
Ellesmere Port Catholic High School Redevelopment Proposals

March 2026

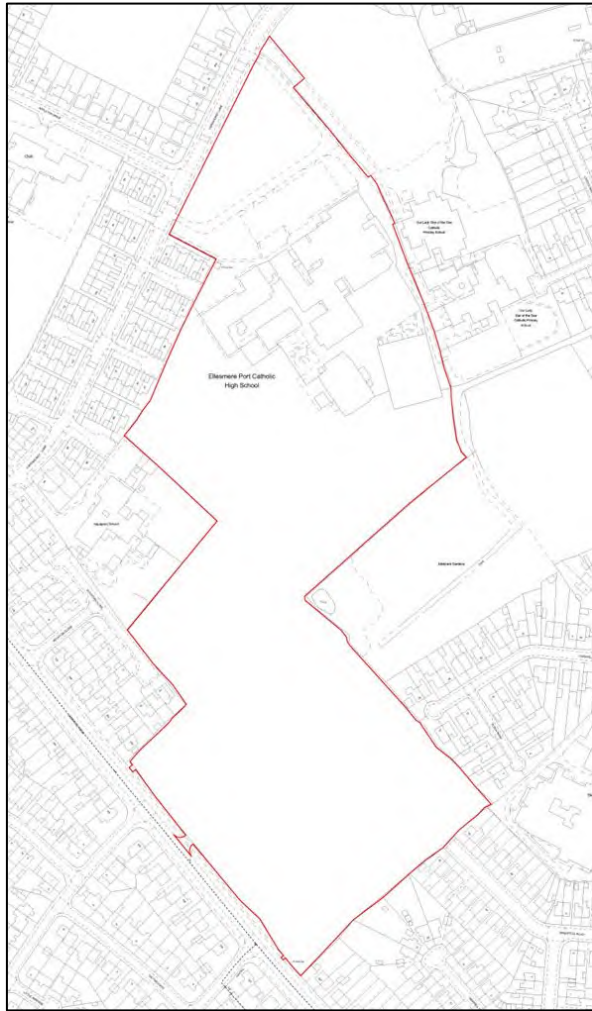


Scheme Overview

- The redevelopment Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is being funded by the Department for Education as part of the School Rebuilding Programme.
- The site operates as Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, a secondary school with a sixth form. The existing school accommodates up to 1,068 pupils (900 + 168 sixth form) and has 142 FTE staff. There will be no change to pupil and staff numbers as part of the proposals.
- The proposed development includes the following:
 - Demolition of all the existing school buildings and construction of a new, 2 storey teaching block and a 1.5 storey sports block (approximate total 9,000sqm floorspace);
 - Reconfiguration and increase in car and cycle parking provision;
 - New vehicular entrance from Overpool Road with car park and parent drop-off loop;
 - New substation and bin store;
 - New and reconfigured hard play, sports courts, soft landscaping and playing fields;
 - Retained access to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School from Capenhurst Lane.
- The new school building will be designed to be low carbon and tackle climate change, targeting Net Zero Carbon in Operation, and will include the provision of solar panels on the roof of the new buildings and ground source heat pumps will be used for heating.
- The proposals will ensure continuity of facilities for the school and community during the build process, including the retention of the existing buildings and the temporary accommodation blocks whilst the new buildings are built.
- Once redeveloped, the school will continue to make their facilities available for community use in the afternoons / evenings, and at weekends.



Site Location



Existing Site

- The existing school comprises 5 blocks (between 1 and 3 storeys high).
- The existing school buildings are in a poor condition and several are no longer in use due to the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).
- Due to the RAAC, the site also houses several temporary school accommodation blocks.
- Existing access is from Capenhurst Lane. There is a separate in/out shared with Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School.
- The existing car park has approximately 90 spaces with further informal parking around/in between the marked spaces. Some of the car park is used by the adjacent primary school on a first come first served basis.
- The school has a large number of pupils that cycle to school but the existing formal cycle parking is limited.
- Parent drop-off and pick-up by car occurs largely on Capenhurst Lane; some drop-off and pick-up also happens at the nearby Morrisons (to the north).



Demolition of Existing Buildings

- All of the existing school buildings (5 blocks) are proposed to be demolished once the school have moved into the proposed new buildings.
- The temporary blocks will be removed once the new school buildings are complete.

