St Giles' Roman Catholic Primary School, Cheadle, Staffordshire
Reception and Year 1 Window Replacement
1st March, 2016

Design Access Statement

Introduction
This design access statement accompanies a planning application for proposed window replacements at the site of St Giles' RC Primary School, Cheadle, and has been written to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Use
The current use of the application site is a primary school, and the specific area of the school covered by this application is the Reception and Year one classroom block.

Amount
The proposals are to replace a total of 14 windows in four different sizes. The proposed plans also include replacement of the reception internal door. All window locations and sizes are located on drawing number 2528-22-01.

Access
Access routes towards the school grounds will not be affected by proposed plans.

Appearance
The proposed windows are designed in a modern style, to be in keeping with those of the modern buildings on the site in white PVCu and aluminium. The sizes of the casements are function driven to allow adequate ventilation to the classrooms.

Statement of Historical Significance

This assessment of the building and its setting has been undertaken using 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance' and 'The Setting of Heritage Assets', as produced by English Heritage.

Description of Heritage Value and Significance

Historical Value
Much of St. Giles' Primary School displays a certain degree of historical value which is mainly associative in nature, with the original school buildings having been designed by the distinguished Gothic Revivalist architect A.W.N. Pugin. Although Pugin's work was largely ecclesiastical and usually more embellished (taking inspiration from middle age 'decorated' styles of gothic), he did to a lesser extent become engaged on associated structures of a more secular use such as dwellings and school buildings. In Pugin's written work 'Contrasts', he promotes this use of the style on secular buildings so projects such as St. Giles' are a fairly rare expression of this.

Evidential Value
In terms of evidential value, St. Giles' can offer some degree of value in terms of telling us about the Victorian sociological movement to formalise education practices in Britain, with the acceptance by government of responsibility for education of the masses, eventually resulting in the 1870 Education Act. During this period, school-houses were constructed in most villages, although the small size of these buildings is evidential of the fact not all the school-age population of the village would attend and that classes were mixed ages, village schools sometimes just consisting of one or two

classrooms. The relationship of the school to its setting and particularly the proximity to the churches is also evidence of the practice during most of the 19th century of government granting funding to religious bodies to build schools, rather than building them directly itself.

Added to this, the building exemplifies Pugin's own views on how the Gothic style could be employed to instil Christian (Catholic) morals upon the general population.

Aesthetics

As a heritage asset, St Giles' Primary School offers some aesthetic value however the 1950's extensions to the sides and rear of the original building do somewhat detract from this and prevent it being seen in isolation. The area of the building forming this application dates from the 1970's and is located fairly remotely from the Victorian part of the building, to the rear of the site. The style of this extension is unrelated to that of the original school house.

Impact of Proposals

The impact of the proposed works will not affect the original Victorian school building. The area of replacement windows is set back from the principle elevations of the school so It is felt appropriate that the new windows continue the architectural language of these modern areas of the school. Replacement of rotten timber window frames in these areas with new PVCu frames will have benefits in terms of reduced maintenance liability for the school and increased thermal efficiency and will have no more detrimental effect on the aesthetic or historical values of the original building than the existing windows.