

Our Vision

To facilitate outstanding formal and informal outdoor learning experiences for all pupils by developing and enhancing the unique setting of Wallands School



From Vision to Feasibility

Wallands Community Primary School is located in Lewes, East Sussex in the heart of the South Downs National Park with 6 acres of school grounds that open out directly onto Landport Bottom. This is an important community asset, part of the UNESCO designated Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere and a recognised Site of Special Scientific Interest dating back to the early bronze age.



Like most schools built in the 1950's, structural and facilities development were based on immediate need as opposed to a long term strategic vision and plan. So our outdoor space plays host to portakabins and outdated hard play areas and a habitat abundant with amenity planting. In 2012 Wallands established a grounds project team consisting of staff, parents and pupils and set about creating a Vision for our outdoor space in the long term.



The team looked at what the outdoor spaces offered now, what would be offered if Wallands were a new school and what was needed to create an outstanding outdoor environment for learning, play and performance that we could share with the wider community. In 2014 the team with the support of Field Architecture Ltd published a comprehensive Feasibility Report.



The Feasibility Report examined every aspect and use of our outdoor space - pitches, games courts, hard play, soft play, habitat and servicing. It examined how the grounds could be used for curriculum use and how we could explore and develop new and existing links with the wider community.

Summary of Feasibility Report Findings

- ☒ Quantity of overall outdoor space is good.
- ☒ The school has an excellent record of sports achievement.
- ☒ There is a desire for more open ended play areas.

- ☐ Accessibility to outdoor spaces is generally poor.
- ☐ Most outdoor surfaces, spaces, planting and equipment are showing their age and in need of repair and renewal.
- ☐ There are conflicts and incompatibilities of activity types.
- ☐ There are limitations to play experiences when the weather is poor.
- ☐ Pupils do not readily connect the outdoor space to lesson time.
- ☐ Teaching staff have been hindered in their curriculum use of the outdoor space.
- ☐ There is an inequality of play experiences for the different genders.
- ☐ Lack of winter time lighting limits the extended use of the outdoor areas.
- ☐ Links to the wider community are limited and have yet to be fully explored.

The Feasibility Report also provided a route map to realising Wallands Vision for outdoor learning, a long term strategic masterplan with a number of key elements.

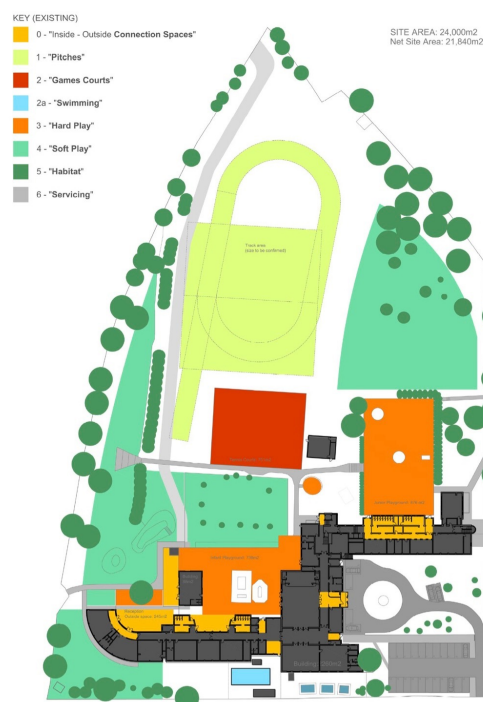
- remodelling our habitat replacing amenity planting with indigenous species which complement the surrounding National Park and encourage wildlife.
- developing a range of outdoor learning activities across all subjects that support curriculum delivery and pupil progress.
- developing dedicated spaces for learning, play, sport and performance.
- redefining hard and soft play areas and habitat into connected spaces with the elements of challenge, risk and 'wilderness' becoming greater the further you move into the school grounds.
- providing greater opportunities to share our outdoor space with other schools and the wider community.

The Masterplan

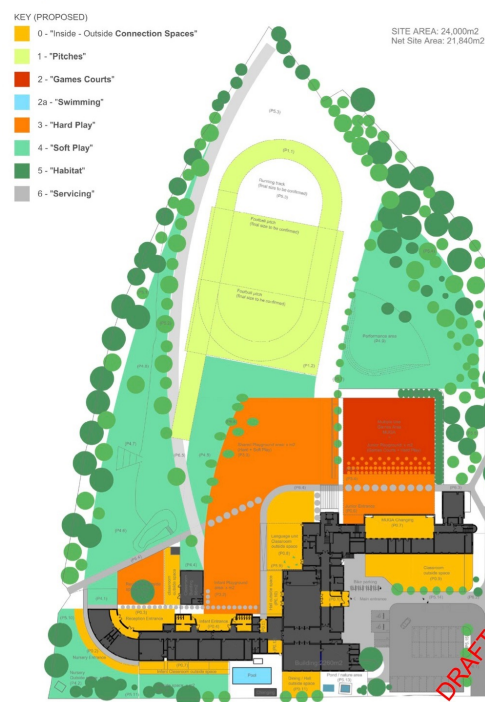
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"Masterplan"

Existing



Proposed



4 - MATCH

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FA1203 – Wallands – OUTDOOR LEARNING

Feasibility – DRAFT – v5

10.06.14

FA1203

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In May 2014 the Governing Body considered and agreed the findings and recommendations outlined in the Feasibility Report and proposed that a delivery team be established to implement the proposals.

Architectural Plans courtesy of Field Architecture Ltd

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