

Existing School Review

Bosmere Community Primary School is situated within the town of Needham Market, in Suffolk. The school is located to the west of the town on the edge of a residential development. The surrounding area is primarily urban in setting with low levels of residential development to the north and south.

The former Needham Market Middle School playing fields run along the eastern boundary although the two sites are separated by a public footpath, and a significant level change. Quinton Road, which also forms the access to the school, is to the west.

The site is rectangular in shape, slightly off the north-south orientation. The main school building and car park are situated towards the northern end of the site. In addition to the main school building there is also a Children's Centre located on the site and this is situated adjacent to the car park and to the north of the main building. The site is wholly owned by Suffolk County Council. The school is relatively new and is of masonry construction with pitched, tiled roofs. The Children's Centre was constructed in 2010 to the front of the school and in contrast is timber clad.

The School's car park is accessed directly from Quinton Road. Pedestrian access is also from Quinton Road, with separation provided by footpaths leading to the school entrance and Children's Centre beyond.

The latest two classbase extension and cycle sheds are located to the front of the school. The playground and playing fields lie to the south, behind the main school building.

The boundary of the school site is comprised of mature trees and established hedgerows which are in keeping with the school's setting and help to maintain a secluded and private feel to the site.

The linear nature of the site, leads to a sectional approach to the site use. The north of the site contains two zones, the site access with car parking and two standalone buildings. The northern most building houses the Children's Centre with external play area, and is separated from the school site using low timber fencing. This area of the site is leased to the Children's Centre and is not available for school use.

The second standalone building, houses the school's most recent classbase extension, with two individual classrooms, built in 2014 as part of the School Organisation Review (SOR). This building sits outside the school's secure boundary, creating a disconnect with the rest of the school site.

This front area of the site provides access to the school for staff, pupils and visitors, 28 parking spaces, predominantly used by staff, and pedestrian access segregated with the use of footpaths. Cycle parking is provided towards the back of the entrance zone.

The main school building dissects the site, dividing the car park, entrance area, Children's Centre and SOR extension from the remainder of the site. To the south-west of the school building, is an on-site nursery, accessible along the west side of the building. The school's reception classroom is also situated within the west of the building, providing potential links between the age groups.

A recent extension and refurbishment project provided a larger and more prominent front entrance to the school, accessed from the car park area.

Immediately adjacent to the school building, to the south, is the school's asphalt playground, providing formal and informal play space and outdoor PE facilities. Behind the playground, the site becomes less formalised, with a change in level leading down to a mix of hard surfacing and grass, a gazebo and play equipment.

The school's grassed playing fields complete the site to the south, accommodating more than a third of the overall site area.

The site boundaries contain many mature trees and hedges, helping to screen views and provide a private and secluded feel to the site. Small clusters of mature trees also dot the southern side of the site, providing shade and naturalised play opportunities. More recently planted trees exist in the car park area, as well as providing a separation between the playground and informal play areas, likely to have been planted to provide mitigation during previous development of the site.

Maintenance access is located to the south of the site, via a bridleway that leads off Quinton Road. There is no vehicle access between the car park and the rear of the school site, due to the limited space between the school building and the site boundary.

To the east of the school site, lie the playing fields of the now unused middle school site. A public footpath that runs between the primary and old middle school site, coupled with a significant level change, inhibits links between the two sites.



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