

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT
DOVER CHRISTCHURCH ACADEMY, MELBOURNE AVENUE, CT16 2EG
PROPOSED EXTERNAL

DINING CANOPY

1.0 EXISTING SITE

The management of Dover Christchurch Academy was taken over by Turner Schools Trust on 01 September 2023 after a turbulent few years of being classed by OFSTED 'Requiring Improvement'.

The site straddles a large area and shares boundaries with Industrial Units, Border Control Agency and residential dwellings and with extensive playing fields is a mixture of buildings from the 1970s to recent additions and improvements. However it is clear that the Estate has suffered from a lack of cohesive planning and investment over the years which this Trust intends to change.

The boundaries are defined by a mixture of steel and mesh fencing.

Apart from the main buildings the site enjoys extensive car parking, a hardstanding Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA), playground areas, grassed sports pitches for seasonal games such as football and hockey in the Autumn to Spring months and athletics in the Summer. There are 'stand-alone' Sports Buildings and extensive green areas both landscaped and for recreational use.

All of the facilities benefit the local community when the school is not using them. A Community Use Agreement is available if requested.

2.0 ACCESS, PARKING, SAFEGUARDING AND DDA REQUIREMENTS

We believe, given the type of teaching in which this school specialises, that obligations to meet the requirements of The Equality Act 2010 (which incorporates the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) have been fully met.

As this proposal is to be situated to the exterior of the building, and no physical changes to the environment are intended, it is believed that any obligations under The Act have already been met.

Disabled Parking Bays are available in all car parks and ramps available at all entrances.

Ample additional parking spaces are provided for staff and visitors. Rarely, apart from special events, are they all occupied.

As the users of the proposal are students of school age it is not believed that they will require any additional parking.

The site is accessible to pedestrians.

Access to the site is suitable for all wheelchair and ambulant users and to that end is used on a daily basis by all including disabled students, parents and members of the public.

Facilities within the building include dedicated WC and washroom and all are accessible from the proposed development.

The School has ample first aid facilities and trained staff.

As this proposal is to enhance the school's current facilities the users would be protected under the current Safeguarding arrangements.

3.0 PROPOSED DESIGN

Whilst the school has had numerous additions and alterations it would seem that no account was taken with regard to the catering facilities, especially as the numbers have grown. This proposal addresses both this very real requirement in the canopy that we are proposing, as well as doubling as a shelter for inclement weather and thus ease the pressures internally at break and lunchtime.

This proposal makes use of a current hardstanding to the rear of the building. Ample alternative hardstanding is available.

The plan shows the proposed area to be used outlined in yellow and shows the existing main buildings and surrounds.

4.0 SAFETY AND SECURITY

Security fencing is installed throughout the entire site.

During School hours full Safeguarding measures are observed.

5.0 TREES AND VEGETATION

No trees will be affected by this proposal.

There are no Tree Preservation Orders in force for the site. However it should be noted that The Trust is planting trees throughout it's Estate including heritage fruit trees enabled by a partnership with Brogdale.

No vegetation areas would be affected.

It is intended to install elevated planters throughout the site to enhance areas.

6.0 NOISE

We do not believe that there will be any additional noise but that this should remain at the same level of output of the current school occupancy during Terms.

7.0 LIGHTING

Other than the lighting to be internally provided to the canopy no additional external lighting is intended.

8.0 LINE OF SIGHT

It is believed that the proposal would not be seen from either the roadside or dwellings given its location.

9.0 HERITAGE ASSETS

There are no conservation or archaeological interests that would be affected. There are no listed or historical buildings in the area of this proposal.