

2.0 Appraising the context

2.3 Evaluation and Preliminary Design

As can be seen in the earlier sections, a considerable amount of work has been carried out to assess the site and in conjunction with this information, the briefed requirements and the vision and ethos of WSCC, the Academy and the sponsors we have developed a concept that we believe responds to all these aspects.

We feel that it is important for buildings to have a strong identity and personality, and this applies to schools perhaps more so than many other building types. To this end, we have employed a simple, legible logic to the form, which draws directly from the site context

The siting of the new academy has taken several issues into account;

- The need to avoid any significant decanting on site.
- The need to retain a workable relationship with the retained buildings.
- The academy to have a strong presence on the site.
- Addressing two opposite site entrances.
- Avoid dividing the site into two whilst maximizing the potential for playing fields.
- Respect for the proximity and scale of the neighboring residents.

The new academy is sited to the south west of the existing school buildings. This has been carefully selected to ensure an immediate presence from the existing and proposed entrance whilst maximizing the amount of external play and sports pitches to the north side of the site.

The new building is predominantly 3 storey with one 2 storey wing. The two storey wing is sited to the east, where it has a relationship with the existing single storey buildings as well as a possible future relationship with residential development to the south of the site.

The building's form will be clearly visible across the site and provide a powerful message about the school's mission in the community. Further to this, ensuring a clear diagram forms a foundation to the successful running of a school. At the heart of this, we have located the central atrium and dining space that is the focus for the school where dinning, meeting, greeting and celebration can take place.

The new academy is intended to form a simple, legible building. Given the significant and broad role the academy plays within the community, it is important that the building has a strong identity and personality, drawing directly from its own site context.



Artist's Impression: North elevation and main entrance of new academy