

**Angus Council Internal Supplementary Suitability Questions
EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

SCHOOL: Mattocks 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?	C
flexible approaches to learning & teaching?	C
effective use of resources?	C
outdoor learning?	A
the development of creativity skills?	C
the development of employability skills?	C
engagement and delivery of a full sports programme	C
Accessibility	
How effective is Internal and external access to changing facilities?	D
How accessible are facilities for community groups during and after the school day?	C
Assess the availability of parking for the number of users.	B
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?	A
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
To what extent does the infrastructure support digital learning?	D
Assess the suitability of storage to meet the needs of all users.	C
OVERALL RATING	C

Comments

Functionality

Classrooms 1 and 2 are located within the extended section of the building. Both classrooms are adequate but would benefit from the provision of more flexible furniture in the way of desks and room dividers. This would allow for easy reconfiguration of the classroom, aid different pedagogical activities and would allow for more effective group and/or individual exercises. Noise pollution can be a slight issue due to these classrooms being semi open plan.

Classroom 3 is situated within the original part of the school building and provides accommodation for P6/7. This classroom is small, cramped and lacks in the appropriate flexible furniture that would facilitate the learning process and help to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence. The lack of flexible furniture and space would impede inclusion for wheelchair users from using the classroom effectively and efficiently. Unlike the other classrooms, classroom 3 lacks a quiet space that would provide pupils with an area for reading or for individual work. However, due to the lack of flexible furniture and space, the introduction of this space is not possible at present.

Creativity is compromised due to none of the classrooms having access to an activity area/breakout space. The introduction of an activity area/breakout space would create a space that supports innovative learning that inspires, stimulates, challenges and supports pupils. There is no nurture area or areas for quiet study for ASN pupils or for pupils struggling within the classroom learning environment. The school has funds for a nurture area (The Pod) but is waiting for this to be approved.

Mattocks Primary School benefits from excellent outdoor learning facilities that encourages activity based learning as well as providing multiple peaceful spaces that enables pupils to think, observe, reflect, converse and read. These areas are used regularly throughout the year and are essential in developing skills as well as helping to deliver different aspects of the curriculum.

The schools ability to develop creative skills is a growing concern due to inadequate facilities. Music lessons are carried out within the gym hall and can be heard throughout the entire school. This noise pollution makes teaching and learning increasingly difficult, impeding on the development of the pupils.

Although the school has excellent external facilities, the extent of the internal facilities compromises the schools ability to support and enhance and delivery of a full sports programme. The gym hall lacks in size and is not at all equipped, in terms of sports facilities, to deal with the demands of a 21st century school. The main concerns of the gym hall are: lack of space; too many windows; windows not being reinforced; insufficient storage for gym equipment; and noise pollution.

The car park would benefit from bay markings to ensure that the correct number of cars occupy this area.

Accessibility

Due to the school having no changing facilities, pupils are expected to get changed within the classroom. Although this does not prove to be an issue for the younger pupils, older pupils are becoming more body conscious and prefer to get changed in the toilets or within the gym hall before the lesson commences.

There are no facilities for the community to use during the day as every available space is filled. As it stands, the community do not have the use of the gym hall after school hours but that's not to say that it doesn't have the potential to be used. If the gym hall was to be used by the community, members of the public would have to walk through the school and could potentially come into contact with sensitive or confidential information. External access into areas used by the community would be more suitable.

The community could potentially use the external grassed football pitch, however, the provision of suitable external lighting would be essential, especially during the darker nights.

The number of parking spaces is adequate as there are currently 7 staff and 8 parking spaces

Environmental Conditions

The school does not benefit from any form of renewable energy.

Safety and Security

There are no issues relating to safety and security within the classrooms.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings

Although each classroom is equipped with desktop computers and an interactive whiteboard, these are hard wired into internet points as the school does not have a wireless internet connection (Wi-Fi). The parent council have raised a significant sum of money for the provision of digital technologies, however, until the network capabilities are improved this money will remain unspent.

Although the nursery has a tablet (IPad), it is not being used to its full potential and cannot be updated due to the absence of a wireless internet connection.

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

Comments

Functionality

The staff would benefit from having a bigger staffroom as manoeuvrability can be challenging when multiple persons are occupying this area. The location of the staffroom also causes issues as this space is the only access route to the head teacher's office.

The school is not capable of providing facilities for the community during the day as every area of the school is utilised during school hours.

The kitchen is currently used to store dining equipment. There are no facilities within the kitchen for cooking.

The village hall is currently catering for the needs of the community as it has better facilities.

The only area in which members of the public would be able to use out with school hours is the gym hall, however, there are no cooking facilities as the kitchen is only used as a servery.

There is also no available storage for community use as all storage areas are currently used by the school.

There are no internal social spaces for pupils except the gym hall.

Accessibility

Corridors are small and would impede manoeuvrability for wheelchair users. Internally there are no push pads for ease of access to certain areas.

If the gym hall was to be used by the community, members of the public would have to walk through the school and could potentially come into contact with sensitive or confidential information. External access into areas used by the community would be more suitable.

Safety and Security

Generally there are no issues relating to safety and security within these areas, however, a push bar should be fitted onto the fire door within the kitchen.

