YSGOL I.D. HOOSON

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

01978 510 178: info@hughesohanlon.co.uk

HUGHES:O'HANLON
architects

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This document has been prepared by:

Hughes:O'Hanlon Architects
9a Edison Court,
Wrexham, LL13 7YT
01978 510 178

info@hughesohanlon.co.uk
www.hughesohanlon.co.uk

On behalf of Read Construction.

ISSUE & REVISION RECORD

ISSUE NO	DATE	SECTION	REVISION DETAILS	APPROVED
1	25.03.2025	Full document	Initial Issue for client approval	
2	07.04.2025	Full document	Issued for Planning Submission	
3	15.04.2025	Full document	Issued for Planning Submission	

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01 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following table lists common acronyms that may be used throughout the document.

ACRONYM	TERM
AIA	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
COU	Change of Use planning Application
DAS	Design and Access Statement
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GEA	Gross External Area – whole area/footprint of building, including perimeter wall thickness, projections, and all ancillary spaces
GIA	Gross Internal Area – whole enclosed area within the building including internal walls and ancillary spaces but excluding thickness of external walls
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
HOH	Hughes:O'Hanlon Architects
LBC	Listed Building Consent
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NIA	Net Internal Area – total usable area within a building, not including any walls, wcs, lobbies, cupboards, plant, lifts, stairwells, or circulation spaces
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PD	Permitted Development
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
POS	Public Open Space
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
SAC	Special Area of Conservation – protected Natural Habitat
SPA	Special Protection Area – protected bird habitat
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Strategy
TA	Transport Assessment
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
WCBC	Wrexham County Borough Council

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02 INTRODUCTION

This statement has been produced in support of the full planning application for extensions and internal alterations to the existing school building in addition to associated site improvement works at Ysgol ID Hooson, Heol Caradoc, Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham, LL14 2DS.

The site is located on the western fringe of Rhosllanerchrugog village, 4.4 miles south west of Wrexham and 7.7 miles north east of Llangollen. The existing building was purpose built as a school in 2007, and sits on the edge of a wider cluster of residential dwellings. The site benefits from a private, gated access with ample off-street car parking and external amenity space.

Wrexham County Borough Council is committed to enhancing childcare provision at Ysgol ID Hooson in Rhosllanerchrugog. The local authority plans to replace the two existing mobile classroom units (4No. classrooms) with purpose built accommodation through extensions and internal alterations. The development will include both indoor and outdoor spaces, creating the necessary facilities for eight additional classrooms and a nursery, ensuring the school can meet current and future demand and provide a high-quality learning environment.

The local authority for the application site is Wrexham County Borough Council.

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the associated drawings prepared by HO'H:

- Location Plan, 1:1250, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-1100
- Existing Site Plan, 1:500, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-1201
- Demolition Site Plan, 1:500, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-1202
- Proposed Site Plan, 1:500, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-1203
- Existing Ground Floor Plan, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-00-DR-A-2100
- Existing Roof Plan, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-01-DR-A-2101
- Existing Elevations, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-2100
- Existing Elevations, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-2101
- Demolition Ground Floor Plan, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-00-DR-A-3101
- Proposed Ground Floor Plan, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-00-DR-A-4101
- Proposed Roof Plan, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-01-DR-A-4102
- Proposed Elevations, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-4201
- Proposed GA Sections, 1:100, IDH-HOH-XX-XX-DR-A-4300

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In addition to the proposed drawings, this design and access statement is to be read in conjunction with the following supporting documents:

- **Transport Assessment**
  2025427 – Report 001 - produced by Development Planning Limited.
- **School Travel Plan**
  2025427 – Report 002 - produced by Development Planning Limited.
- **Existing Drainage General Arrangement**
  13533-ST-WM-200 - produced by Gifford & Partners.
- **Proposed Drainage Strategy General Arrangement**
  IDH-ENA-XX-XX-DR-C-5605 produced by Eng Assist Limited
- **Proposed SuDs Maintenance Plan Pro Forma**
  produced by Eng Assist
- **Phase I Geoenvironmental Assessment Including Phase I Coal Mining Risk Assessment -** produced by Eccles Associates Limited
- **Phase II Site Investigation Including Coal Mining Risk Assessment**
  produced by Eccles Associates Limited
- **Flood Consequences Assessment**
  IDH-RCH-03-XX-RP-O-0031- produced by Waterco Limited
- **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment**
  IDH-RCH-03-XX-RP-O-0025-Ecological PEA PRA Report - produced by Arbtech
- **Arboricultural Survey**
  IDH-RCH-03-XX-RP-O-0026-Tree Survey Report - produced by Arbtech
- **Landscape Strategy & Soft Landscape, Ecology and Bikes**
  IDH-AZO-03-ZZ-D-L-0001 & 0002 produced by Above Zero Landscape Architecture Limited
- **Plant Noise Impact Assessment**
  IDH-RCH-03-XX-RP-O-0032-Plant Noise Impact Assessment produced by MACH Acoustics Limited

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Site Location:

Ysgol I.D. Hooson
Heol Caradoc,
Rhosllanerchrugog,
Wrexham,
LL14 2DS.

