

CLAGUE ARCHITECTS

Planning, Design and  
Access Statement

Queenswood School,  
Sheperds Way,  
Hatfield,  
Hertfordshire,  
AL9 6NS

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## **1.0 Introduction.**

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by Clague, the project Architects, to support a detailed planning application for a detached sports hall, with a two-storey ancillary accommodation, including an aerobics & cardio suite, toilet facilities and viewing gallery at Queenswood School, Shepherds Way, Hatfield, AL9 6NS

The Statement is to be read alongside the following drawings:

Location Plan  
Existing Survey  
Proposed Site Plan  
Ground Floor Plan  
First Floor Plan  
Elevations  
Section  
Carpark Plan

and the following Consultants' reports:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report  
L2A Compliance Report  
Renewable Energy Report  
Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage/ SUDS Strategy  
Arboricultural Report

Queenswood School is an independent, girls only school founded in 1894.

The school currently caters for approximately 430 students between 11 & 18 years of age, including both boarders and day students. It is important to note that there will not be any rise in student or staff numbers as a direct result of this proposal.

It is proposed that the existing sports hall roof and wall cladding will be removed and the existing structure used to form the basis of the new sports hall and ancillary building. The mobile classrooms will be removed to allow the extension to take place.

We believe that improving the current facility will be preferred to locating a new site within the school grounds.

The existing sports hall facility is in need of repair and upgrade. The proposal to re clad the existing structure but add some additional facilities seems the most logical solution to provide a much-needed part of the curriculum in a modern building, that provides areas of accommodation that currently fall short of being adequate

## **2.0 Site Location**

The existing sports building sits with Shepherds Way (B157) to the north, the main campus to the south and then further beyond Leggatts Park.

### **3.0 Design Best Practice.**

In order to ensure that the final design for the new sports hall will provide the best possible facilities for sports, design guidance recommendations put forward by Sport England have been closely followed albeit with small compromises. It is our intention that this will result in a scheme that is a perfect fit for the school's sporting curriculum

The minimum requirements for court dimensions and heights also form part of the guidance notes published by Sport England and these are in turn based on minimum requirements issued by the sporting authorities specific to each sport. The need to adhere to this guidance to produce a usable sports hall will naturally result in a building of very particular dimensions and as designers we have not tried to hide from this. In using the existing structure, we believe that a pitched roof, prevalent on the site and surrounding buildings, would be appropriate to this building as it is on the existing sports building.

To produce a scheme that we believe follows the best design practice externally as well as internally we have taken reference from some other buildings adjacent to the sports hall. We believe that these buildings share a common theme in respect to the architectural language that they use.

We have tried to utilize this architectural language for the Queenswood School project by proposing colours and textures that will unify the buildings rather than leave them looking as not belonging.

### **4.0 Site Analysis.**

The existing sports hall sits to the north of the main school buildings. It is surrounded by numerous trees and foliage. Two mobile classrooms that have temporary approval will be removed to make space for the new amenities block of the sports hall. To the east is an area of dense overgrown shrubbery which screens the main carpark for the school.

### **5.0 Building Massing.**

The existing sports hall is of a simple design with a pitched roof at approx. 19deg. Profiled cladding sheets enclose the perimeter with 4no access and emergency doors, (one on each corner. The building has a symmetrical appearance rising from the eaves to the ridge. The proposed building keeps with this simplicity. The roof continues down until it reaches the new wall lines. This give an asymmetrical building but with the original symmetry being maintained. The ridge height will be almost as it is on the existing but the eaves will fall to two differing lower levels that enclose the new accommodation.

### **6.0 Vehicular Access.**

There are existing entrances off Shepherds Way directly into the school's main carpark which is where parents currently drop off children outside of the "safeguarding" perimeter. It is badly laid out and is in need of some resurfacing and re line marking.

It is proposed to provide a new parent drop off lane, and redefine the carpark to increase the current numbers of 85 spaces approx. to 102 spaces approx.

Visitors, other than parents use a different access off of Shepherds Way which is gated and only accessible if the gates are remotely opened.

## **7.0 Proposed Scheme.**

### 7.1 Floor Plan.

The main sports hall is maintained at 36 x 36m, bleacher seating will be added along the eastern side of the hall. Much needed sports storage will be added as an extension to the north elevation of the building, allowing the storage of indoor sports equipment and allowing flexibility of the hall for multipurpose sports use. To the south of the hall a further extension allows for a proper entrance lobby and internal circulation, ground floor viewing gallery which also gives access to new toilet provision and an Aerobics and Cardio suite. An ambulant disability stair gives access to a first floor viewing gallery and storage area.

An external secondary fire escape is also located adjacent to the Aerobics space.

### 7.2 North Elevation.

The northern elevation has been designed to act as a transition between the coloured horizontal panels to a composite insulated profile vertical metal cladding (black) to merge into the landscape as does the existing.

### 7.3 East Elevation.

This elevation will be seen from the access and carparking areas. It has been given prominence by offering a coloured horizontal insulated panel onto the existing steel frame. A glazed entrance lobby directs the user to where they need to be. Brickwork to match the adjacent buildings encloses the extension of the amenities block.

### 7.4 South Elevation.

This elevation faces into the school campus along an existing path. Brickwork and aluminium powder coated window units give texture and allows views of what's beyond. The glazed entrance is protected on this elevation by the roof acting as a canopy over the doors. The elevation is of two storey in scale and will eventually include window units to allow classrooms to be formed in the currently noted storage space (a future application).

### 7.5 West Elevation.

This elevation is the least visible of the entire building. Vertical profiled black metal cladding and brickwork are separated by a glazed strip. An external galvanised metal fire escape, allows escape from the first floor viewing gallery and storage area.

## **8.0 Access.**

### 8.1 Disabled Access.

Disabled access to the building will be via the existing network of paths and surfaces. The topography of the site does not make the site in accessible to people with a disability.

An ambulant disability stair gives access to the first floor

## 8.2 Emergency Vehicular Access.

Access from Shepherds way would allow access for Emergency vehicles to approach the building.

## 8.3 Pedestrian Access.

Pedestrian and disability access is via the network of paths and surfaces around the school.

## **9.0 Materials.**

Roof;

Kingspan insulated profiled metal panels – Dove Grey

Eaves & RWP's by Dales – Colour Dark Grey

Walls;

Brickwork to match existing adjacent buildings.

Horizontal cladding (Grey/Silver) by Kingspan.

Vertical profiled metal cladding (Black) by Kingspan,

Windows & Doors;

Polyester Powder coated Aluminium – Colour Dark Grey

External Stair;

Galvanized steel.

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Published by Clague architects LLP

First published in December 2015

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