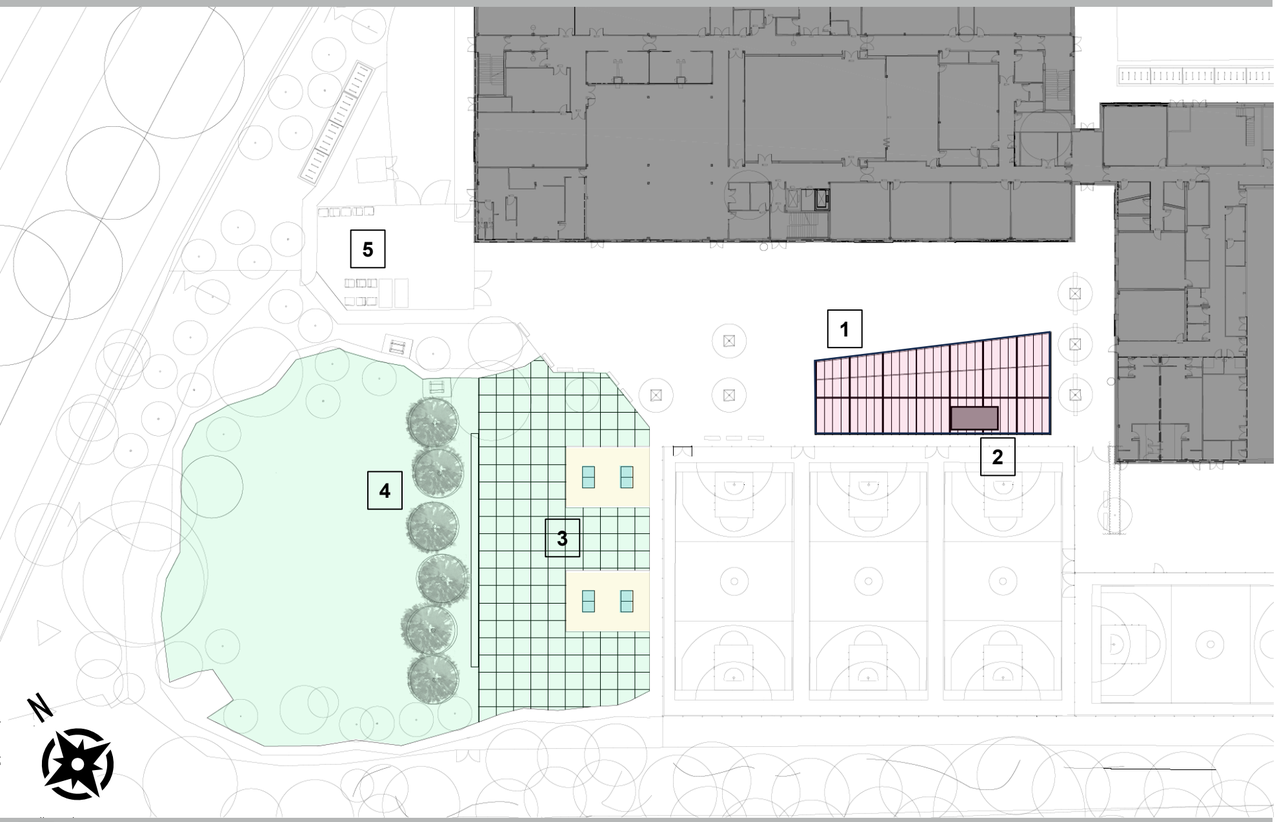
• Increase Choice and Flexibility
Support a variety of dining experiences by allowing pupils to choose where and how they spend their lunch break, helping to accommodate different preferences and needs.

• Enhance Wellbeing and Outdoor Engagement
Encourage pupils to spend time outdoors, benefiting from fresh air, natural light and a stronger connection with the wider school environment.

• Improve the Quality of the School Grounds
Transform an underutilised area of the site through drainage improvements, reinforced grass surfacing, biodiversity enhancements and informal recreation opportunities.

Collectively, the proposals support the school's aspiration to provide a more flexible, campus-style lunchtime experience, where pupils have greater choice in how and where they spend their break times

5. PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT



1 Canopy
Creates a covered dining/social area destination overlooking the playground and school grounds.

2 Food Kiosk
Provides flexible catering provision in a format familiar to young people and inspired by contemporary street-food kiosks.

