

**West Sussex County Council**  
**Supporting Statement for Planning Application for**  
**Additional Teaching Accommodation at Downlands**  
**Community School, Hassocks**  
**April 2023**



The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children who need a place.

Following a review of pupil projections for starting secondary school in Mid Sussex, and particularly in Hassocks, due to increasing pupil numbers it is necessary to provide for a bulge class of 30 pupils at Downlands School in September 2022 and September 2023, creating a total of 60 additional places.

To accommodate this temporary increase in pupil numbers, additional teaching accommodation is proposed to increase capacity and ensure access to general and specialist teaching spaces.

The building project at Downlands Community School will enable the school to accommodate a bulge class of 30 pupils which joined in September 2022 and 30 further pupils offered a place for September 2023. Whilst the initial bulge class was temporarily accommodated without existing accommodation, additional capacity is now required to ensure sufficient teaching space for the 60 additional pupils.

Works to be taken forward include the following:

- Provision of a standard double modular classroom unit incorporating pupil toilet provision
- Remodelling of 2 existing general teaching classrooms as Science and ICT class
- Additional car parking

Once the bulge of 60 pupils has worked through the school, the modular unit will be retained to provide accommodation to facilitate ongoing support for teaching and delivery of the curriculum for all age groups.

**Contact**

Should you require any further assistance in respect of the content of this supporting statement please contact;

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