

Planning Supporting Statement
Imberhorne School – Modular Classroom Replacement
Imberhorne School, Windmill Lane, East Grinstead
Applicant: West Sussex County Council, Imberhorne School, East Grinstead

BACKGROUND

The County Council's West Sussex Plan sets out the corporate priorities and a commitment to give children the best start in life; this includes ensuring that young people are ready for school and ready for work.

Imberhorne School in East Grinstead is a 9FE (270 places per year) 11-18 secondary school with 6th form provision. The school offers a varied curriculum in line with the national curriculum which includes the performing arts. The current accommodation providing teaching space for music is in life-expired modular accommodation.

The current music classroom has no practice rooms and is too small for classes of 30-32. This inhibits the teaching of the curriculum and means that the provision for students is decreased, reducing the breadth of their curriculum. The new classroom will be properly apportioned to meet the needs of these numbers, with more significant storage and three practice rooms. It will therefore exponentially improve the curriculum provision for Music teaching.

There is an urgent requirement to provide replacement and suitable accommodation to ensure the continuity of delivery of the music curriculum on the Windmill Lane site and, following feasibility studies, the preferred option is replacement modular accommodation. Due to the location of the music accommodation on the school site, it is important that works are undertaken outside of term time to minimise disruption to education in the surrounding areas and ensure the health and safety of staff and pupils. It is therefore proposed that the replacement accommodation is programmed for the summer holiday period in 2026.

Pupil projections for Imberhorne School indicate that there is a current and sustained need for the accommodation to enable the music curriculum to be delivered.

The Headteacher and Governors of Imberhorne School have been fully involved in the design.

PROPOSAL

The proposed development comprises a single-storey modular teaching block containing a music classroom, music practice rooms, storage and circulation. The building is designed using modern off-site modular construction, with materials selected to complement existing school buildings.

The proposal includes improved pathways, compliant external access, and connections to existing utilities. No changes to vehicular access are proposed, and parking demand will not change. The existing life expired single modular classroom will be demolished.

In summary, the proposed modular block provides essential additional specialist education capacity to meet identified statutory need for education at Imberhorne School. The proposal is consistent with national and local planning policy, delivers sustainable development, and makes effective use of the school site.

Leigh Hunnikin
Strategic Development Manager
March 2026