

Design and Access Statement

PROJECT: Installation of 2.4m High Security Fencing including vehicular and pedestrian gates

LOCATION: Longridge CE Primary School
Berry Lane
Longridge
Preston
PR3 3JA

DESIGN STATEMENT

REASON FOR PROPOSAL:-

The School is located in the Town Centre of Longridge with nearby domestic and commercial property. Although surrounded by residential properties the school site seems to be an attraction to local youths frequenting the site during the dark hours. This is not helped by public access being available along the full length of Berry Lane and the side access road of Chapel Street.

The existing 1m high timber gate to the front of the school along Berry Lane is easily scaled by the youths, therefore, it is proposed to replace the existing gate with 2.3m high metal gate to match the existing front fence. There is no pedestrian access gate to the walkway leading to the car park. This allows unrestricted access to trespassers outside of school hours. A pedestrian gate is to be installed to secure the car park. The existing 1.5m high concrete fence to the left hand side boundary of the school is often scaled by pupils, to increase security a 2.4m high security fence is to be installed on the school side of the boundary. The current fence protecting the school playground from the car park is easily climbed, this is also to be replaced with a 2.4m high security fence. Finally the pedestrian gate to rear of the school is to be replaced. The existing gate is lockable by a key code device, this is insufficient as the gate is positioned on a fire escape route. The gate is to be replaced by a 2.4m high security gate which is openable but can be locked outside of normal school hours.

The security fencing is urgently required in order to reduce the amount of vandalism and trespassing on the site. There have been many instances of vandalism and thefts together with beer can/bottles and drug paraphernalia being found on site in the morning. There has been many instances of pupils scaling the existing fencing and leaving the school during normal school hours. This is a serious safeguarding issue.

The heavily publicised concern regarding safeguarding is high on the agenda for every school and public building/venue throughout the country, with all schools being encouraged by the ESFA, Education Authorities and Ofsted to look at improvements to their current security provisions. The school feel especially vulnerable due to their location.

FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT:-

Capital funding available to school requiring expenditure prior to February 2019.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:-

The style of fencing specified is a mesh fencing system which is marketed as providing excellent security benefits and a good aesthetical appearance. This will match the existing fencing already installed on site to the rear of the site.

‘Weldmesh’ type fencing will be used, this is because, although having a dense matrix of close gauge steel mesh in its structure is it virtually transparent from any distance greater than 2 meters. Black fencing is proposed since the back-drop to the fencing is either housing, highway or fencing. The fencing’s structure prevents climb aids or destructive tools, for example car jacks or bolt cutters, from being employed, hence its success.

The use of 2.4m high fencing will deter any unauthorised access to the site therefore vastly reducing the risk of criminal damage, vandalism and arson attacks to the school.

The additional areas of fencing to the front elevation of the school aid to secure the school building and grounds out of hours but will also be seen as a deterrent during the school day.

ACCESS STATEMENT:-

Vehicular and pedestrian site access will remain unaffected by the works along Berry Lane.

The number of operatives present throughout the works will be no more than four. Contractor vehicles will be limited to one. Deliveries will be limited to keep the amount of material on site just sufficient to allow steady progress of work, and although no serious stockpiling will be necessary an area will be designated as a compound for fencing panels.

The project will not affect the existing access points. All pedestrian gates will remain a minimum of 1000mm wide to accommodate all users.

All necessary Health & Safety precautions will be taken to ensure that work operations do not interfere or intrude on the operation of the School and the wellbeing of occupants, visitors or the general public.