

PLANNING SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Imberhorne School, Windmill Lane, East Grinstead Proposed Modular Building for SEND and School Leadership Facilities

Applicant: West Sussex County Council, Imberhorne School, East Grinstead

Background

The County Council's [West Sussex Plan](#) sets out its corporate priorities and a commitment to helping people and communities fulfil their potential.

Imberhorne School in East Grinstead is a 9FE (270 places per year) 11-18 secondary school with 6th form provision.

This application seeks permission for the installation of a high-quality modular building to provide enhanced facilities for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), alongside additional accommodation for school leadership and administrative functions.

Need for Development

The existing accommodation currently used for SEND provision is acknowledged to be life-expired, no longer fit for purpose, and unable to meet modern educational, accessibility, and safeguarding standards. The limitations of the current facilities restrict the school's ability to deliver appropriate interventions, therapeutic support, and inclusive learning environments for pupils with additional needs.

The proposed modular building will provide purpose-designed spaces that are adaptable, accessible, and compliant with current building regulations. These spaces will better support differentiated teaching, small-group work, sensory provision, and quiet areas essential for pupils with a range of needs.

Policy Context and SEND Reforms

The development aligns with the principles set out in the Department for Education's proposed [SEND Reforms](#). These reforms place strong emphasis on strengthening inclusive practice within mainstream settings, ensuring that more children can have their needs met locally without requiring specialist placement.

The proposal directly supports:

- Increased mainstream inclusion, enabling pupils with SEND to remain within their community school setting.
- Delivery of early intervention and targeted support, through appropriate, dedicated accommodation.
- Improved multi-disciplinary working, with space for staff, visiting professionals, and administrative coordination.

By providing modern, flexible facilities, the development will help future-proof the school's SEND provision, ensuring it can respond effectively to evolving educational policy and statutory expectations.

School Capacity and Pupil Numbers

Importantly, the proposed development does not result in any increase in overall pupil numbers at the school. The scheme is intended solely to enhance the quality and suitability of existing provision. It represents a redistribution and improvement of space rather than an expansion of capacity.

Design and Delivery Approach

The use of modular construction is considered appropriate given its:

- Reduced construction time and disruption to the school environment
- High sustainability credentials and efficiency
- Flexibility for future adaptation if needs change

The building will be sensitively sited within the school grounds, ensuring minimal visual impact and maintaining safe circulation across the site.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposal represents a necessary and policy-compliant investment in educational infrastructure. It addresses deficiencies in existing accommodation, supports national priorities for SEND inclusion within mainstream schools, and enhances the learning environment for some of the most vulnerable pupils—without increasing overall school capacity.

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