3 Social and Recreation Area
Relocated table tennis facilities and informal gathering spaces encourage social interaction and outdoor activity. The proposed Reinforced Grass transforms an underutilised and poorly drained area into a robust and accessible outdoor space that can be used throughout the year.

4 Biodiversity Enhancements
Six new trees strengthen the landscape setting and contribute to the ecological value of the site.

5 Waste Management
Existing refuse storage/capacity retained and accessed via existing gates.

The proposals have been carefully arranged to create a coherent outdoor dining and recreation environment within the existing school campus.

The detached canopy forms the focal point of the scheme and is positioned within the existing playground to create an attractive and welcoming outdoor dining and social destination. Its orientation towards the main school building reinforces visual connections across the site and establishes a clear relationship between the dining facilities and the wider campus.

At the heart of the canopy sits the new food kiosk. Inspired by the compact food kiosks commonly found in town centres, market-style and contemporary kiosk settings, the kiosk is intended to provide a contemporary and informal catering experience that feels welcoming, familiar and non-institutional.

The area between the canopy and the enhanced landscape zone provides opportunities for social interaction, informal recreation and outdoor activity. Existing table tennis facilities are relocated into this area, creating a more integrated arrangement of dining, recreation and social space.

The adjacent grassed area will be improved through drainage works and reinforced grass surfacing, transforming an underutilised part of the site into a more robust and accessible outdoor environment that can be enjoyed throughout the year.

Together, the various elements of the proposal create a diverse and flexible outdoor setting that supports dining, recreation, social interaction, wellbeing and engagement with the wider school grounds.

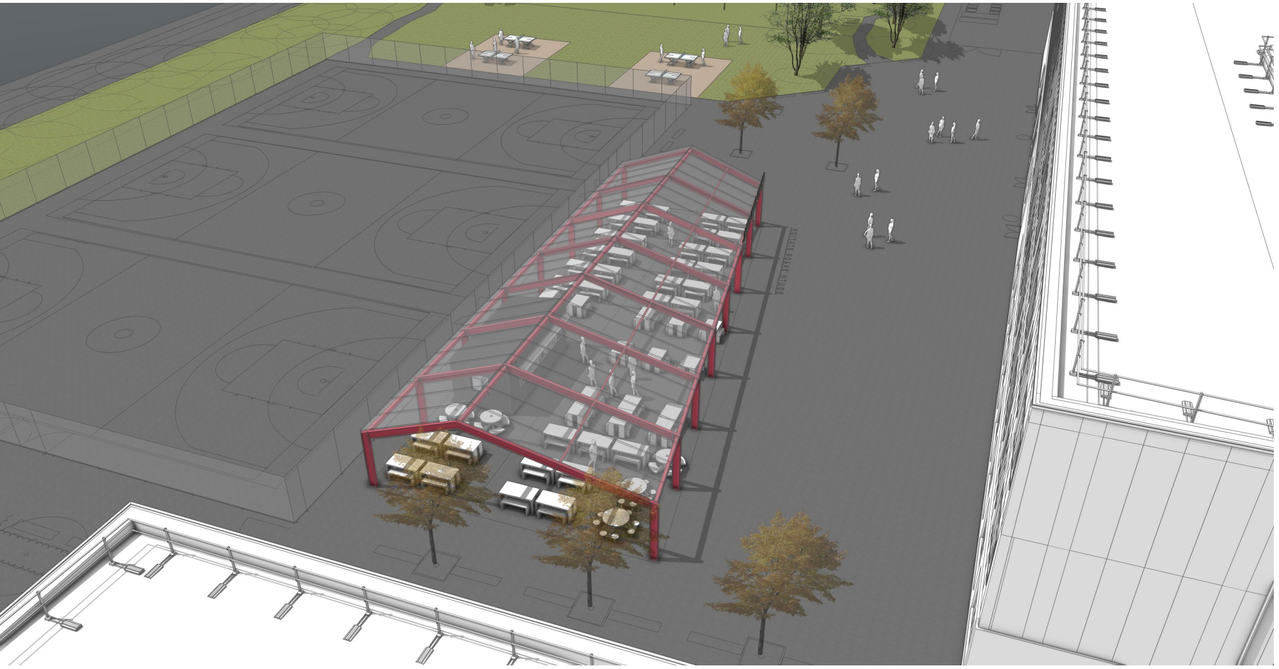
WASTE MANAGEMENT

The proposals do not result in an increase in pupil or staff numbers and therefore are not expected to generate a significant increase in waste beyond existing operational levels.

