

WOOLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
OUT LANE,
LIVERPOOL
L25 5NN

DOUBLE DECKER BUS PROJECT
TO PROVIDE LIBRARY FACILITY

**DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT FOR THE
PLANNING APPLICATION**

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Design & Access Considerations

Woolton Primary School have no dedicated Library. The School is also short of Small Group Teaching spaces. An application was made in July 2014 (and granted) to erect a conservatory extension for a Library provision in July 2014. The Governors were not satisfied with this proposal and the project has been cancelled.

An alternative idea of using a double decker bus is now the preferred option for providing the Library space.

Woolton Primary intend to procure a double decker bus to use as a Library, abandoning the recent approved planning application 14F/1945 for a conservatory extension to be used for the same purpose.

The school wish to procure a bus to provide a static Library. The idea of using a bus is not just an inexpensive option, as educationalists the school believe that it will encourage pupils with lesser reading skills or interest, to become more interested in books by providing an unusual and (for children) an exciting environment.

The scale of the problem with boys' literacy in the UK

Girls outperform boys on all National Curriculum reading tests. At age seven, the gap between boys and girls reaching the expected level in reading is 7 percentage points. At age 11 the gap widens slightly to 8 percentage points (for reading), increasing further to 12 percentage points at age 14 (for English). At GCSE level, the gap between boys and girls achieving A to C in English GCSE is 14 percentage points.*

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0001/4047/BRC-_Research_overview_-_Final.pdf

The requirement of this project is to provide a 24m² on plan (10m x 2.4m) double decker bus (4m high). The two door option is preferred, however the school will not procure the bus until the proposal has received planning consent.

It is understood that any planning consent will be for a limited period of time requiring removal once this period has ended or a reapplication to retain the bus.

The bus will be connected to the school's main electrical services to provide heating, light and automated door operations.

The bus will be decommissioned (not operable as a vehicle), stabilised as advised by a structural engineer to meet any building regulation requirements.

The doors will be secured and the school intruder alarm system extended to cover the facility.

See Appendix 1 below (Similar Cases and Woolton Bus Location Notes)

Accessibility General

The bus will be provided with a level access

Accessibility is considered prior to any decision about site improvements, curriculum changes, parental access and changes in the local needs

As an LEA maintained school, the School has adopted Liverpool City Council's *Access for All* policy.

An Access Audit was undertaken at the School by Liverpool City Council's Design Consultancy (Architectural Practice) in 2003.

From the information in the Access Audit and Curriculum guidelines the School formulated an Access Plan and in most cases over the past ten years, implemented all of the required actions, including three wheelchair platform stair lifts to remove the hindrance of the split level corridors.

The School & the Designer has access to the *Merseyside Code of Practice on Access & Mobility* and the NDA; *Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information Provided by Public Bodies*.

The School will continue to include / resolve accessibility issues in building projects and will review general accessibility & procure improvements

The information provided in this design & access statement is considered appropriate to the scale of this development

Anthony Shipley BSc (Hons) MICWCI

APPENDIX 1

Woolton Primary School

Proposed Library Bus – similar cases & Woolton Bus Location notes/photographs

Woolton Primary intend to procure a double decker bus to use as a Library. The cases highlighted below show that this has been an acceptable proposal in other boroughs.

Some recent similar cases in UK schools

School buys double-decker bus on Ebay to ease overcrowding

The £8,000 bus has been kitted out with internet, electricity and heating for extra reading and writing sessions for deprived pupils

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The double-decker cost £5,000 on Ebay and £3,000 to do up. Photo: NNP

By Tom Brooks-Pollock

4:41PM BST 16 Oct 2014

A school has relieved pressure on its overcrowded classrooms by purchasing an old double-decker bus on Ebay and kitting it out for teaching. Central First School, a primary in Ashington, Northumberland, bought the bus for £5,000 on the auction site rather than stump up “astronomical” funds of up to £150,000 to expand the main school building. The vehicle cost a further £3,000 to convert into a classroom, complete with internet, electricity, and central heating, although pupils still have to go into the main school to go to the toilet. The principal, self-confessed “Ebay addict” David Godfrey, described the project as a “needs-led idea” to help pupils, many of whom are from the most deprived backgrounds, with literacy, numeracy and speech therapy. Mr Godfrey told BBC Radio 5Live that they had “reached the end of the line” with the school’s original building, with toilets and cupboards already converted into teaching space.

Related Articles

Under the government's pupil premium scheme, primary school pupils receive an extra £1,300 for each pupil that is on free school meals, to pay for extra help with reading and writing. But Mr Godfrey said that the school, which teaches children aged three to nine, was struggling to find extra room to teach the extra sessions, which are taught to pupils in small groups.

The upstairs level of the bus has room for 15-20 kids, while smaller speech and language therapy sessions, of no more than four children, take place downstairs. Mr Godfrey added: "I'm quite a big fan of some of the TV programmes out there, Amazing Spaces [on Channel 4], those kinds of things. People have been really quite innovative with their use of space.

"I've got quite a creative team of people around me.



The bus is proving popular with pupils.

"We just thought ... you get double your money with a double-decker bus. We looked at a new at a build [but] costs are astronomical for a new-build, particularly for education purposes. Portacabins would also have cost tens of thousands of pounds, Mr Godfrey added. The bus, by contrast, was "an absolute snip" and was proving popular with pupils, the head said. In August, a report published by the Local Government Association said that schools were being forced to put playgrounds on roofs, and convert gyms into temporary classrooms, because local authorities were not getting enough funding to expand to keep up with increasing pupil numbers.

The report said schools were going to "extraordinary lengths" to deal with the £1 billion shortfall in funding from Whitehall.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11167391/School-buys-double-decker-bus-on-Ebay-to-ease-overcrowding.html>

St Francis Primary school welcomed a red London bus to their grounds which will be transformed into an interactive classroom

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/local-news/st-francis-primary-school-bourneville-4696740>



Rosendale primary school in south London needed a library but it had no room for one. The solution was devised by designer Kate Gorely who worked with Forge Architects to create this incredible learning space - which won the School Library Association Library Design Award for 2011 and cost just £5000.

<http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/gallery/2013/may/14/inspiring-school-architecture-environments>

The proposed siting of the Woolton School Bus would be well away from neighbouring properties and generally masked from neighbours sight by high boundary fences, hedges and a number of mature trees to the north / north east of the proposal and it is a fair distance from the east boundary. Photographs show the view from the proposed area



Bus would be sited on the playground in front of the two storey block



View to the north of the proposal



View to the north east of the proposal



View to the east of the proposal