Although there are no major safety issues, members of the public prefer using the village hall for community activities.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings

The only furniture that could be used by the community are the 3 trestle tables, used by the pupils for dining, and 25 stacking chairs.

There are no storage facilities for community users as all available storage is being used by the school. The school regularly assesses the need for their storage items and disposes of them accordingly.

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?	C
Accessibility	
How accessible are facilities for community groups during and after the school day?	C
Environmental Conditions	
To what extent is 'noise' an issue?	B
Safety & Security	
How confident can we be that all users are safe and secure?	C
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	C
To what extent is there sufficient storage to meet the needs of multiple users?	D
OVERALL RATING	C

Comments:

Functionality

For the size of the school there are an adequate number of toilets. For primary school pupils, there is one toilet area for boys, equipped with 2 cubicles and 1 floor standing, stainless steel urinal, and one toilet area for girls, equipped with 3 cubicles.

There is only 1 staff toilet, used by male and females, which is also the accessible toilet. This toilet is also used as changing facilities by pupils who are becoming body conscious and would prefer the get changed in a private environment.

Although the school has a secure entry system, there is no holding area for visitors/parents to wait before being granted access into the school.

The school is not capable of providing facilities for the community during the day as every area of the school is utilised during school hours.

Due to the school having no library, each class has to store their library books within the classroom. This puts increasing pressure on staff to find available space as the school already suffers from insufficient storage.

Due to the size of the school there is no need to have individual staff bases for each class. There is, however, a need for a bigger staffroom that would allow staff to relax in a less cramped area.

Accessibility

Manoeuvrability is an issue within the narrow corridors of the original section of the building, especially for wheelchair users. The school does not currently have any wheelchair users, however, if this was to change it would cause serious problems.

Environmental Conditions

Noise from music lessons from within the gym hall filters throughout the school, including the classrooms. This noise pollution disrupts learning and makes teaching increasingly difficult.

Safety and Security

Although the school has a secure entry system, there is no holding area or reception hatch. This means that once someone has gained entry in to the building they have the potential to access to every area within the school. Providing the school with a more robust entry system would ensure maximum security and enable the receptionist to assess any visitors/parents more thoroughly before granting them access into the school.

There are no adequate areas available that would allow for confidential matters to be addressed. As it stands, the head teacher's office is used to deal with sensitive matters, however, the staffroom is the only access route into the head teachers office, therefore, issues of a sensitive or confidential nature can be easily overheard.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings

There is only one staff toilet and it is used by males and females. This staff toilet is the only accessible toilet and is also used as a changing room for pupils who are uncomfortable getting changed in front of other pupils/teachers.

Storage within the school is severely inadequate. Every available storage space within the school is being used by the school, leaving no storage space for any other potential users.

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?	B
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?	B
OVERALL RATING	A

Comments

Functionality

Outdoors areas are well used during school day. The school is not capable of providing facilities for the community during the day as every area of the school is utilised during school hours.

The sloping nature of the playing field encourages water to flow down the slope causing drainage issues at the bottom. This can become particularly problematic during the wetter months.

Adequate external LED lighting must be provided in order to improve visibility.

Mattocks Primary School benefits from excellent outdoor learning facilities that encourages activity based learning as well as providing multiple peaceful spaces that enables pupils to think, observe, reflect, converse and read. These areas are used regularly throughout the year and are essential in developing skills as well as helping to deliver different aspects of the curriculum.

The school also has a variety of external areas that help to stimulate and challenge pupils. These areas include an outdoor classroom, an obstacle course, small planting areas, picnic benches and arbour seating.

Although the school has no externally covered areas, there are plans to erect a nurture area within the grounds of the school.

Accessibility

All areas are easily accessible for all.

Safety and Security

No issues relating to security of the grounds. Security fencing and lockable gates are all in good condition.

The only issue is the lack of external lights. Injuries have occurred due to lack of visibility.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings

There are multiple areas and surfaces for sporting activities to be carried out on i.e. large grassed playing field, tarmac surface (for wetter days) and an obstacle course.

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.	B
Environmental Conditions	
Reference to any external factors affecting the area e.g. light/noise pollution.	B
Also, does use outside of the school day affect neighbours?	A
Safety & Security	
How confident are we that all users are safe and secure?	A
Fixed Furniture and Fittings	
Assess the suitability of storage to meet the needs of all users	C
OVERALL RATING	B

Comments

Functionality/Accessibility

The school is not capable of providing facilities for the community during the day as every area of the school is utilised during school hours.

The school car park has limited space and only has parking for up to 8 cars. This means parking is only adequate for everyday staff. The car park would benefit from bay markings to ensure that the correct number of cars occupy this area.

There is no designated disabled parking.

There is no one-way system or specified drop off area. This causes congestion in residential streets around the school.

Good sized bike shed for school pupils and community use.

No additional storage for community use.

The lack of appropriate signage makes locating the school difficult. Consideration should be given to providing adequate signage.

Environmental Conditions

Lack of lighting within car park and all other external areas is an issue during winter months.

Safety and Security

No issues relating to security of these areas. Security fencing and lockable gates are all in good condition. Adequate CCTV and all areas can be easily observed.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings

There are issues relating to lack of external storage. If the grounds were to be used for community use, additional storage would need to be provided.