The site is situated on the western edge of Rhosllanerchrugog, the largest village in Wales, within Wrexham County Borough. Rhosllanerchrugog has a rich history linked to the coal industry and became an independent parish in 1844. The village boasts several notable architectural landmarks, including the Stiwt Theatre, a cultural hub that was saved from demolition, as well as historic chapels such as Capel Penuel and Bethlehem Welsh Independent Chapel. Nearby attractions include Chirk Castle, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, and Erddig Hall, all adding to the area's appeal.

The school is built on the former site of the Pant Brickworks, which was established around 1850. The brickworks produced refractory bricks for furnace linings and relied on local coal and raw materials. By the late 19th century, the brickworks had closed, reflecting broader industrial changes in the area.

The site is bordered by residential properties to the east and south, with Rhos Rugby Club's playing fields to the southwest and open fields to the northwest. Public Rights of Way RHO/2 and RHO/7 pass through the site.



Aerial view of the application site within wider context, sourced from Google.

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Ysgol I D Hooson is a Welsh-medium primary school located in Rhosllanerchrugog, near Wrexham, North Wales. Established in 2007, the school moved to a modern facility on Heol Caradoc, providing contemporary learning environments for its students. The school currently provides accommodation for 315 pupils, aged 3 to 11, including nursery and reception classes. Named after Isaac Daniel Hooson (1880–1948), a local solicitor and poet known for his contributions to Welsh literature and his advocacy for children's education, the school places a strong emphasis on Welsh language and culture, with Welsh as the primary medium of instruction.

Situated on the edge of a predominantly residential area, the school benefits from its close proximity to the village centre, which offers a wide range of local amenities and recreational facilities. The village also provides easy access to major road networks, with rail services available nearby in Wrexham and Ruabon.



Above: Existing Site Plan

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Aerial view of the existing site within its immediate context, sourced from Google



View of the existing main entrance from the vehicular approach, photograph taken by H:O'H

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THE EXISTING BUILDING:

Ysgol I D Hooson is a single-storey building designed to accommodate its growing student body, with a layout that fosters both indoor and outdoor learning. The existing school building, constructed in 2007, was designed with a focus on functionality and environmental sustainability. It features a horseshoe-shaped layout, with classrooms opening onto a central courtyard, creating spaces for play and outdoor learning.

The existing school includes a nursery and childcare centre, as well as two infant classrooms and four junior classrooms, all of which open onto an external asphalt play area which benefits from a playing field to the south. The car park provides a total of 54 parking spaces, including 7 accessible spaces.

Various building materials have been used throughout the existing structure. The façade is primarily finished with a coloured block exterior, where seven pale yellow blocks form a plinth. A red/orange block extends from the plinth to the underside of the roof, mimicking the brickwork seen in the neighbouring properties. The wraparound section to the left of the hall which forms the main entrance is finished in bright blue render.

The outer face of the building, where the asymmetric roofs intersect, features cladding. In contrast, the external face of the horseshoe-shaped courtyard is rendered, with different colours applied to distinguish and separate the classrooms. The roof is completed with a profiled metal covering.



View of the existing western wing from the external playing area, photograph taken by H:O'H

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CHARACTER:

The site does not fall within the designated Special Landscape Areas or the statutory Conservation Areas as outlined in the local plan.

The proposals for the new school extension incorporate contemporary materials and forms, thoughtfully designed to complement the existing school building. Careful attention has been given to the massing, scale, materials, and overall aesthetic, ensuring that the extension enhances rather than detracts from the character of the current structure. The design of the two extensions is sympathetic to the existing building, preserving the school's visual identity while reinforcing its architectural presence. The overall effect will strengthen the school's integration within its surroundings.

