

Supporting Statement for Planning Application
Mobile classrooms at Redwell Infant and Junior Schools

It is planned to install a double mobile classroom to provide additional teaching space for Redwell Infant to use from September 2013. The school has been asked by the Local Authority to make a temporary increase in its published admission number from 60 children per year group to 90 children per year group. This will permit an extra class of 30 Reception children to start at the school in September 2013. The current school roll at both the Infant and Junior Schools is outlined below and highlights that both schools are full in all year groups. Redwell Infant caters for Reception, Years 1 and 2 and the Juniors are Years 3 – 6.

Infant School	Reception	60
	Year 1	60
	Year 2	60
Junior School	Year 3	61
	Year 4	60
	Year 5	61
	Year 6	61

There is unprecedented demand on primary school places in Wellingborough. Eleven Infant and Primary schools serve the town with a combined capacity of 682 Reception places, as outlined in the table below. There are currently (January 2013) 691 Reception children on roll, as some schools have taken over their published admission number. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places and measures need to be taken to provide further capacity for September 2013. The Infant class size legislation that applies to Reception and Years 1 and 2 also means that action should be taken to ensure class numbers do not rise beyond 30 on a regular basis. A mobile classroom at Redwell Infant will provide thirty extra Reception places in the Wellingborough area for the next academic year.

School name	Published Admission Number	Number on roll in Reception
All Saints	30	30
Croyland	60	64
Diamond (Oakway)	90	90
Olympic (Hardwick)	60	59
Our Lady's	60	60
Redwell	60	60
Ruskin	90	89
St Barnabas	60	60
Avenue	60	61
Victoria	60	60
Warwick	52	58
totals	682	691

It is anticipated that this capacity will be needed long term and a permanent accommodation solution will need to be provided. This will require statutory consultation on the proposal to expand the numbers at the schools, and will also require an assessment of how additional accommodation can be built on site.

A double mobile classroom allows the Infant School two years worth of extra numbers whilst the Council undertakes these activities. Any permanent expansion at the Infant School will lead to increasing numbers at the Junior school in 3 years time (from September 2016), so the feasibility study that is being done will consider the needs of both schools.

The Schools operate independently, but share the same site with one main entrance and joint car-park. The schools benefit from the neighbouring sports centre, playing fields and public carpark. At the moment the schools have separate Headteachers and Governing Bodies, but at a joint meeting on 26 October 2012, it was agreed that a joint feasibility study could go forward and look at the option of joining the 2 schools together as one building but still standing alone as 2 separate schools. Any building plans resulting from these discussions will be the subject of future consultation and separate planning process. If permanent expansion did not proceed, the mobile classrooms would be required for up to the maximum 5 years whilst the extra classes of children worked their way through the year groups. The published admission number would revert to 60 in Reception after two years of admitting 90. If permanent expansion was to proceed, the mobile classrooms would be required until completion of the building works, which is anticipated as autumn 2015.

Appearance The proposed building is of standard single storey mobile classroom construction. The elevations are perpendicular surmounted by a low pitch roof. The roof is finished in grey felt with a small overhang, discharging rainwater into a black PVC gutter and down pipes. The height of the roof is approximately 3.3m from ground level. The walls are refinished in a stippled weatherproof coating, all painted in dark Green (12 B 25) colour. All windows have white uPVC frames and are double glazed in clear float glass. A wooden slatted skirt is fitted between ground and floor level, the slats being horizontal.

Access:

The building design takes account of:-

Approach Within the limits of the site the mobile has been positioned to create ease of access for all users.

Parking Not applicable.

Entrances Access to the site is as existing with no need for any alterations. Access to the mobile will be via steps and ramp to the main entrance.

Location The mobile has been sited on a grassed area to the side of the main building.

Horizontal & Vertical Circulation

The horizontal circulation within the mobile has been carefully planned to accommodate all users. Vertical circulation is not applicable for this single storey building.

Access to all Internally the mobile has been carefully laid-out to maximise use.

Services All facilities are logistically placed in relation to each other.

Emergency Egress The design of the mobile will ensure and assist evacuation should an emergency need occur. All travel routes have been carefully planned and emergency exit facilities provided. Evacuation planning will be recorded and regularly tested by the occupiers.

Waste Management There will be minimal waste generated during the installation of the mobile. Each contractor will be responsible for removing their own waste to a licensed tip.

Northamptonshire biodiversity considerations re:

Redwell Infant School, Barnwell Road, Wellingborough, NN8 5LQ

Development Proposals	Y	N
<p>Does the development area affect habitats such as ponds, trees and shrubs, or rough or meadow grassland on the site? Is the development adjacent or connected to or does it affect a Local Wildlife Site, or Pocket Park?</p>		N
<p>Are there any buildings or features on site which have the potential to support roosting bats? These includes trees, outbuildings, cracks and holes in the buildings, trees and buildings covered in ivy, wooden soffits and hanging tiles, holes in the roof or missing tiles? Does the proposal involve alteration or works to roof or loft spaces, demolition of a building, replacement of fascia or the erection of a micro wind turbine?</p>		N
<p>Are there any trees on, or next to the site that have the potential to support roosting bats? Does the proposal involve the removal of trees, large shrubs or hedgerows? Trees with a girth greater than 1m at chest height? Old and veteran trees, trees with obvious holes cracks, cavities or heavy vegetation?</p>	Y	
<p>Will areas of hedgerow/scrub/woodland/trees, outbuildings, roof spaces and eaves or features with potential to be used by nesting birds be affected (by direct loss or by disturbance)?</p>		N
<p>Is there suitable habitat for great crested newts or amphibians on, or within 200m of the application site? Suitable habitat on or in the vicinity of the site where Great crested newts often recorded include ditches & ponds or reedbeds, rubble and log piles, woodland, trees & scrub, hedgerows & long/rough grassland & they are often found in urban sites. A pond that dries out occasionally can be ideal for great crested newts. Newts will move some distance from breeding ponds.</p>		N
<p>Will there be impacts on trees and hedgerows? Are works to trees proposed including pruning or removal? Provision of additional hard surfacing/ resurfacing of existing areas, clearance of vegetation be carried out with 5m of the canopy of any tree or hedgerow.</p>	Y	