

Design and Access Statement

Address

INSTALLATION OF FENCING for
BEAUMONT PRIMARY ACADEMY
DRYCLOUGH ROAD
HUDDERSFIELD
HD4 5JA

Version

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Issue Date

14 June 2023

Further Assistance

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report please contact:

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1 Project Objectives

This application has been prepared by Watts Group Limited on behalf of Kirklees Council, in support of a planning application for the installation of fencing at Beaumont Primary Academy.



Photo 1: Beaumont Primary Academy viewed from playing field.



Photo 2: Beaumont Primary Academy front elevation

Beaumont Primary Academy are committed to making sure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school. As such, they have dedicated Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators to offer SEN Support.

The need for the installation of a new secure fence at the school has been identified following a review into the safety of the pupils at the school, particularly those that require additional support, during outside activities. Although the current bow tie fence does provide a boundary to the grounds, due to its low height it presents an opportunity for pupils to climb over the fence and exit the safety of the school's grounds.

Following this review, the installation of a '358' type weld mesh fence to a height of 2.4m has been identified as an appropriate measure to assist in providing the appropriate level of security within the school grounds. The intention is to install the fence around the front and rear playground areas, and thus ensuring the school has the correct safety measures in place to prevent pupils from exiting the grounds.

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the drawing information provided.

2 The Site

The school is situated within Crosland Moor, a district of the town of Huddersfield within the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees, to the south of the Colne Valley.

Beaumont Primary Academy opened in 2016 on the existing Moor End Academy site with pupils in Reception and Year 1 based within temporary modular accommodation whilst the new premises were constructed. The school moved into the new premises, on the existing Moor End Academy site, in 2018, starting with Reception and added a year group each year, leading to a now full school following the addition of Year 6.

Vehicular access into the site is via Dryclough Road, with additional pedestrian access via Woodside Road through secure access gates.

The school site includes an external hard and soft play areas, a 'forest garden' and playing fields to the rear of the main building, a Multi-Use Games Areas to the north of the site, parking to the south of the site, and an external playground and parking to the front of the main building.

The site boundaries to the front and rear are formed via bow top fencing up to a height of circa 1.2 meters.

3 The Building

The new two storey Beaumont Primary Academy building was constructed in 2017. The building is constructed with a combination of brickwork, aluminium curtain walling, and a render system.

The school caters for children aged three to 11 years old. Currently it has the capacity for 630 pupils.

4 Site Context

The site is surrounded by residential areas. Beaumont Park lies nearby to the south and east. Moor End Academy is in the western part of the site and associated sports pitches are located in the eastern part of the site.

5 Use and Proposals

The current arrangement provides a significant opportunity for children to leave the school's grounds unsupervised.

It is proposed that the installation of a '358' type weld mesh fence to a height of 2.4m will reduce the risk of pupils exiting to the grounds and provide appropriate safeguarding measures and greater peace of mind for both teachers and parents of pupils. The current bow tie fence does not provide appropriate safeguarding measures.

6 Appearance and Layout

The following images show the indicative fence line proposal to the front and rear of the property.

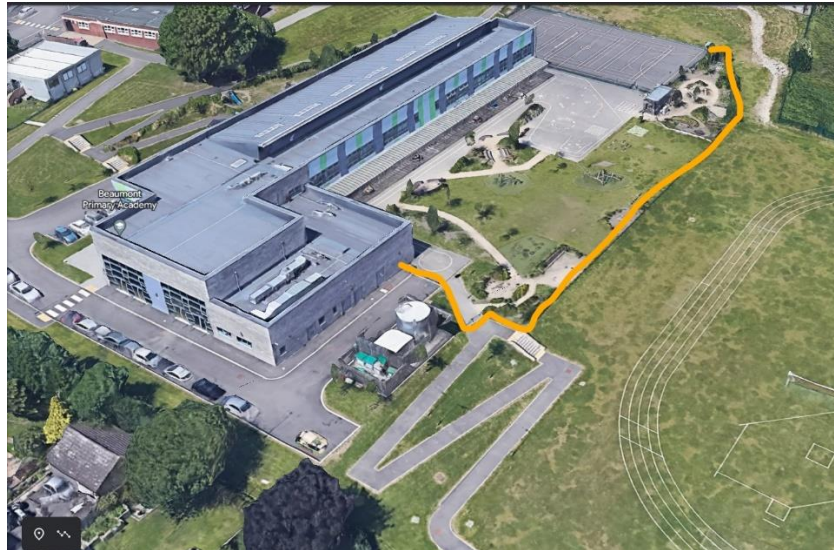


Image 3: Indicative fence line proposal to rear of property (yellow line)



Image 4: Indicative fence line proposal to front of property (yellow line)

In the above images, the yellow lines indicate the proposed extent of where the new fence will be installed. As there is an existing bow top fence installed, the proposal is based on removal of the existing fencing which is deemed to be too low. (Shown in the below image).



Image 5: Current bow tie fencing to rear

The proposed height of the fence is proposed to be for the majority 2.4m above the related ground level with vertical steel posts and clamps, which is in keeping with the existing fence design to the Multi-Use Games Area. We note that there may be a localised section where the fence design will need to address changes in ground level:

- The mesh fence panels to the rear near the MUGA pitch needs to be slightly higher to achieve a fence height of 2.4 above ground level for a short section of the fence line. This is however no higher than the existing fencing.

In terms of appearance and functionality various options have been considered and the option illustrated below is considered the most suitable:

- **Weldmesh or '358' mesh security fence:** The finer mesh is deemed to look less intrusive within the surrounding environment, and it will provide a suitable in specification to keep the site secure. This fence design is commonly used as a perimeter fence solution for education sites including other schools within the Local Authority area. The proposed colour would be green to help the feature blend in

with the surrounding landscaping, and the style of fencing will be much less intrusive on the aesthetic of the site.

The fence panels would be supported by metal posts set into the ground at circa 3m centres, which reduce where steeper slopes need to be traversed.



Image 6: Weldmesh fence example.

7 Environmental Impact

The fence would be installed within the school grounds and will not have an adverse impact on the existing environment and surrounding landscaping or neighbouring properties.

8 Conclusion

In summary, both the Beaumont Primary Academy and Council property team representatives have identified a clear need to improve the physical site security along the school's boundary to address concerns with pupils exiting the school unsupervised. The proposed fence will deter pupils from wandering outside the school's boundary.

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