The school's existing refuse storage area within the service yard will continue to be used and remains unchanged as part of the proposals. The location provides a convenient and direct servicing route from the food kiosk while remaining screened from the main playground and pupil areas.

Waste collection arrangements will continue to operate in accordance with existing school management procedures and no changes to vehicle access or collection operations are required.

6. CANOPY DESIGN



Aerial view of proposed canopy

“The freestanding nature of the structure is integral to these benefits. A detached canopy creates a distinct outdoor destination, encouraging pupils to move through the site, engage with their surroundings and experience a meaningful transition between indoor and outdoor environments”

-Andy Park, Executive Headteacher & CEO, Prospere Learning Trust

The canopy has been designed as a simple, elegant and robust structure that provides year-round shelter while maintaining a strong visual connection with the surrounding outdoor environment. By providing a generous covered outdoor environment, it creates a flexible social space where pupils can meet friends, relax, participate in informal activities and spend time outdoors throughout the year. The resulting environment supports a wider range of lunchtime behaviours and contributes to a more varied and engaging school experience.

The open-sided arrangement allows the space to visually connected to the playground, sports courts and wider school grounds. This openness contributes to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere while ensuring excellent levels of passive supervision.

The structure employs a steel frame supporting a translucent roof membrane (ETFE), creating a bright and comfortable environment that benefits from natural daylight while providing protection from rain and adverse weather.

The expressed steel frame gives the canopy a clear and honest architectural character, drawing upon the robust engineering traditions associated with Manchester's industrial and manufacturing heritage. The design celebrates structure rather than concealing it, creating a distinctive yet appropriate addition to the school campus.

The canopy has been conceived as a permanent piece of school infrastructure. Its scale, proportions and material palette establish a strong visual identity while remaining complementary to the contemporary architecture of the existing school buildings.