LEGEND



Project Boundary



Building to be Demolished (Permanent)



Building to be Demolished (Temporary)



Proposed Site Layout

- The scheme proposes the relocation of school buildings and car parking to the south of the site, and the relocation of site access arrangements for cars, pedestrians and cyclists to Overpool Road.
- Once the school has occupied the new buildings, replacement playing fields will be provided in the northern portion of the site following the demolition of the existing buildings.
- The existing vehicular entrance from Capenhurst Lane will be retained for access to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, along with 12 car parking spaces for their use.
- The existing vehicular exit onto Capenhurst Lane will be retained for access to the substation within the school site boundary.

	Project Boundary
	Asphalt Concrete [Vehicular Grade]
	Asphalt Concrete [Pedestrian Grade]
	PCC Concrete Block Paving Type 1
	PCC Concrete Block Paving Type 2
	Concrete Hardstand [Cycle Storage & Service Areas]
	Asphalt Concrete Multi Use Game Areas
	PV External Canopy
	Cycle Parking (Hoops and Shelter)
	3.0m High Sports Fencing
	2.4m High Secure Weldmesh Fencing
	1.8m High Weldmesh Fencing
	Existing Boundary Treatments [Subject to Condition]
	Existing Trees & Vegetation Retained
	Proposed Tree Planting
	Hedge Planting
	Ornamental Planting
	Species Rich Grass
	Woodland
	Sports Grass
	Wetland
	Amenity Grass
	Building To Be Demolished
	Fire Muster Point Area [527m ²]
	External Furniture
	EV Charging Bays [Active]
	EV Charging Bays [Passive]
	Accessible Parking Bay Marker Post
	Existing Mound



Proposed New School Layout

- A 2 storey teaching block is proposed ('H' shape), with a separate sports hall block, courtyards and external canopies.
- There will be solar panels on the teaching block roof, on the sports block roof and on the external canopies.
- The teaching block will also have a green roof underneath the solar panels.
- The buildings are located to ensure sufficient separation from neighbouring residential properties.
- There is a hard surface sports courts area adjacent to the sports block.
- The proposals include a new staff and visitor car park with a parent drop-off/pick-up loop around the full car park extent, including space for SEND drop-off.
- The area of tree whip planting to the south-east corner of the site will be largely retained.



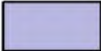
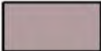




