



**BLACK CAT**  
BUILDING CONSULTANCY

# **DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**

South Shore Academy, Blackpool – Security Fencing

Bright Futures Educational Trust

# CONTENTS

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

## 2.0 EXISTING SITE

2.1 Existing Surroundings

2.2 Existing Site

## 3.0 LAYOUT

3.1 Proposed Layout

3.2 Scale

## 4.0 APPEARANCE

4.1 Proposed Site

4.2 Landscaping

## 5.0 ACCESS

5.1 Existing & Proposed Access

## 6.0 SUMMARY



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Overview

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) accompanies an application for the demolition of an existing low level boundary wall and installation of new security fencing, along with automated vehicular and pedestrian access gates, at South Shore Academy, Blackpool.

The perimeter fencing will provide an improved level of security and safeguarding, thus protecting children, staff, and visitors to the site. For a period in excess of 12 months, Bright Futures Educational Trust has considered a long-term investment plan for South Shore Academy in order to improve safeguarding at the school, by ultimately providing an outer perimeter fence with an electronic gated entry system to the front boundary along St Anne's Road.

The solution is required because the school building is situated in a vulnerable area and a distance away from the road, where pupils enter and leave the site. There are daily occurrences of unwanted visitors and trespassers freely accessing this area, with some having attempted to approach pupils during the school day. In addition, dog walkers are entering the site on a daily basis, leaving staff and pupils feeling vulnerable, as well as there being occurrences of fouling and littering.

It has taken a period of investigation and consideration of alternative solutions before coming to a conclusion. Due to the fact that the front boundary wall to St Anne's Road is too low from a safeguarding perspective, and that is in a poor state of disrepair, the Trust are proposing to demolish the wall and replace it with weldmesh fencing to match the other fencing on the site. The brick wall has deteriorated to the extent that it has become unsafe and is now beyond repair.



## 2 PROPOSALS

### 2.1 Existing Surroundings

The safeguarding improvements required are entirely within the footprint of the existing site boundary.

The proposed works include taking down 150m of the existing dilapidated wall at the front of the school, as indicated on the site plan opposite, and to replace it with 2.4m high Paladin 'V' weldmesh fencing. This is to include the replacement of 2No existing vehicular and 2No existing pedestrian access gates. The colour is to be RAL 6005 green, to match the other fencing at the school.

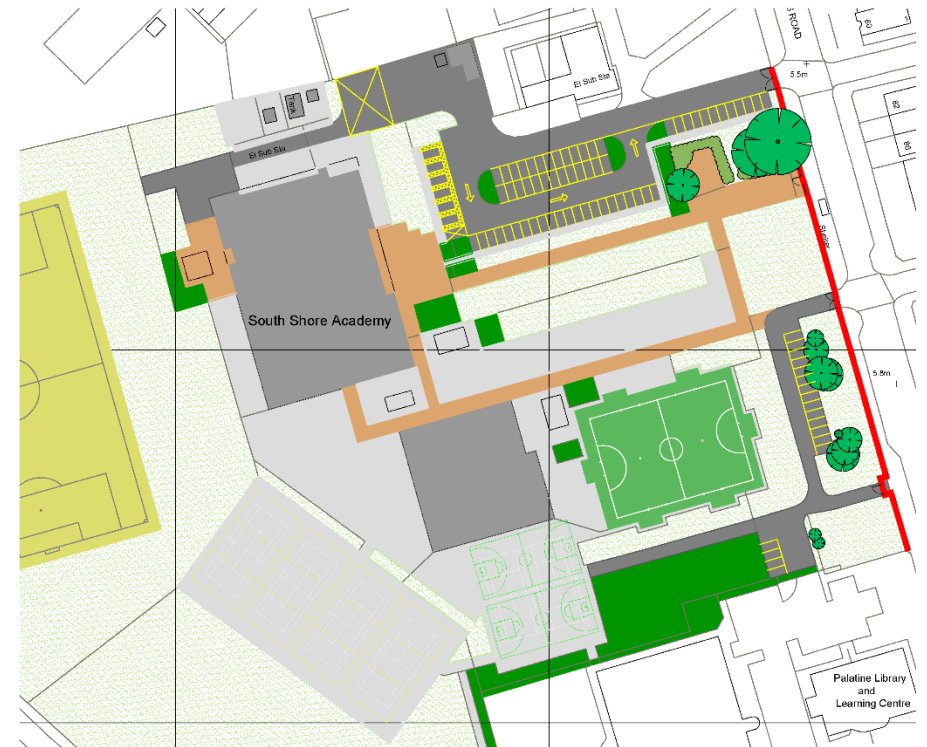
There will be a new 6m wide and a new 4.5m wide (2.4m high) set of double automated gates, in green weldmesh, to replace the existing gates and to match the existing fencing. These gates will be set back 6m from the road to allow vehicles to park off the road safely whilst they enter the site. There will be new 1.5m wide (2.4m high) automated pedestrian gates to replace the existing two pedestrian gates on the front, as well as a new push to exit post 2m back on the side of each gate, with free exit loop in the tarmac surface to the vehicular gates.