Located on the edge of Rhosllanerchrugog, a semi-rural village with a rich and varied architectural landscape, the site is surrounded by a range of building styles, including:

- Semi-detached residential units with red/brown brick facades.
- A mix of semi-detached homes featuring brickwork at the ground floor and contrasting light pebble dash or render above.
- Predominantly two-storey buildings with a mix of concrete and slate tile roofs.
- Red brick terraced houses, with some featuring white or brown render, particularly evident in the village centre.
- A number of striking red brick chapel's and a stone chapel (Jerusalem) adding to the local architectural diversity.

The extension has been designed with these elements in mind, ensuring that the new development blends harmoniously with the existing fabric of the village while respecting its historical and architectural character.

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PLANNING HISTORY:

The site associated with this application is not located in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nor a Conservation area, and the existing building is not listed.

After reviewing the local planning data, we have ascertained that there is a digital record for a number of planning applications for the site. The following planning applications were accessed via Wrexham County Borough Council website.

RHO P/2005/1428

Outline application for the erection of a new primary school, alteration to existing access and provision of playing field.

Granted 09.03.2006

RHO P/2006/0544

Full planning application for a New primary school and playing field's.

Granted 14.07.2006

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The client approached H'OH Architects with the brief to replace the existing demountable classrooms and provide future expansion of the school site. Several options were explored as part of this initial brief, including:

- Reusing and reconfiguring the existing building to improve its functionality and layout.
- Exploring various accommodation densities and layout options to extend the existing facilities.

After the design development phase, we have settled on an approach that meets the client's requirements while also considering the impact on the immediate site, surrounding amenities, and context.

The latest guidance and planning policies have been considered in the design of new extension to improve the condition of the existing building at Ysgol ID Hooson, make better use of the space internally and externally, and achieve the highest modern standards of thermal performance and energy efficiency by meeting sustainability targets with zero carbon in-use strategy. This will ensure that the proposed scheme not only meets the ambitions of the client but also the informed suggestions and policies of the local council.

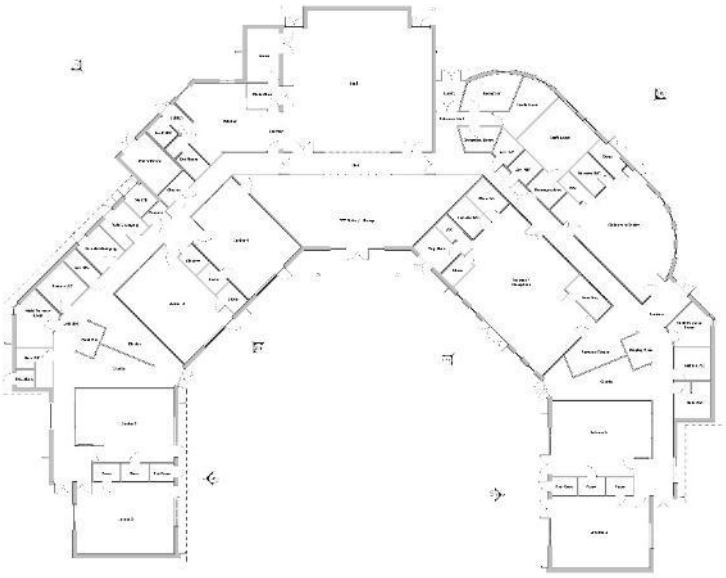
The proposed plan aims to incorporate the following key spaces, in line with the client's brief:

- Demolition of the 2 mobile classrooms and re-locate the 4 classrooms within a permanent structure in the main school building.
- The addition of a nursery classroom.
- The addition of 4 classrooms and flexible learning rooms with outdoor access.
- Provision of toilets and personal care facilities to accommodate the new classrooms.
- Formation of a Studio Hall and quiet rooms.
- Creation of private external play areas enclosed by fences, connected to the infants and nursery classrooms.
- Built-in storage solutions.
- Improved car parking facilities.
- Compliance with the minimum space requirements set out in Building Bulletin 99 for all new areas.

