

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Subject: Update on Outdoor Play Provision Development**

Dear Parents and Carers of Ecclesall Primary School children,

Following the recent planning application regarding the proposed Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), the Governing Body has met to discuss the next steps in developing the school's outdoor play provision.

We acknowledge the range of views expressed regarding the initial proposal. Therefore, we are now taking time to carefully review various options to ensure the best outcome for the school and its' pupils.

Our priority remains to enhance our outdoor facilities to meet curriculum requirements, particularly the need to provide two hours of PE for all pupils. Increased space for free play and after-school clubs are also key considerations. Currently, during wet or winter months, the field's limited usability restricts us to the playground and school hall, which are often at capacity with PE lessons, assemblies and breaks.

We are revisiting previously considered options, along with new suggestions received, to assess how each best meets the school's needs. Our immediate focus is to determine the necessary space to fulfil the curriculum requirements. This will then inform the cost evaluation of each option.

The options under consideration include:

- Maintaining the current provision. (Do Nothing)
- Improving the condition of the existing field. This will include consideration of the drainage issues and condition of the field.
- Developing a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Including consideration of surface type and how the MUGA best supports the educational outcomes.
- Expanding the existing playground.
- Utilising the car park area.
- Repurposing existing space within the building.
- Building an extension for a new school hall.
- Exploring the use of High Storrs School grounds.

Please note that some of these options may be discounted due to operational, safeguarding, or financial limitations. The capital and ongoing costs associated with each proposal will be factors in our decision-making process. We will communicate the rationale for including or excluding options as our review progresses.

This important work will take time, as we are committed to making the right decision through careful consideration. We will not proceed with any developments without further engagement with you. While we won't provide a running commentary, we will ensure regular updates on our progress, engage with you when appropriate and ask that you bear with us.

Best wishes,

Kevin Corke,

Chair of Governors,  
For and on Behalf of the Governing Body.