New intercom posts will be installed to the right hand side of the gates to allow visitors to speak to the school Reception who will open the gates remotely. All staff will be given a fob providing automatic entry. Any required timed opening of the gates can be controlled via the existing gate access software. All gates will be installed in accordance with Gate Safety legislation.

### 2.2 Existing Site

The existing site area amounts to the existing low level brick boundary wall 150m long.

The application site is currently occupied by an existing perimeter wall and access gates.



## 3 LAYOUT

### 3.1 Proposed Layout

The proposed security fencing will be in the same position as the existing low level boundary wall. No new pedestrian access and egress entrances will be constructed, all existing access points will be re-utilised as part of the work.

The proposal does not seek to increase the existing parking provision and the use of the school site is not expected to change.

The proposals are adjacent to St Anne's Road within the school grounds, comprising of green landscaping and infrastructure pathways, which afford it an open aspect. There are residential buildings to the adjacent side of St Anne's Road. The proposed weldmesh fencing offers an unobtrusive view of the landscaping within the school site.

### 3.2 Scale

The proposed fencing area will be circa 150m long along the St Anne's Road boundary.

The weldmesh fence height is to be 2.4m high. The fencing will incorporate single and double gates for vehicular and pedestrian access, which will comprise 1No 6m wide and 1No 4.5m wide double vehicular gates, and 2No 1.5m wide pedestrian gates to replace the existing low level gates.



## 4 APPEARANCE

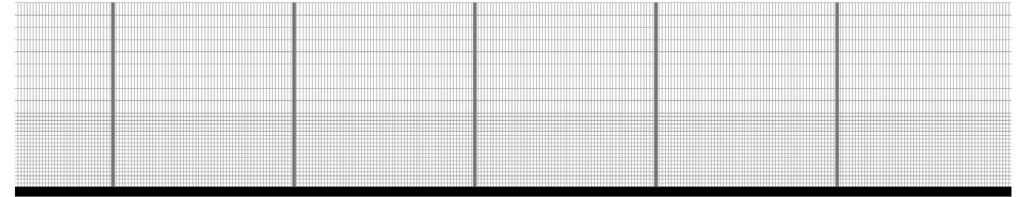
### 4.1 Proposed Site

The fencing and access gates will be colour coated RAL 6005 (dark green) to match the other fencing on the site.

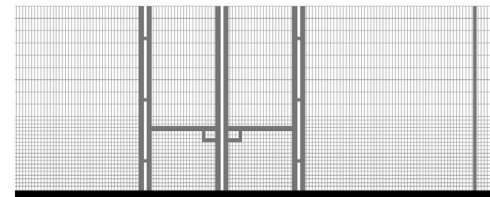
The choice of materials is to ensure that they are in keeping with their surroundings and are as unobtrusive as possible.

### 4.2 Landscaping

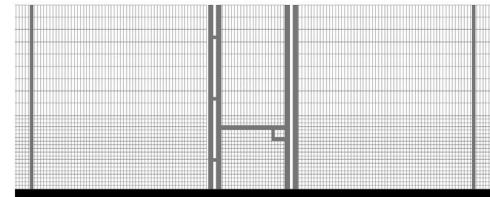
The brickwork from the demolished wall will be removed from site and disposed of in the appropriate manner, and landscaped with topsoil and turf.



PROPOSED FENCING DETAIL  
1:50 @ A1



PROPOSED VEHICULAR ACCESS GATE  
1:50 @ A3



PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS GATE  
1:50 @ A2



PROPOSED SITE AREA  
1:1,200 @ A4

## 5 ACCESS

This access policy seeks to ensure the provision of a safe and efficient pedestrian circulatory system for all visitors and users to the proposals.

### 5.1 Existing Access & Proposed Access

The site will be accessed as previously mentioned via existing entrance points, there will be no new entrances formed. Existing level pathways ensure that the facility will be accessible for disabled persons in the same way that they are currently accessed.



## 6 SUMMARY

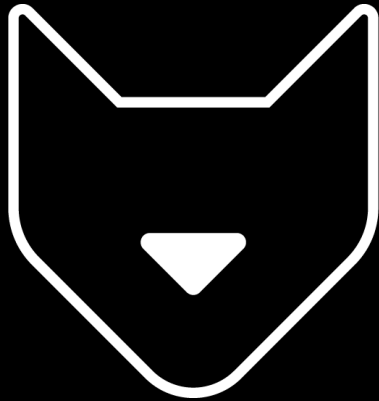
The perimeter fencing will provide a level of security and safeguarding, thus protecting children, staff, and visitors at the school. It will also eliminate the Health & Safety risk of the brick wall deteriorating further leading to potential collapse. Using similar design principles as the existing site, the proposal is in keeping with the context of its surrounding.

The proposed development is felt to be compliant with National Planning Guidance, Development Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance.

For these reasons we believe that planning permission should be granted.







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