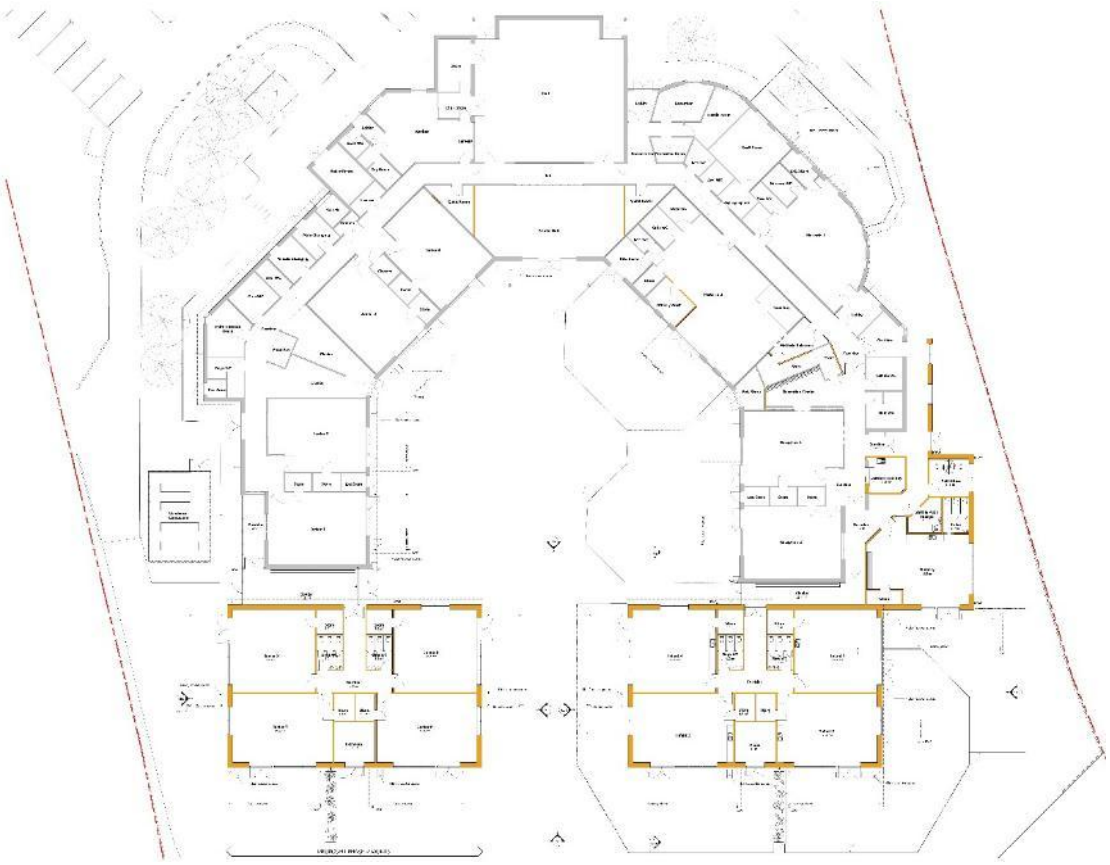
Additionally, it is important to note that the school will remain in operation during the construction period. As such, the proposal will aim to minimise disruption to the existing facilities, ensuring that areas for external play are maintained and that the impact on pupils is kept to a minimum. The construction will be carried out in two phases: Phase 1 will focus on works to the eastern wing, and Phase 2 will complete the extension to the western wing.

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The existing and proposed plans can be seen below, please refer to the full sized drawings submitted by Hughes:O'Hanlon Architects for more detailed layouts.



Above: Existing Ground Floor Plan



Above: Proposed Ground Floor Plan

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Above: Existing Elevations



Above: Proposed Elevations

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USE:

The first phase of the proposal involves the demolition of the two mobile classrooms located south of the eastern wing. These will be replaced with a new extension designed to accommodate a nursery, new office, and the replacement of four infant classrooms. In addition, the extension will feature a plant room, storage areas, and toilet facilities, resulting in an expansion of the eastern wing by approximately 600 square meters. This development aims to enhance the functionality and capacity of the school, providing modern facilities to better serve the needs of students and staff.

In the first phase of works, the existing building will undergo refurbishment, which will involve adding partitions to create the following spaces:

- A studio hall and quiet rooms.
- Additional storage and an improved reception cloakroom.
- Upgrades to the nursery area, including enhancements to the Meithrin entrance, along with the introduction of a staff office.

The second phase will include an extension to the western wing, expanding the junior offering. This will provide four additional classrooms, each with its own external amenities, cloak areas, storage, and toilet facilities, expanding the western wing by approximately 440 square meters.

Private external play areas connect to the new infant and nursery classrooms, which are enclosed with bow top fencing. These areas are sheltered with a 4-legged canopy constructed of a blue PPC frame and feature a multicoloured polycarbonate sheeting.

The current amenity space comprises a multi-use games area and two pitches on the grassed playing field. The existing external play areas south of the building will be impacted by the new building. The proposal will replace the MUGA and reposition this further south, which will result in a single pitch.



