

**Consultation Response from KC,
Sport & Physical Activity**

**2026/90937 Gomersal St Marys C of E First & Nursery School, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal,
Cleckheaton, BD19 4NA**

**Redevelopment of school, including demolition of existing buildings; erection of single storey
building; external works including provision of hard and soft PE and play spaces; sub-station;
associated landscaping; installation of temporary building during construction**

Date Responded: 5 May 2026

Responding Officer: Martin Gonzalez

Responding Ref:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

It is noted that the proposed development involves a re-design of the overall site, which includes the provision for sport and physical activity and that the playing field space does not reach Sport England's 0.2ha threshold for them to be a statutory consultee. I am also mindful of the principles set out in the Creating Active Schools toolkit, which look at how schools can support a more active lifestyle for their school community in ways beyond traditional PE provision.

The provision of suitable, high-quality grass and hard standing provision to support PE and physical activity is essential, and this scheme appears to provide that. When supplemented by adjacent KS1 and 2 playground space the ability to have areas of flexible use is helpful in the event of prolonged periods of inclement weather which may make reliance on the grass areas alone challenging. At the same time, the flexibility of the green space to be useful for a range of purposes is also welcome.

I would encourage the provision of a community use agreement for the outdoor assets, which may support community access outside of school hours, to help support wider physical activity provision. This may allow after school clubs or holiday activity to take place, and it would be good if the school explores mutually beneficial brokered arrangements with local providers seeking a place to operate from. Suitable arrangements for maintenance of these spaces should be confirmed to ensure that they remain high-quality for years to come.

I also note the significant levels of active travel to and from school, and would encourage continued promotion of this as part of embedding healthy lifestyles in the children and their wider families.

From a physical activity perspective, I am satisfied that this re-build project retains suitable provision to support an active school environment, and I have no objection to the proposal.