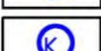





Proposed Access and Parking

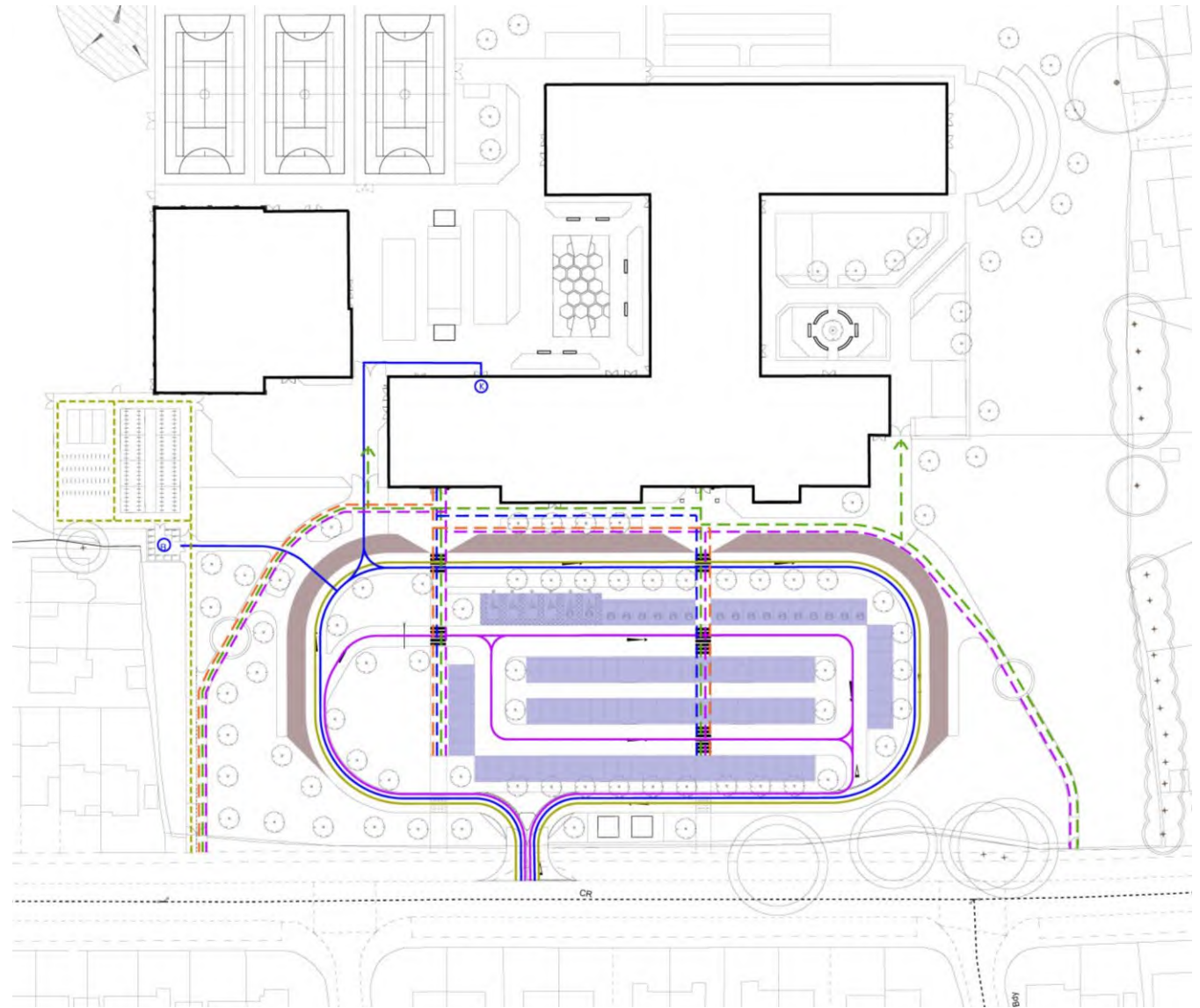
- 2 segregated pedestrian/cycle access points from Overpool Road.
- Single vehicular entry/exit from Overpool Road.
- New car parking area with increased capacity (104 spaces inc. 6 accessible).
- Parent drop-off/pick-up loop around the full car park extent.
- Space for SEND pupil drop-off.
- 18 active electric vehicle charging spaces (inc. 2 accessible) and 17 spaces with infrastructure for future charging expansion.
- New covered cycle parking for approximately 200 bicycles, with space for expansion adjacent for an additional 100 bicycles.



- The relocation of the school entrances to Overpool Road, the increase in car parking provision, and the introduction of a dedicated parent drop-off/pick-up facility on site, will significantly improve the existing situation on Capenhurst Lane, and ensure that traffic on Overpool Road is managed.
- Traffic modelling work is currently underway to review any changes to the routes that vehicles will take to access the school site, and any impact that this may have on the local highway network. The findings will be included within the planning application.

Access and Circulation Routes

-  Staff/Visitor Parking [104nr spaces incl. 6nr accessible bays]
-  Drop Off Bay
-  Staff & Visitors
-  Drop-off
-  Service & Deliveries
-  Bin Store
-  Kitchen
-  Visitors
-  Bicycles
-  Staff
-  Students
-  Late Arrivals (Students)



Site Zones and Boundary Treatments

-  Secure Zone
-  Main Play Area (zoned for years)
-  Arrival Zone
-  Playing Fields
-  3.0m High Sports Fencing
-  2.4m High Secure Weldmesh Fencing
-  1.8m High Weldmesh Fencing
-  Existing boundary treatments (extent of retention/replacement TBC)



Reference image - 1.8m High Weldmesh fencing



Reference image - 2.4m High Secure Weldmesh fencing



Reference image - 3m High Sports fencing (MUGA)



Tree Considerations

- No established trees are being removed as part of the proposals.
- TPO trees long the south-east boundary of the site will not be impacted by the proposals.
- There is a requirement to transplant some sapling trees currently located in the southern corner of the site.
- 86 new trees are proposed to be planted as part of the proposals

NOTES




-  Existing tree to be retained & protected
-  Existing sapling trees to be retained
-  Existing sapling trees to be transplanted



Image showing existing sapling trees



Drainage Proposals

Drainage features

1. Rain garden
 2. Swales
 3. Green roof on teaching block
 4. Attenuation pond
 5. Attenuation tank under the carpark
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems will be installed as part of the drainage design.
 - Surface and foul water drains will connect into drainage in Overpool Road.
 - Surface water will be collected and contained on site, and then released to the drainage system at an agreed rate of discharge. This will ensure that there is no increase in flood risk in the vicinity of the site.