3D view from the playing field towards the proposed extensions

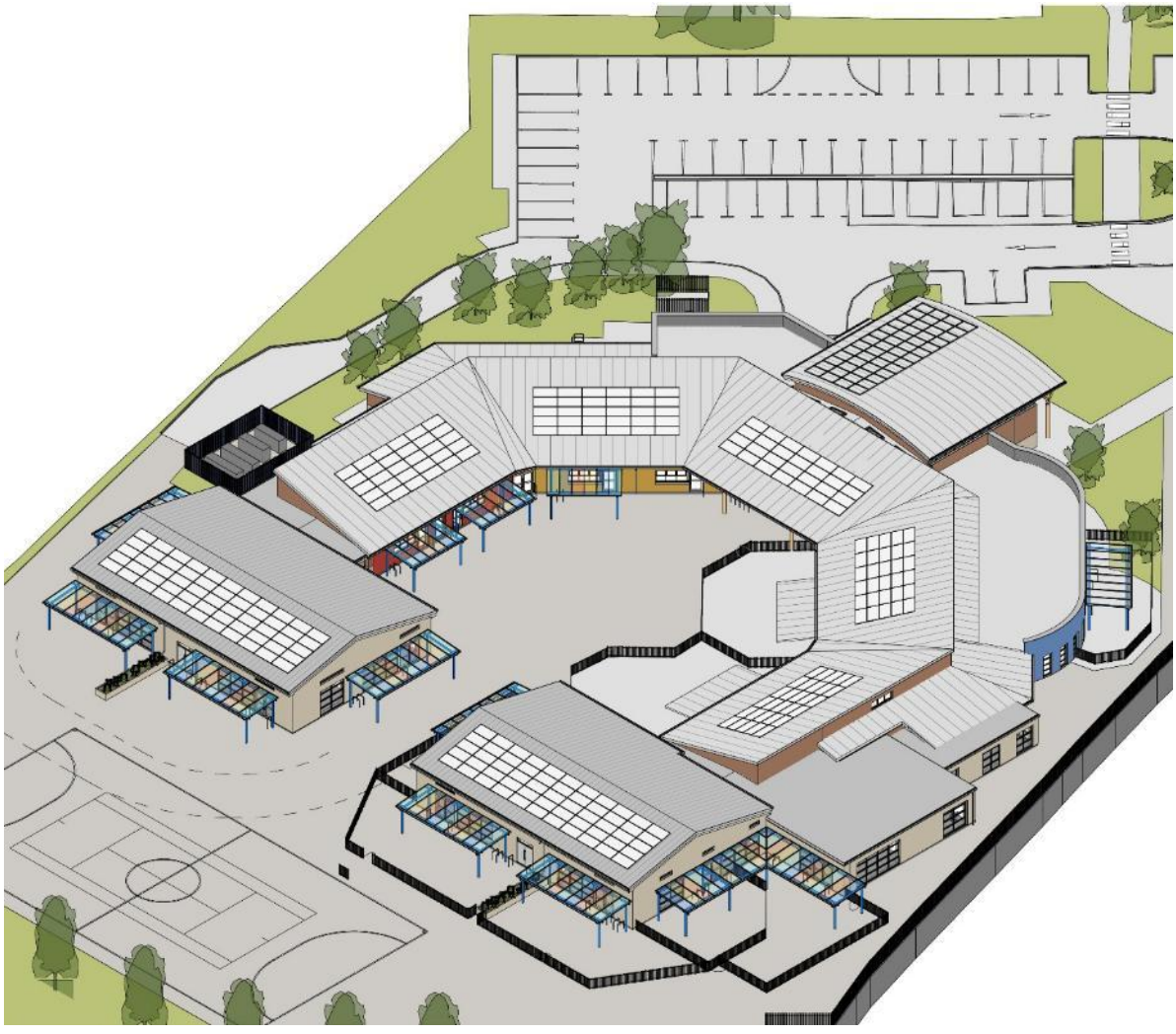
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MASSING, FORM AND SCALE:

The existing building has a clear, functional form, with its horseshoe layout naturally dividing the school into different age group areas. This arrangement also reinforces the outdoor spaces, with classrooms positioned around a central courtyard, creating a direct connection between indoor and outdoor learning environments.

The proposed expansion creates two distinct blocks at each end of the U, these are linked to the existing building with flat roof sections. The new pitched roofs mimic the pitch of the existing with the ridge sitting at a similar height to the existing building. The ridge sits off-centre to allow it to be supported by the internal wall separating the classrooms improving the structural efficiency of the building.

