

Firstly, we would like to thank the council for their investment in the education of primary pupils in the Victoria catchment area. We are broadly in support of the new school plan. We like the internal layout and the breakout spaces that make the teaching spaces flexible. We also have the following comments/observations/questions on the planning proposal:

We are a little disappointed that the building design is not as impactful as it may have been, given the dramatic setting very close to the harbour and the water. Is there any scope to represent the heritage of the original village school in the new building (beyond the emphasis on gable ends)? We are concerned with how much light there will be in the rooms, especially on the ground floor with the columns blocking light. The design is reminiscent of the bond warehouses along Commercial Street rather than a school with a wow factor.

School staff particularly like the orientation of the school as it will enable easy access for the pupils from playground to park and vice versa. We understand that the planners are keen for it to be turned 180 degrees so that the front entrance is opposite the park, but we are not in favour of this change.

We are unsure how the proposed area for the extension will be able to accommodate 7 extra classrooms and would welcome clarification on this, and clarification on the impact that this will have on the available playground space.

In May 2018 we were informed that the total playground space would be 4150 sqm. Is this figure still correct? From looking at the plans, we have concerns about the size of the playground and want to be sure this is fit for purpose. Can you clarify the position relating to the public park. Will this be directly adjacent to the school? If so, could some of the park land be provided to increase the playground size? We note that, while much is made of the importance of outdoor space and play in the documents, little consideration is given to safeguarding children in the open park space and issues of this being shared space with local residents (e.g. residents will presumably be entitled to walk their dogs and they may fail to pick up dog mess, in the area shared with the school and to access the space while the children are using it). We want to see some discussion of how the sharing aspect of the space will be managed.

Will there be a road between the school site and the land to the north – park land? (see comment above). Could this road be removed as we believe it will restrict free access to the school site on that side? The documents say that access to the school will be from all directions but it is not clear whether this will be vehicular or pedestrian access only. We want some clarification on this issue. If the school is surrounded by road, has consideration been given to the effects of car and noise pollution on the children?

Can the council confirm the plans for the land immediately to the east of the site? We would like to see some consideration of the impact this will have on the school (e.g. light and shadow, residents' parking).

We note the detail in the plans for landscaping the school grounds. Can the council confirm who will be funding this?

Can we have more detail on the decision to provide unisex toilets? We have some concerns around privacy for girls in the upper school and would welcome a discussion on this.

Our biggest concern is the lack of clarity on the layout of the roads surrounding the school and how the traffic will be managed. When can we expect to see the plans on this? Concerns about traffic management are mentioned several times in the documentation, but no solutions are proposed that we can see. Indeed, there are no Action Points listed regarding this issue (Part 4, p.10). There will be no disabled space near the school. The VPS Travel plan and committee made a lot of effort to have one disabled space outside the current school because of its positive impact on accessibility. Removing such a facility is a retrograde step. Has any consideration been given to how access will be managed for pupils

who need such on a permanent or temporary basis (e.g. where a child has broken a leg)? Pupils who live west of Craighall Road will need to have revised crossing provision to get to the new site, south to north over Starbank Road. In fact, all crossing provision will need to be changed appropriately. The document states that it is anticipated that 55% of the pupils will come from the Western Harbour area, but there is little consideration given to the 45% of children who will presumably have to cross a series of busy roads (Craighall Road, Lindsay Road, Newhaven Main Street where it joins Lindsay Road). We also note that the majority of the roads in the area are very narrow and are very concerned about the impact of increased traffic in the area.