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OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

Report for Full Governing Board Meeting – 29th April 2019

The Feasibility Study was undertaken by HVM Architects in consultation with London Borough of Croydon and the school.

Following an initial briefing from the London Borough of Croydon, the study detailed high-level options for refurbishing and potentially expanding Red Gates Primary School to include a nursery and two additional classrooms.

The SEN school has 147 pupils whose ages currently range between 4-12 and who are, predominantly, on the autistic spectrum (ASD). However, there are other pupils who have severe learning difficulties which has resulted in the school teaching in Learning Pathways: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Sensory, Learning Independence and Social Skills (LISS) and ASD.

The Local Authority's intention is to reduce the cohort down to 140 pupils ^{see NOTE} In addition, the nursery will accommodate six pupils in the morning and six in the afternoon. The report prepared for the Council explores development options whilst maintaining the existing school operation throughout the construction period.

Red Gates School shares a site with Gilbert Scott Primary School. The following options were investigated:

Option 1 – Refurbishment of Red Gates School (excludes nursery);

Option 2 – Refurbishment and extension of Red Gates School, including the demolition of the north-west cluster, to allow for the reconfiguration of the teaching and administrative zones, as well as providing two extra classrooms and nursery.

Option 3A – Single-storey new build to include additional classrooms, rebound room, hydrotherapy pool, better staff facilities as well as separate dining and PE halls;

Option 3B – Mixed single/double-storey new build to include additional classrooms, rebound room, hydrotherapy pool, better staff facilities as well as separate dining and PE halls.

It had been indicated that the Council had proposed to make £2.9 million available for work on the school buildings. The Architects suggested that, although there are potential unknown costs, this sum could allow Option 1 to be carried out. Costs for Options 2 and 3 were significantly more, and there had been no indication that further money will be available.

Lorraine Slee (Head Teacher); James Stremes & Susan Powell (Governors)

NOTE: Since the Feasibility Study report was completed, the Local Authority has indicated that the school will probably be asked to accept an additional reception class again in September 2019



*Dr Viv Hinchcliffe and Helen Norris
Interim Head Teachers
CROYDON
COUNCIL.*