The new blocks are positioned perpendicular to the existing building creating a slight contrast between the existing and proposed structures, however the scale of the extensions are in keeping with the existing school building and the materials have been chosen to complement the existing colour palette.



Above: Axonometric of proposed extensions and existing school building

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Above: Proposed Site Plan

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ACCESS:

A comprehensive transport assessment has been carried out, and the detailed report and travel plan are included in the application.

The access strategy for the site maintains existing pedestrian, vehicle, and cycle access for both Phase 1 and Phase 2, with no changes to the site boundary or alterations to public transport and service provisions. Vehicular access through the car park and along the western boundary will be retained to ensure emergency fire engine access.

Phase 1 introduces measures to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use, such as a Travel Plan, staggered start times and secure covered cycle storage. EV chargers will be installed to 10% of parking spaces in line with Building Regulations Approved Document S. Phase 2 proposes a one-way car park layout, five additional parking spaces, and a Car Park Management Strategy to prioritise car sharing.

The revised car park layout for Phase 2 includes 26 staff parking spaces, prioritised for car sharing, with five spaces equipped with EV chargers (including one disabled), four for car sharing, and 17 for general staff use. The remaining spaces will be for general use, including pupil drop-off and pick-up. The one-way layout will improve traffic flow, reduce reversing, and alleviate congestion. The Car Park Management Strategy will be periodically reviewed as the school reaches full capacity.

The school has existing accessible facilities both externally and internally, with the building set on one level. The proposal follows this principle, and a new footpath links the main entrance to the extensions along the eastern boundary which provide level pedestrian access.

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DRAINAGE:

Proposed surface water

The proposed surface water drainage strategy will include several SuDS features, such as raised planters to capture rainwater from the downpipes and bioretention areas to help treat the runoff. The water will be directed to a HydroBrake flow control unit, which will regulate the flow before it enters either the stormwater attenuation tank or a new connection to the existing surface water drain. From there, the water will flow south, discharging into the stream or swale outside the site boundary. This system is designed to manage surface water runoff and reduce the risk of flooding.

The new development will include impermeable surfaces in areas where the building and the section of the new hard play area will be located. To reduce the impact of these impermeable surfaces, the areas to the east of the building will feature permeable surfaces. This will help manage surface water runoff by allowing water to infiltrate the ground, reducing strain on drainage systems and minimising the risk of flooding.

Proposed Foul Drainage

The proposed foul drainage for the extension will connect to the existing system, as shown in the drainage plans by Eng Assist. Welsh Water has been consulted on the proposals, and a separate SAB pre-application has been submitted.

FLOOD RISK:

A Flood Consequences Assessment was conducted by Waterco, with the full report included in the application. The report finds that the main potential source of flooding is from surface water, with a flow route running across the site from north west to east, which could affect the classroom extensions. It is proposed that in order to maintain level access within the school, the external levels be modified to redirect potential flood water around the classroom blocks and that the floor level of the extensions be level with the existing school floor level.

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BIODIVERSITY/ECOLOGY:

A Preliminary Ecology Appraisal was conducted, with the full detailed report included in the application. The site visit took place on 06.12.2024. While the site contains widespread, non-notable habitats, the proposed development will result in the loss of a small section of modified grassland and neutral grassland, which is expected to have minimal impact on biodiversity due to the limited area affected.

Bats:
Several bat species, including Brown Long-eared Bat, Common Pipistrelle, and Soprano Pipistrelle, forage and commute in the area. No roosting bats or suitable roosting features were found on-site. The loss of small areas of scrub and grassland is unlikely to impact bat populations significantly, with larger habitats nearby. To mitigate potential lighting disturbance, a low-impact lighting strategy will preserve dark corridors. If bats are discovered during construction, work will stop, and an ecologist will be consulted. Additionally, two bat boxes will be installed away from artificial light sources to enhance roosting opportunities.

Birds:
The site is in proximity to various bird species, including Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Barn Owl, and Black Redstart. No evidence of nesting birds was found, and the buildings offer limited nesting opportunities. Trees and vegetation on-site provide some nesting habitat but no active nests were observed. Since the site isn't suitable for barn owl nesting or a significant number of overwintering birds, vegetation removal should occur outside the bird nesting season (1st March to 31st August) or follow an inspection by a qualified ecologist. Two bird boxes will be installed on mature trees to support species like swifts, sparrows, and robins.