Aerial View from the South



Visual from Car Park Entrance



Visual of Main Building Entrance



Visual of Chapel and Student Entrance



Visual of Western Courtyard



Visual of Western Courtyard



Visual of SEND Entrance (Mandela Centre)



Visual of Sports Block



Teaching Block Elevations



Teaching Block Elevations



E.05 South West Courtyard Elevation

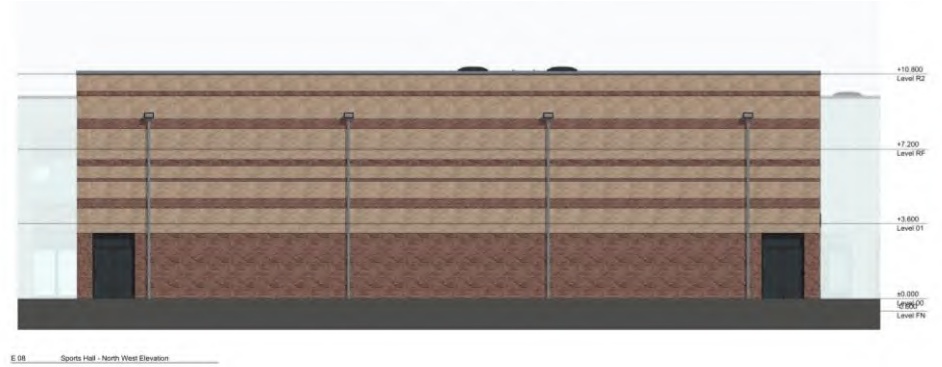


E.06 North East Courtyard Elevation

Materials

- The proposed red brick is in keeping with the surrounding area.
- Brick is a robust material, and suitable in the local marine environment.
- Brickwork detailing is in keeping with the surrounding context and breaks up the massing of the buildings.
- Prominent openings are created with the use of complementary brick colours and curtain walling.

Sports Block Elevations



Ground Floor Plan

- Sports / Dining/ Assembly
- Office
- SEN/Learning Resource
- Teaching
- Storage



First Floor Plan

- Sports / Dining/ Assembly
- Office
- SEN/Learning Resource
- Teaching
- Storage

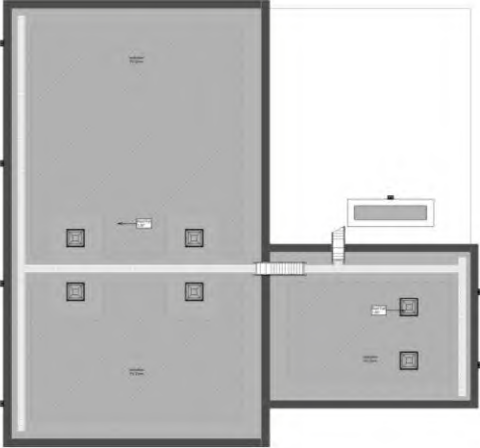


Roof Plan

There will be solar panels on the teaching block roof and on the sports block roof.

The teaching block will also have a green roof underneath the solar panels.

The roofs will also include roof lights and ventilation.



