

Supporting Statement from the Head Teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Proposed Development of the school playing field

Planning Application

Currently the school playing field is essentially an undulating bog which can only be used approximately 12 weeks a year, provided it hasn't rained and the grass has been recently cut.

This is frustrating when we have so many opportunities for sport and fitness being missed due to the field being out of use.

Previously we have had drainage work, reseeding, and levelling of the field, but the same issues keep materialising.

Benefits of installing the Astroturf synthetic pitch

- The playing space will be substantial, 60m x 40m will allow most sports to be catered for, and be large enough for athletics
- It can be used all day every day, in all months
- Having a facility that can be used every day will aid children's physical development and help to regain fitness and be more active, particularly after the lockdowns. This will also benefit mental health and general wellbeing
- Specialist footwear is not required
- A huge number of sports and other activities can be played on an all-weather pitch, all year round- including cricket, hockey, tennis, golf, netball, basketball, football, rugby, handball, athletics.
- This can be used during breaks and lunchtimes, to give children more space, which leads to better behaviour
- Extra space will allow better social distancing, and allow a number of classes to be outside at one time

To summarise, this would be a major boost to the school to have such an accessible facility, at a time when the fitness and active lifestyles of our children have been hindered by the lockdown. Having shared the plans and video with the staff, there is clear excitement at the prospect of possibly being able to transform the field and make it much more accessible.

To be able to use the area every day would give so many opportunities that currently do not exist with the current state of the field. To create an all-weather pitch will allow flexibility and accessibility, and would be an incredibly worthwhile investment to complement the many other major investments we have made to enhance the school, and enhance the teaching and learning of our children.