Reptiles:
Reptile species, such as common lizard, grass snake, and slow worm, are present in the wider area. On-site, reptile habitat is limited to the southern and eastern sections with longer grass. The development may result in the loss of small grassland areas, but this is unlikely to have a significant impact on local reptile populations. Precautionary measures will include maintaining short vegetation, covering excavations, and ensuring pollution control. If reptiles are found, work will stop, and a qualified ecologist will relocate them. Post-development, log piles and native shrubs will enhance the site for reptiles.

Hedgehogs:
With hedgehogs recorded nearby, the scrub and grassland on-site offer foraging opportunities. While the development will result in the loss of small areas, this is unlikely to affect local populations. Precautionary measures will be implemented, including covering excavations and using sensitive lighting. If hedgehogs are found, they will be safely relocated. Habitat enhancements such as fruit trees, brash piles, and gaps under fences will improve movement corridors.

Amphibians:
The site is home to a pond with poor suitability for great crested newts due to its small size and lack of vegetation. No other suitable ponds are nearby, limiting access to the site for newts. The proposed development is unlikely to impact great crested newts but may pose a risk to commuting amphibians. A precautionary approach will be taken during construction, including staged vegetation clearance and safe handling of any found amphibians. Habitat enhancements such as creating hibernacula from rubble and logs will be incorporated.

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Tree Constraints Plan
Site Visit – 18.12.2024

A comprehensive Tree Survey was conducted, and the full Arboricultural report is included as part of the application. The survey identifies 63 individual trees or groups of trees located on the site or near its boundary, categorised as low to moderate quality, alongside hedgerows. The tree classifications are as follows:

1 No. B1 (moderate quality)

5 No. B2 (moderate quality)

46 No. C1 (low quality)

10 No. C2 (low quality)

1 No. U (unsuitable for retention)

While several clusters of moderate-quality trees were identified off-site, their proximity to the boundary has influenced the quality of trees within the site. The close distance to these off-site trees has resulted in suppressed crowns for some trees on site, which consequently fall into the lower quality category.

The proposed development includes the construction of a new gabion retaining wall, as a result these lower quality trees located within the site and 1.5m of the new wall will be coppiced to encourage new growth. To offset the loss of trees, Hawthorn and holly will be planted between the coppiced trees to provide hedgerow planting. To further mitigate this impact on biodiversity and enhance biodiversity net gain (BNG), a number of higher-quality native trees will be planted along the western boundary providing a wind break to the play areas.

There are no Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on any of the trees within the site.

LANDSCAPE:

A comprehensive landscape design scheme accompanies and complements the planning application. This package includes an overall masterplan, detailed hard and soft landscaping plans, and planting schedules for the site. The primary design rationale focuses on fostering wildlife and enhancing biodiversity, while also creating an attractive and functional environment for pupils, staff, and visitors.

The external games area has been relocated further south, resulting in a single sports pitch. The grassed area has been shaped to mirror the octagonal form of the building, and eight new trees will be planted around the perimeter of the hard play area in addition to the new trees planted along the western boundary.

The prevailing winds from the south west, combined with the site's exposure to the open fields, often result in colder conditions on the playing fields. The new tree planting will help reduce wind exposure, offering shelter to the main play areas and mitigating the impact of the wind. Please refer to the proposed landscape strategy, and soft landscaping plan for full details.

9 Edison Court, Wrexham, LL13 7YT : 01978 510 178 : info@hughesohanlon.co.uk : hughesohanlon.co.uk
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MATERIALS:

The proposed extension will match the character of the existing school using a similar colour palette to ensure the new scheme compliments the original building. Coloured concrete blocks in a buff and terracotta colour are the main building material for the existing school. The façade also features painted render in various bold colours with profiled metal roof sheeting in pale grey. The doors and windows are a pale grey aluminium. To reduce the embodied carbon of the proposal we are proposing a fibre cement cladding to the extensions in a colour similar to that of the concrete blocks.

The proposed material palette will therefore consist of:

- Through colour fibre Cement panel – as Swisspearl. Colour to be selected to tone with the existing coloured concrete blocks.
- Aluminium Profiled Roof Finish – Powder coated finish in pale grey to match existing roof.
- Powder-coated Aluminium rainwater goods, fascias and soffits, anthracite grey RAL 7016
- Composite windows and doors faced with PPC aluminium externally. Colour to match existing windows and doors.
- Canopy constructed of a blue PPC frame and feature a multicoloured polycarbonate sheeting.
- Bow top fencing to the play areas to be PPC green to match existing bow top fencing.
- Closed panel fencing to the condenser compound with coloured paint finish.
- Blue engineering grade brick below dpc for 3 courses.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINIBILITY:

Together with the End Users/operators, a roadmap to achieving building operational Net Zero Carbon (in use) has been established using an approved dynamic IES energy modelling software and following the CIBSE TM54 Operational Energy modelling criteria. The modelling has verified the servicing strategies and employed sensitivity analysis scenarios to enable benchmarking of the building energy consumptions and thereby carbon dioxide emissions.