MEA Central 1



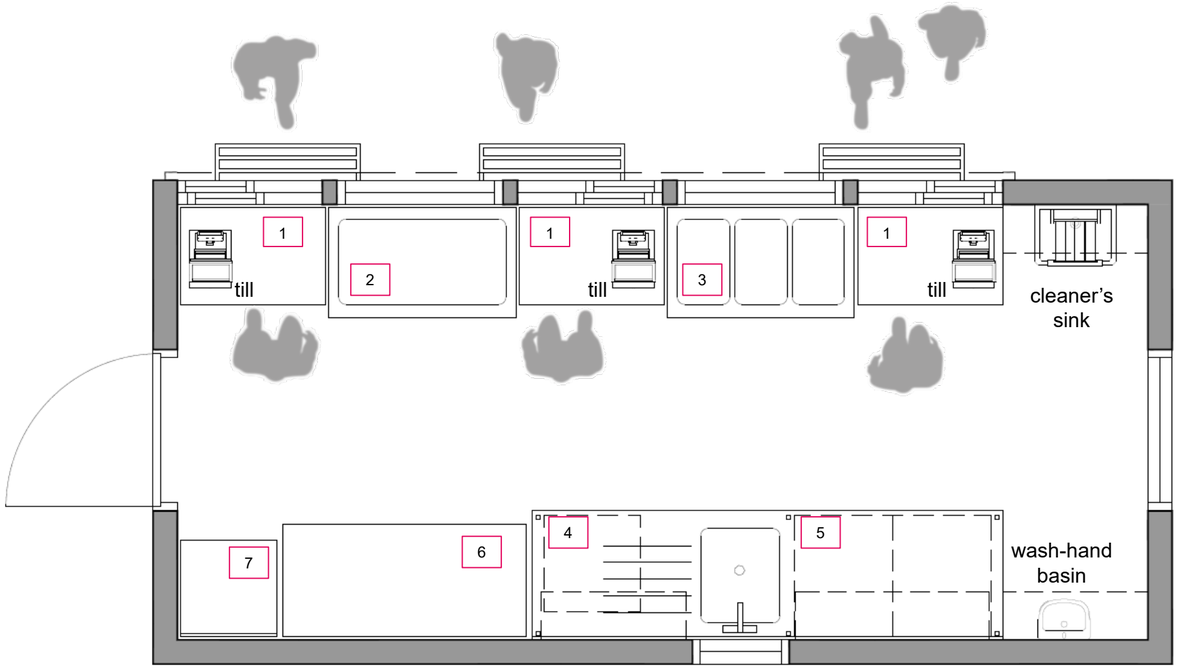
MEA Central 1



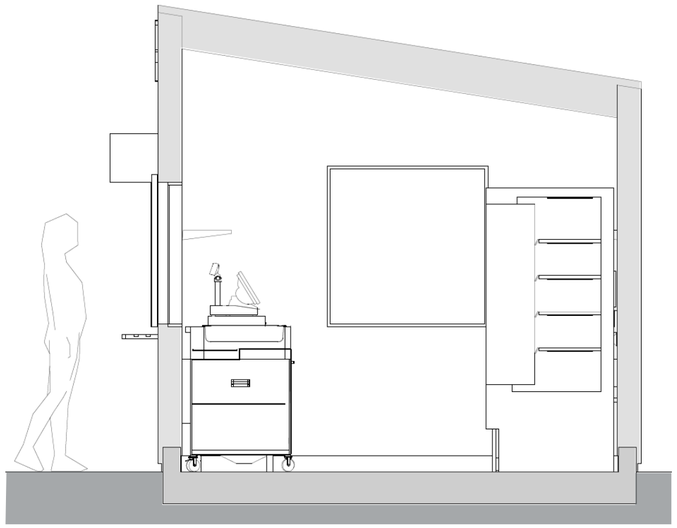
MEA Central 1

A similar canopy system has already been successfully implemented at another Prospere Learning Trust school (MEA Central on Lytham Rd, approved under Application number: 127046/FO/2020), demonstrating the quality, durability, functionality, and proven performance of the proposed approach.

7. KIOSK DESIGN

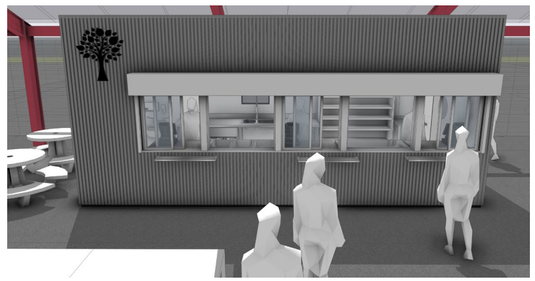


PLAN



1. Vogue Stainless Steel Prep Table 900mm.
2. Moffat Versicarte Pro Cold Food Service Counter VC3RW.
3. Moffat Versicarte Pro Hot Food Service Counter With Bain Marie VC3BM
4. Classeq Undercounter Dishwasher C500
5. Foster 2 Door 360Ltr Undercounter Fridge HR360 13/117
6. Williams Slimline Gem Multideck Stainless Steel with Security Shutter Width 1510mm
7. Vogue Stainless Steel Prep Table with Upstand 600mm

CROSS SECTION



The food kiosk has been designed as a compact and efficient catering facility positioned at the heart of the proposed outdoor dining/social area.

