

Angus Council Internal Supplementary Suitability Questions
EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

SCHOOL: Birkhill Primary School

AREA: Learning and Teaching Spaces (e.g. classrooms, areas of group work/private study, internal and external P.E. / games areas)

Functionality	Rating
To what extent do the facilities enhance/support:	
learning, teaching and inclusion?	B
flexible approaches to learning & teaching?	B
effective use of resources?	B
outdoor learning?	B
the development of creativity skills?	A
the development of employability skills?	A
engagement and delivery of a full sports programme	B
Accessibility	
How effective is Internal and external access to changing facilities?	B
How accessible are facilities for community groups during and after the school day?	B
Assess the availability of parking for the number of users.	A
Environmental Conditions	
To what extent does the building make use of/support renewable energy?	D
Safety & Security	
How confident are we that all users are safe and secure?	B
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
To what extent does the infrastructure support digital learning?	B
Assess the suitability of storage to meet the needs of all users.	C
OVERALL RATING	B

Comments

Functionality

Although the classrooms are suitable for effective delivery/development of teaching and learning the designated activity areas are too small to fully support the needs of teachers and learners. The usability and flexibility of these areas are compromised due to the high school roll, impacting on the schools ability to provide appropriate space for displaying art work etc. These areas would also benefit from the provision of more flexible furniture that would allow learning spaces to be easily reconfigured to aid different pedagogical activities.

Consideration should be given to converting the mezzanine/storage area, into an activity area/breakout space. This would provide pupils with an additional space that could be used for a variety of activities.

Generally the outdoor learning facilities are excellent, however, the outdoor area for the nursery is insufficient in size and has limited facilities.

Accessibility

Although pupils have suitable internal access to the changing facilities, there is no direct external access into these areas. An accessible changing facility currently houses nursery resources. There are a sufficient number of parking spaces for the number of users. Community groups have access to the games hall and the general purpose/boost room out with school hours.

Environmental Conditions

The school does not support any form of renewable energy.

Safety and Security

Dining and gym equipment are both stored within the gym hall. This limits full use of the hall during P.E lessons as well as compromising safety.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings

Although the school benefits from a sufficient range and number of digital devices, the Wi-Fi connection can be temperamental but the school has invested in laptops, iPads this impacts on the schools ability to fully support digital learning. Insufficient storage space means stored items are stacked, making them difficult to access. The lack of storage space means some areas are not used as intended – the accessible toilet/shower room is currently being used to store school resources and gym equipment.

AREA: Internal Social Spaces (e.g. pupil social areas, dining, common rooms, staffrooms)

Functionality	Rating
How far can the facilities support multiple users during and after the school day?	B
Accessibility	
How accessible are facilities for community groups during and after the school day?	B
Safety & Security	
How confident can we be that all users are safe and secure?	B
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
Assess the suitability of furniture & fittings for community use	B
To what extent is there sufficient storage to meet the needs of multiple users?	C
OVERALL RATING	B

Comments

Functionality

Although there is suitable space within the staffroom, this area is often used by the parents to set up tuck shop. This can take away from the teachers down time. Lack of 'holding area' at front door.

Accessibility

Community groups have use of the boost room and games hall out with school hours. These areas can be accessed without having to walk through any learning spaces. Lack of flexibility means BOOST room is overcrowded.

Safety & Security

The lack of storage space means stored items are stacked. Not only is this a safety issue, it also limits independent pupil access to these areas.

Fixed Furniture & Fittings

Although community groups have use of suitable furniture within the boost room, this area is also used to store school equipment.

Insufficient storage for dining facilities and no available space to store resources etc. Gym Hall full of equipment, not safe space for running/playing. Nowhere else to store this equipment."

Internal Facilities (e.g. reception/ administration/ office/ meeting/ circulation space, resource/ staff bases, library, toilets)

Functionality	Rating
How far can the facilities support multiple users during and after the school day?	B
Accessibility	
How accessible are facilities for community groups during and after the school day?	B
Environmental Conditions	
To what extent is 'noise' an issue?	B
Safety & Security	
How confident can we be that all users are safe and secure?	B
To what extent does the environment have an impact on issues of confidentiality?	C
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
Assess the suitability of furniture & fittings for community use	B
To what extent is there sufficient storage to meet the needs of multiple users?	C
OVERALL RATING	B

Comments

Functionality

Although most of these spaces are suitable for the running of the school, some of these areas are limited in size and range. The head teachers office is too small for meetings holding anymore than two people.

The location of the deputy heads office is impractical as the only access route to this space is through the learning and teaching spaces. Ideally, the deputy heads office should be adjacent to the head teachers office.

There is no suitable waiting area at the main entrance for visitors/parents.

Accessibility

Although community groups have limited use of these areas, they have access to the staff toilets and could potentially use the staffroom for meetings.

Environmental Conditions

Noise can be an issue throughout the school day, particularly within open plan classrooms and activity areas.

Safety & Security

Although the main entrance has a secure entry system, there is no holding area. This means that once a visitor/parent has been granted access into the building, they then have the potential to access every area of the school.

There is a lack of suitable areas to deal with confidential matters. The deputy heads office is only accessible by walking through the games hall and the learning and teaching spaces.

Fixed Furniture & Fittings

Community groups have access to appropriate furniture but would benefit from better cooking facilities. Tables in BOOST (Out of School Club) is an issue.
Lack of suitable storage within these areas.

External Social Spaces (e.g. play, covered, seated areas)

Functionality	Rating
How far can the facilities support multiple users during and after the school day?	A
To what extent do the facilities support outdoor learning?	A
Accessibility	
How accessible are facilities for community groups during and after the school day?	A
Safety & Security	
How confident are we that all users are safe and secure?	A
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
How far do the facilities support engagement in and delivery of a full sport programme?	A
OVERALL RATING	A

Comments

Functionality

The school benefits from excellent outdoor facilities that fully supports external play and outdoor learning. The school also has use of the adjacent community park.

Accessibility

The outdoor facilities are used by the gardening club during the school day and have the potential to be used out with school hours by other community groups.

Safety & Security

Although the school grounds have sufficient perimeter fencing, the adjacent community park, which is used by the school, does not have any fencing separating it from the residential street. Staff need to be mindful when this area is being used.

Lack of lighting.

External Facilities (e.g. car parks, bike sheds, drop-off areas, storage facilities)

Functionality	Rating
How far can the facilities support multiple users during and after the school day?	C
Accessibility	
How effective is external access to changing facilities?	D
Assess the availability of parking for the number of users.	A
Environmental Conditions	
Reference to any external factors affecting the area e.g. light/noise pollution.	A
Also, does use outside of the school day affect neighbours?	A
Safety & Security	
How confident are we that all users are safe and secure?	B
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
Assess the suitability of storage to meet the needs of all users	B
OVERALL RATING	B

Comments

Functionality

Adequate parking spaces but no designated drop off area and no turning circle. This results in the surrounding residential streets becoming heavily congested at the start/end of the school day.

Accessibility

There is no external access to changing facilities.
Sufficient parking spaces for the number of users.

Environmental Conditions

No external factors affecting these areas and no complaints received.

Safety & Security

Some external areas are dark and poorly lit. External LED lighting should be considered.

Fixed Furniture & Fittings

Limited storage but sufficient space to create additional storage. Nursery resources occupy vast majority of existing external storage areas. No access to external areas.