In addition to the in-use efficiency, the building materials are selected for low-embodied carbon and are locally sourced where possible. The following headings detail the environmentally sustainable practices that have been adopted in the design of the proposals.

Sustainable Drainage System

- Refer to drainage section for details of SuDS strategy.

Active Measures to Minimise Energy Consumption

- Low Energy lighting together with default off controls
- Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery employed throughout together with variable volume/ventilation on demand control techniques to always ensure provision of the required ventilation whilst ensuring demand (and thereby fan energy) is appropriately controlled.

Renewable Energy Sources

On site renewable energy sources and LZC technology sources will be integrated into the building as follows:

- ASHP technology providing heating. No fossil fuel/gas will be provided to the building.
- Roof mounted PV Array comprising circa 265No . panels with battery storage.

Passive Design

- Maximise insulation to solid walls, floors and roofs to minimise both heating and cooling requirements.
- Structural insulated panels are proposed for new external walls. The roof will be a timber framed system consisting of OSB, insulation, metal bracket system and finished with profiled metal sheeting.
- Using thermally efficient windows and doors to create high thermal efficiency, airtightness and reduce heat loss.

Responsible Sourcing of Materials

- We seek to specify manufacturers, suppliers, and materials which are local, of low embodied energy, 'Cradle-to-Cradle' certified, recycled, and can be recycled at end of use wherever possible.
- The construction methods and materials proposed seek to be low or zero waste producing wherever possible, which includes factory-assembled and made-to-measure units.
- Both internal and external finishes proposed aim to be durable and long-lasting. A long material life span saves long-term costs as well as being better for the environment, by reducing the need to maintain, renew or redecorate.

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National and local planning policy guidance that is considered relevant to the proposed development is set out in this section.

National Planning Policy and Guidance:

- Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11, (2021);
- Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (FWTNP);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5 'Nature Conservation and Planning' (2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8 'Renewable Energy' (2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11 'Noise' (2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 'Design' (2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 'Development and Flood Risk' (2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18 'Transport' (2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 'Planning and the Welsh Language' (2016);
- Environment Wales Act (2016)

Local Planning Policy and Guidance:

- Policy SP2 – Location of Development
- Policy SP8 – Economic Growth, Employment and Enterprise
- Policy SP11 – Transport and Accessibility
- Policy SP12 – Design Principles & Master planning Framework
- Policy SP13 – Health and Wellbeing
- Policy SP14 – Natural Environment
- Policy SP18 – Climate Change
- Policy NE3 – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
- Policy CF1 – Protection of Existing Open space, Sport and Recreation Facilities
- Policy WL1 – Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural Fabric of Communities
- Policy R5 – District, Local, Village and Neighbourhood Centres

Rhosllanerchrugog is designated as a Tier 2 settlement within the key settlement and strategic employment areas of Wrexham County. It has a higher allocation of dwellings for development compared to other settlements in the county. The provision of additional educational spaces and the expansion of the school will help alleviate pressure on existing infrastructure and ensure the school's continued viability and future use.

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09 CONCLUSION

This planning application proposes the internal reconfiguration and expansion of the existing school building, along with improvements to the car parking and landscaped areas at Ysgol ID Hooson, Heol Caradoc, Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham, LL14 2DS.

The Design and Access Statement, along with supporting documents, outlines how current planning policies and guidance have been considered in the design. The extension aims to enhance the building's condition, improve space efficiency, and upgrade the school to meet modern standards for thermal efficiency, sustainability, carbon neutrality, and Building Bulletin 99 guidelines.

The proposals are designed to complement the existing school, carefully considering its massing, scale, materials, and aesthetic. The extensions will not negatively impact the site's appearance or the character of the current structure but rather strengthen and preserve the school's visual identity. The two extensions are sympathetic in scale and the colour palette is complementary to the existing building. The proposal provides a new aspect out towards the playing field.

There will be no changes to the existing pedestrian or vehicular access routes. The car park will be reconfigured to improve traffic flow and safety by introducing a one-way system, eliminating the need for two-way passing and reversing during peak times.

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