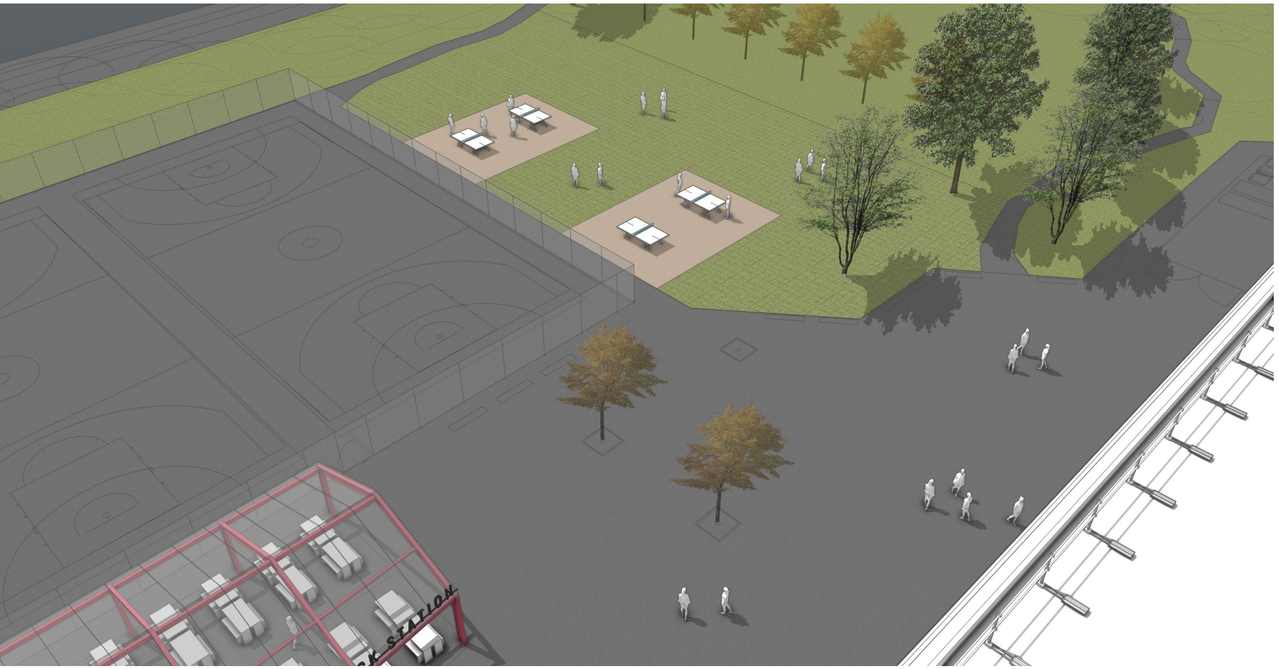
Drawing inspiration from the informal character of contemporary food kiosks commonly found in town centres, markets and public spaces, the design seeks to provide a welcoming and familiar environment that differs from more traditional institutional catering settings. A slatted composite cladding panel which envelopes the whole kiosk resembles converted industrial structures, a robust form with durable materials suited to a busy school environment

The kiosk will accommodate three serving positions, allowing the school to provide a varied food offer while improving operational efficiency and reducing queueing times during busy lunchtime periods. The facility is intended to serve a range of freshly prepared hot and cold food options rather than relying solely on pre-packaged items, supporting the school's commitment to providing attractive and enjoyable meal choices for pupils.

The kiosk has been designed with level access throughout, ensuring that the facility is inclusive and accessible to all users.

Together with the canopy, the kiosk forms a focal point within the wider outdoor environment and contributes to the creation of a more flexible, sociable and engaging lunchtime experience.

8. LANDSCAPE & RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS



The proposals extend beyond the provision of catering facilities and seek to improve the quality, usability and environmental performance of the surrounding school grounds.

An existing area of grassed landscape currently affected by poor drainage and seasonal waterlogging will be enhanced through the introduction of drainage improvements and reinforced grass surfacing. These measures will increase the usability of the area throughout the year while maintaining its green and permeable character.

Existing table tennis facilities will be relocated from the main playground into this enhanced landscape setting, creating a more intimate and relaxed environment for informal recreation and social interaction.

The improved landscape area provides pupils with a different experience of the outdoor environment, complementing the more active and hard-surfaced playground spaces elsewhere within the campus.

The proposals also include the planting of six new trees, contributing to biodiversity, urban greening and the long-term enhancement of the school's landscape setting.

9. EDUCATIONAL & WELLBEING BENEFITS



The proposals have been developed to improve the overall lunchtime experience at Chorlton High School South and to support the wellbeing, social development and day-to-day experience of pupils.

Lunchtime is one of the busiest and most socially significant periods of the school day. The quality of the environment in which pupils eat, socialise and relax can have a direct influence on wellbeing, behaviour and readiness to learn.