Internal Visuals

Main Dining



Main Hall



Sixth Form Dining



Main Dining

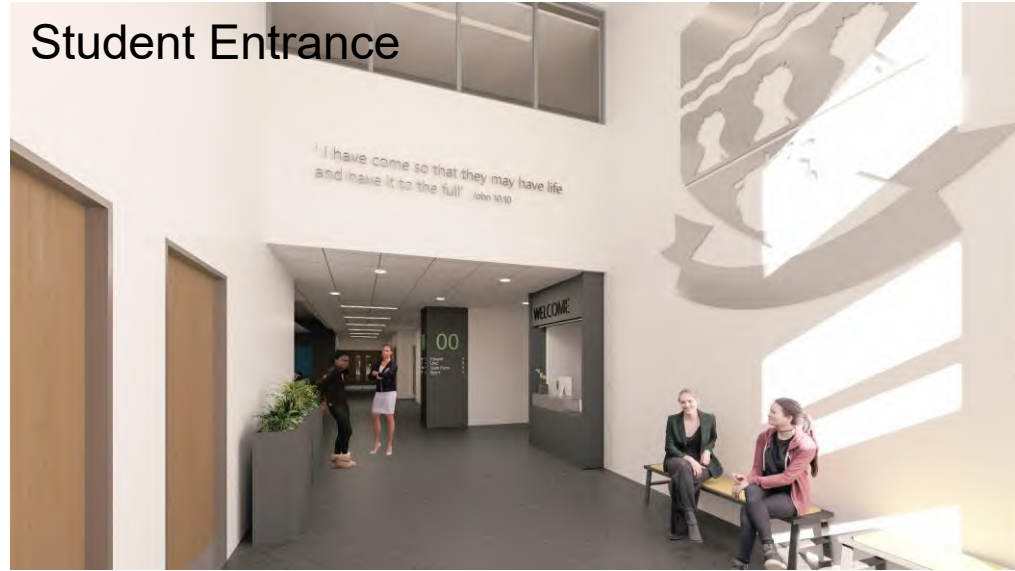


Internal Visuals

Chapel



Student Entrance



Main Reception



Sustainable Design

- The new buildings will be designed to have enhanced thermal performance to minimise energy demand.
- They will use low carbon and renewable energy solutions including ground source heat pumps for heating and solar panels on the roofs. The project is aiming to achieve Net Zero Carbon in Operation.
- The new buildings will meet minimum standards for daylight to provide a high-quality internal environment and minimise the use of artificial light; and they will mitigate overheating risk in warmer seasons and minimise heat loss during colder seasons through the optimisation of glazing area, shading, glass performance and window layout.
- They will maximise airtightness and levels of insulation to minimise heat loss.
- They will adopt energy efficient systems and fittings such as high efficiency LED lighting coupled with occupancy and daylight controls.
- Water efficient fixtures and fittings will be used.



Construction Phasing

Phase 1



Construction access off Overpool Road.

School access maintained off Capenhurst Lane as existing.

Start on Site: Autumn 2026

School Open: Early 2028

Reduced grass playing field area will be available during construction, including 2 x 11-a-side football pitches, 1 x 9-a-side football pitch, a 300m athletics track with 8 lanes, and a 100m track.

Construction Phasing

Phase 2



New school operational from Overpool Road.

Primary School (Our Lady Star of the Sea) continue to use the access off Capenhurst Lane.

Construction access via existing exit on Capenhurst Lane (segregating construction / school routes).

School Open: Early 2028

Project Completion: Summer 2028

Reduced grass playing field area will be available during construction, including 2 x 11-a-side football pitches, 1 x 9-a-side football pitch, a 300m athletics track with 8 lanes, and a 100m track.

Construction Phasing




Phase 2 / Completion

Project Completion: Summer 2028



Construction Phasing

Sports pitches during construction

-  Playing Field (20,618m²)
-  Indicative area of construction compound
-  Demolition zone (on completion of new school building)

Schedule of pitches which may be accommodated:

Football: 2 x adult
1 x 9v9

Athletics: 300m running track



Final Scheme



- 1 Pedestrian & cycle Entrance
- 2 Road junction on Overpool Road
- 3 Pedestrian entrance
- 4 Drop-off/deliveries/refuse collection
- 5 Staff/visitor car park
- 6 Cycle parking (200m spaces)
- 7 Refuse store
- 8 Cycle parking expansion area
- 9 Main entrance
- 10 Student entrance
- 11 SEN entrance
- 12 Sensory/SEN garden
- 13 Faith garden
- 14 6th form area/LRC garden
- 15 Amphitheatre
- 16 Rain Garden
- 17 Growing Garden
- 18 Design technology garden
- 19 Ground source heat pump plant room
- 20 Outdoor dining area
- 21 Playground
- 22 5-court MUGA
- 23 Substation
- 24 Container Storage
- 25 Playing Fields
- 26 Attenuation Basin
- 27 Existing Sapling Trees area

