Sports England Statement

Erection of Temporary Portakabin Classroom Building (5 Years)
Longsight Community Primary School, 1 Farrer Road, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0QX

Supporting Statement for Planning Application
Proposal: Temporary SEND Classroom Accommodation and Access Ramp

Introduction:
This statement has been prepared in support of a planning application relating to the installation of a temporary Portakabin building within the existing school car park at Longsight Community Primary School, Manchester.

The temporary accommodation is required to provide additional educational facilities for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and is proposed for a temporary period of five years. A small access ramp is required to provide safe and inclusive access between the Portakabin building and the existing school grounds. In order to achieve this, a minor area of the existing grassed playing field adjacent to the car park will be utilised for the ramp connection.

Impact on Playing Field Provision:
The proposal does not result in the loss of the playing field as a sporting or recreational facility. The grassed area affected is minimal and is required solely to facilitate an accessible route to the temporary SEND accommodation.

Following construction of the ramp, the remaining grassed playing field will measure approximately:
- 26.37 metres in length
- 25.29 metres in width

This equates to a retained playing field area of approximately 667 square metres.

The retained grassed area will continue to provide adequate space for:
- Curriculum PE activities;
- Informal play and recreation;
- Small-sided games;
- Outdoor learning activities; and
- General physical activity for primary-aged pupils.

The shape and usability of the playing field will remain largely unchanged, and the proposal will not prevent the school from continuing to deliver its PE curriculum or recreational activities.

Existing Use of the Playing Field:
The grassed area is not marked out as a formal sports pitch and does not accommodate any dedicated or regulation-sized playing fields. Due to its size and configuration, the area is primarily used for informal recreation and small-sided football activities by pupils during PE lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

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The proposal will not prevent the continued use of the grassed area for these activities. The retained field dimensions of approximately **26.37 metres by 25.29 metres** will continue to provide a suitable and functional area for informal football, physical education activities and general outdoor recreation for primary school pupils.

Educational Need:
The temporary Portakabin building is required to support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), providing additional educational accommodation that will assist the school in meeting current and future needs.
The access ramp is essential to ensure that the accommodation is fully accessible and inclusive for all users. The proposal therefore delivers a significant educational and community benefit while having only a negligible impact on the school's outdoor sporting provision.

Conclusion:
The school considers that the small area required to accommodate the access ramp will have no material adverse impact on the function or usability of the playing field.
The remaining playing field dimensions of 26.37m x 25.29m provide sufficient space for primary school PE, recreation and outdoor learning activities. Furthermore, the proposal is temporary in nature, with the modular accommodation and associated ramp proposed for a period of five years only.
Accordingly, Longsight Community Primary School considers that the retained playing field remains adequate to meet the needs of pupils and that the proposal will not prejudice the school's ability to provide appropriate sporting and recreational opportunities.
Furthermore, the affected area does not form part of a marked or formal playing pitch and its temporary use for an accessibility ramp will not compromise the school's ability to provide physical education, informal football or outdoor recreation. The proposal delivers significant educational benefits through the provision of additional SEND accommodation while maintaining an adequate area of grassed playing field for pupils throughout the five-year temporary period.

PE Lead Confirmation:
I have reviewed the proposed development, including the temporary SEND classroom and associated access ramp, and confirm that in my professional opinion the retained grassed playing field area remains sufficient for the delivery of physical education, outdoor recreation and sporting activities at Longsight Community Primary School.
I am satisfied that the proposal will not have a detrimental impact upon the school's ability to provide appropriate PE and recreational opportunities for pupils.
Name: _____Keith Smith_____
Position: CEO Big Life Schools

Signature: _____ [redacted] _____
Date: _____28/07/2026_____
Longsight Community Primary School
Manchester

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