

Project: Art Classroom Block
Client: York House School,
Sarratt Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 4LW
Job Ref: 2332
Date: March 2024



Design and Access Statement

1.0 BACKGROUND & HISTORY

1.1 York House School is an independent school for girls and boys aged 3-13. The school was founded in 1910 and has been located in its location just outside Croxley Green in Hertfordshire since 1966.

1.2 This application concerns the erection of a single standalone art classroom building within the school grounds with associated landscaping.

2.0 USE

2.1 The school site is classified in planning use class F1 education.

2.2 The proposed art classroom block will be for educational purposes only and used solely by the school.

2.3 Operational use of the building will be within the existing school hours and term time calendar.

2.4 The building will be used by existing pupils and staff. This application does not seek to increase or decrease the school capacity, only enhance the existing facilities.

3.0 AMOUNT

3.1 The proposed art classroom has gross internal floor area of 108m².

3.2 The gross external footprint of the proposed building measures 120m².

3.3 The building will provide a single art classroom with associated storage cupboards. At the main entrance door, a covered canopy is proposed.

3.4 There is no dedicated refuse or recycling proposed for the single classroom. The school's existing refuse and recycling area will be utilised.

4.0 LAYOUT

4.1 The detached art classroom building is proposed adjacent to the existing main school building. To the north is the school's sports fields, to the south is a gravel car park, to the east is an external terraced seating area and to the west are the school's astro tennis courts.

4.2 The location proposed lies between two existing footpaths at the north and south. The area is currently lawn. Being in the centre of the school site and with the grass being mowed regularly there will be minimal ecology impact associated with the scheme.



Site Photo – Indicative Location Plotted in Yellow

4.3 To west of the proposed building is a single pine tree, which is proposed to be retained. The building is proposed to the east of the tree with an entrance canopy area to the south. A survey and tree protection plan are included in the submission.

4.4 The site of the proposed building is designated in flood risk zone 1 by the Environment Agency.



Environment Agency Flood Risk Map – Zone 1

4.5 Foul drainage from the three sinks in the art classroom are proposed to connect into the existing foul drainage manhole in the existing footpath to the south of the proposed building.

4.6 Surface water from the classroom roof and entrance canopy roof is proposed to connect into the school's existing surface water drainage system in the footpath, to the south of the proposed building.

5.0 SCALE

5.1 In the context of the whole school site the proposed new building creates minimal impact in terms of scale.

5.2 To minimise the scale, the art classroom is proposed to be single storey with a shallow pitched roof. The height of the roof matches the main school building adjacent to the east. Also, the height is similar to the 3m high fence around the Astro Courts to the west.

6.0 APPEARANCE

6.1 The external materials are selected to be robust and durable while making the building look contemporary. Walls are predominantly red brick to match the existing school building adjacent. Similarly, areas of timber cladding are proposed to match the adjacent building, these are positioned to frame and enhance openings.

6.2 The use of grey metal for doors, windows, fascias and soffits will link the building aesthetically, giving it a contemporary appearance.

6.3 Generous areas of glazing are proposed on the north and south elevations to give the classroom lots of natural light.

6.4 Paving to the building will match the existing paths, being buff yellow paving slabs.



Artist Visualisation – North Elevation



South-West

7.0 ACCESS

7.1 Access to the building will be via the existing paved footpath that links the main building to the astro tennis court.

7.2 No changes are proposed to the amount of car or cycle parking.

7.3 The art classroom building is single story and will have a level threshold through the main entrance door making it accessible to all.

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