

New Regent's College at Nile Street – Summary of Provision

Overview – design vision

The New Regent's College will accommodate a wide range of different education provisions. This includes pupils with a range of emotional needs and also those with challenging behaviour who may need to be supported on a short or more extended term out of mainstream schooling. It is proposed that the primary age pupils occupy the site after Easter 2019, with the remainder of the cohort moving in from September 2019.

The school is expected to have up to 250 pupils on the roll, but with the temporary nature of attendance, only approximately 150 pupils will be on site at any one time. This includes both primary and secondary pupils across an age range of 5-16 years old.

The specific educational needs of the pupils is met by organising the school into 5 different groups. This includes Primary, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 group, and two smaller groups accommodating vulnerable girls and restorative learners.

It is key that each group, and their respective new accommodation, is kept separate and distinct. Unlike mainstream schools, the cohort of pupils are not brought together for wider school activities such as sport or assemblies. To ensure efficiency, however, the dining provision is served through one kitchen. Sports and specialist classrooms also serve the whole school, with careful timetabling allowing staggered access to these facilities by each group.

Each group of pupils is provided with a self-contained suite of accommodation which includes a variety of teaching and learning spaces. The occupancy of classrooms will average between 8-10 pupils, although there are considerably more support spaces than found in mainstream schools. Support accommodation principally deals with 1 to 1 tuition, but also includes group therapy, and time out rooms. Toilets are located close to each separate cohort group, specialist area and the dining areas.

Each pupil group will also have separate access arrangements, with different entrances on the north-eastern and south-western edges of the site. Dedicated outdoor space is provided for all the groups, except the restorative learners (who will not be on site for large periods of time, e.g. 3 days), the majority of access to outdoor spaces is provided to the north and western areas and particularly the multi-use games area (MUGA) through careful timetabling.

The school is organised to allow some of the facilities to be open for the benefit of the wider local community. This includes the sports hall, dance studio, multigym and MUGA.

The building is designed around a central outdoor courtyard which results in a highly legible plan arrangement, helping to support user orientation.

The proposed building includes the efficient distribution of staff accommodation to allow the school to be effectively managed.

School organisation and zoning

The school consists of five different pupil groups – primary age and vulnerable girls groups, KS3 and KS4 pupil groups and a restorative learning group. Each group is located within its own self-contained suite of classrooms and support spaces. The organisation of each zone has also been highly influenced by entrance arrangements, maximising separation between each zone within the school and also between the school and residential accommodation.

A courtyard is located at the heart of the school and allows zones within the school to be organised in a clear and legible manner around it. As well as bringing light and air into the plan and generating external façade, views across the space also provide good passive supervision.

The primary and vulnerable girls' pupils together with restorative learning groups are provided with their own separate entrance on the northern end of the site off Britannia Walk. This minimises contact between the older and the younger and more vulnerable pupils. The primary pupils' accommodation is located on the eastern side of the courtyard looking out towards the west. The restorative learning group is located at the north eastern corner of the building at ground floor. This shallow location within the plan suits this group as they will be the most transitory in nature. The vulnerable girls group is located on the northern edge of the building at first floor. A small dedicated outdoor terrace is directly accessible from their classroom space.

The older pupils at KS3 and KS4 are arranged on the western end of the building with classrooms orientated away from the residential accommodation. Smaller supporting spaces which will have less regular use and which provide better opportunities to control glazing and aspect are arranged on the courtyard side. KS3 pupils are located on the ground floor and access the building from the north end of Britannia Walk entrance. The older KS4 pupils are located on the first floor and enjoy a dedicated entrance off Nile Street through the arrivals garden on the west.

Specialist rooms are located on the first floor and include a Food Technology room, a Science Laboratory, ICT room and Art and Design studio. This location allows all groups to readily access the specialist rooms without passing through other pupil zones.

Dining provision for the different groups of pupils is organised in separate dining halls served off a single kitchen. The kitchen has service access directly off the north end of Britannia Walk.

Indoor and outdoor Sports facilities are organised around the north western corner of the ground floor and are served through a single set of changing facilities.

Main administrative functions are located close to the main Nile Street entrance. Outreach and staff functions, which are less sensitive to overlooking, are deliberately organised along Nile Street to create a more active frontage to the street.

The accommodation schedule attached provides more detail on the variety and size of spaces available to the College.