

Design Statement

**Hamble Primary School
Hamble Ln,
Hamble-le-Rice,
Southampton
SO31 4ND**

Prepared by HCC Property Services

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Design Statement

1. Introduction

This Design Statement has been prepared by the Hampshire County Council Property Services Landscape Team in support of a Regulation 3 planning application at Hamble Primary School, relating to a variation of conditions.

Hamble Primary School is located in Hamble-le-Rice and falls within the Eastleigh district of Hampshire. It is a mainstream primary school catering for children aged 4–11. The school has a capacity of 360 pupils, with 355 on roll in the academic year 2024/25.

The priority requirement to increase the County's SEND provision to meet demand and reduce travel distances and costs has led to the necessity for the development of a new 12 place Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) provision at Hamble Primary school for children aged 7-11.

An existing modular building, currently used for mainstream teaching, has been made available for the Resource Provision (RP). As the modular building has reached the end of its planning life, we are seeking to amend the relevant conditions to extend its permitted use on site, alongside providing a secure external play area and increasing parking capacity.

2. Site Context and Existing Conditions

Hamble Primary School is located on Hamble Lane within Hamble-le-Rice in the Eastleigh district of Hampshire. The school sits alongside open playing fields and recreation space, with its eastern boundary directly adjoining a residential area that forms the edge of the surrounding village.

The proposed works to the car park will take place at the front of the school, on the public side of the site, within existing access and circulation routes.

The new external play area will sit adjacent the modular unit, that is being refurbished to house the RP unit. It will be created on existing modified grassland and will provide a secure play space for RP users. It will also provide essential shelter to support outdoor learning and year-round play.

3. The Proposals

Alterations to the existing car park and provision of the new play area are proposed to meet the needs of children attending the RP, including supporting safe, direct vehicle drop-off and pick-up arrangements.

The proposals are:

- New drop off/pick up area for RP unit, including;
 - o Reconfiguration of existing parking spaces to provide drop off space
 - o Re-lining the car park to improve efficiency and meet current parking standards.
 - o Replacement of modified grassland with asphalt concrete surface, to provide 4 dedicated drop off spaces.
 - o Vehicle grade asphalt, to match existing.
- Provision of 1 accessible parking spaces, including;
 - o Replacement of modified grassland with asphalt concrete surface.
 - o Vehicle grade asphalt, to match existing.
- New footpath;
 - o Replacement of modified grassland with pedestrian asphalt surface.
- Provision of external play area, including;
 - o A timber 1.8 / 2.4m high perimeter fence, with access gate.
 - o Cutting back existing grassland
 - o Artificial grass and wet pour surfacing
 - o Sensory planting
 - o Glazed, metal canopy
 - o Raised timber deck
 - o Fixed play and sensory equipment

4. Design Considerations

4.1 Layout

The revised car park layout provides a safer on-site drop-off arrangement for users of the Resource Provision (RP). This is achieved through re-lining the existing car park and increasing staff parking provision, creating dedicated space for RP visitor drop-off within the access zone.

The new external play area, located directly adjacent to the RP unit, provides safe and direct access for secure play.

4.2 Appearance and Materials

Materials will be in keeping with existing surfaces and will align with Hampshire County Council standard practice, including durable vehicle-grade asphalt concrete surfacing and pedestrian-grade surfacing that meets accessibility requirements.

The external play area will incorporate artificial grass and wet-pour safety surfacing, providing robust, low-maintenance and inclusive play surfaces appropriate for the needs of RP users.

A timber ramp and steps will be constructed to assist level access to and from the play area.

A canopy, sympathetic in appearance to the existing school setting, will be incorporated to support year-round outdoor learning and play.

4.3 Landscaping and Green Infrastructure

The proposal includes 22 native flowering cherry trees and low ornamental shrub planting to meet a minimum of 10% BNG.

5. Accessibility Statement

5.1 Pedestrian Access

The design provides fully accessible, level routes suitable for all school users.

5.2 Vehicular Access

The car park changes improve safe and efficient movement within the site, which is expected to support smoother vehicle flow at the site entrance. No changes are proposed to the external highway access.

5.3 Inclusive Access

The scheme supports inclusive access consistent with the Equality Act 2010 and the recommendations of Building Regs Part M.

6. Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

6.1 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

A separate Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment document has been prepared by Hampshire County Council to inform the planning application.

6.2 Arboriculture

2 number small non-native trees to be removed to allow space for the new parking spaces.

6.3 Ecology

Following consultation with ecology, the work areas are deemed to be improved grassland, with low ecological value.

6.4 Drainage

The proposals will connect into existing surface water drainage system.

6.5 Archaeology

Consultation with archaeology has confirmed that excavation works are within an area of previous development and are unlikely to result in archaeological impacts. Standard procedures for unexpected discoveries during excavation will be followed as part of the construction process.

7. Transport & Highways Summary

7.1 Highways

The proposals are not expected to have any negative impact on the highway.

7.2 Parking & Drop Off

The proposed development will result in a modest increase of 12 pupils attending the school. With the provision of the drop off strategy and new parking spaces, this will alleviate traffic on the highway. Pupil drop-off and pick-up associated with the new resource provision will be carefully managed through staggered timings, separate from the mainstream school movements. This approach is intended to reduce peak-time congestion and maintain safe and efficient access to the site.

The parking spaces will increase by 4 additional spaces including the relocation of 1 fully accessible bay.

There are currently 38 teaching and 15 non-teaching staff at Hamble Primary School, against the current HCC school parking guidelines (1 space per teaching member of staff plus 2 spaces per 3 non-teaching staff) this would generate the need for 48 spaces. Historically however there has only ever been 17 staff parking spaces on site. Adjacent to the school is the Mount Pleasant recreation ground car park which has 50 spaces. This unrestricted car park is public and owned and maintained by the Hamble-Le-Rice parish council. It has long been utilised by the school for overflow staff parking and some parent pick up and drop off.

With staff numbers falling for the academic year 2026/2027, this will further support the parking on site. The proposed numbers are 33 teaching and 15 non-

teaching which the HCC parking guidelines would generate the need for 43 spaces.

3 of these teaching staff are associated with the new RP. There will be four drop off spaces provided for the RP class, so drop off and pick up of these pupils can be accommodated on site, with a further 1 accessible parking bays being provided, bringing the total of on-site parking spaces to 22.

Due to the nature of the development being small, providing up to 12 new SEND pupil spaces, with a phased approach, it is not anticipated that the proposed construction of this provision will have a detrimental impact upon the operation and functioning of the local highway network. Consequently, it is considered that there are no significant highways and transportation matters that should prevent this planning application from being approved.

7.3 Travel Planning

It has been advised by the HCC Travel Planning Team that the planning permission be conditioned to require the school travel plan to be updated to include the Resource Provision (RP) unit. Where not already in place, the use of the Modeshift Stars Travel Planning system will be recommended to support sustainable travel to the site.

8. Conclusion

The proposed development at Hamble Primary School comprises modest and contained works to support the delivery of a new 12-place Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Resource Provision, addressing an identified need for additional SEND capacity within Hampshire. The proposals include minor alterations to the existing car park layout, the provision of a secure external play area, and a variation of conditions to allow the continued use of the existing modular building to support the Resource Provision.

The scheme has been designed to integrate sensitively within the existing school site, providing safer on-site drop-off arrangements, improved pedestrian routes and inclusive access, with no changes to the external highway network.

Overall, the proposals represent a proportionate and appropriate response to identified educational needs and are considered acceptable in planning terms, supporting the delivery of specialist SEND provision at Hamble Primary School.