The proposed canopy, food kiosk and associated landscape improvements create a more diverse range of spaces that allow pupils to choose how and where they spend their break times, whether eating, socialising, participating in informal recreation or simply relaxing with friends.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

The provision of a sheltered outdoor dining environment encourages pupils to spend more time outdoors, benefiting from fresh air, natural light and a stronger connection with the outdoor environment.

CHOICE & INDEPENDENCE

The proposals provide pupils with greater choice in how they spend their lunch break, supporting different preferences, personalities and social groups. The availability of both indoor and outdoor dining environments creates a more flexible and inclusive lunchtime experience.

SOCIAL INTERACTION & BEHAVIOUR

Providing an additional dining destination away from the main dining hall helps disperse pupil groups, reduce crowding and create a calmer atmosphere. The availability of varied environments can support positive social interaction and contribute to a more settled lunchtime experience.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

The enhanced landscape areas, outdoor dining spaces and informal recreation facilities encourage greater use of the school's external environment and help establish a stronger relationship between pupils and the wider campus throughout the year.

10. SUSTAINABILITY, DRAINAGE & ACCESS



The proposals have been developed to enhance the quality and usability of the school environment while making efficient use of existing infrastructure and landscape assets.

SUSTAINABILITY & DRAINAGE

The scheme makes use of an existing area of hard surfaced playground and therefore avoids unnecessary expansion into undeveloped areas of the site.

The proposed canopy provides an outdoor dining/social environment that encourages greater use of external spaces throughout the year.

The associated landscape works will improve an existing underutilised area of school grounds through drainage improvements, reinforced grass surfacing and the planting of six new trees. Together these measures will enhance biodiversity, strengthen the landscape setting of the school and increase the usability of the site throughout the year.

The development will connect into the school's existing surface water drainage infrastructure. The introduction of a field drain will improve local drainage performance and help alleviate existing seasonal waterlogging.

ACCESS & INCLUSION

The food kiosk has been designed with level access. A linear drainage channel is incorporated along the entrance threshold to maintain safe access during wet weather.

The serving counters incorporate serving trays positioned at 850mm above floor level, ensuring that food can be accessed comfortably by a wide range of users, including wheelchair users.

The enhanced landscape area will also improve accessibility compared with the existing situation. The introduction of drainage improvements and reinforced grass surfacing will create a more robust and usable environment throughout the year, reducing the impact of seasonal waterlogging and improving access to outdoor recreation facilities.

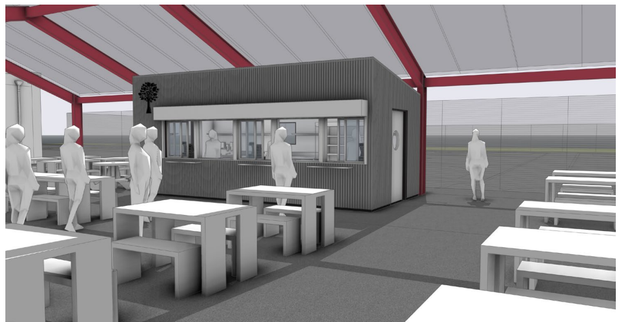














11. CONCLUSION

The proposed canopy, food kiosk and associated external works have been carefully developed to enhance the quality of the lunchtime experience at Chorlton High School South while making positive use of the existing school grounds.

The proposals provide a permanent and attractive outdoor dining environment supported by a dedicated food kiosk offering a varied range of hot and cold food options. Together, these facilities will increase choice, improve operational flexibility and create a more welcoming and sociable lunchtime experience for pupils.

The scheme also delivers wider benefits through the enhancement of an existing underutilised area of school grounds, including drainage improvements, reinforced grass surfacing, informal recreation facilities and the planting of six new trees. These measures will improve the usability, accessibility and environmental quality of the site throughout the year.

The development has been designed as a coherent and high-quality addition to the school campus that supports pupil wellbeing, outdoor engagement and positive social interaction, while respecting the character and function of the existing school environment.

The proposals represent a modest but meaningful investment in the daily experience of pupils and staff and will make a positive contribution to the long-term operation and enjoyment of the school grounds.

GRATED APPLE

||| Architecture/Urban Design |||

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