New Hazlehead Academy Campus
Public Consultation Event 1

Ryder

Welcome

On behalf of Aberdeen City Council, thank you for visiting the new Hazlehead Academy Campus public exhibition. The purpose is to provide you with background information on the project and develop a design strategy. We welcome any comments you may have on these outline designs. This will be very valuable for us as we develop the design further.

This is the first of two public consultation events, with the second outlining more detailed design proposals.

Aberdeen City Council Key Priorities

The key priorities of Aberdeen City Council, and the policies highlighted within the Local Development Plan 2023 are applied throughout the project and considered when creating the vision and objectives for the proposal.

Through early prevention and intervention, the aim is to create spaces and conditions that support future generations by preparing them for:

School, Work, Adulthood and Life

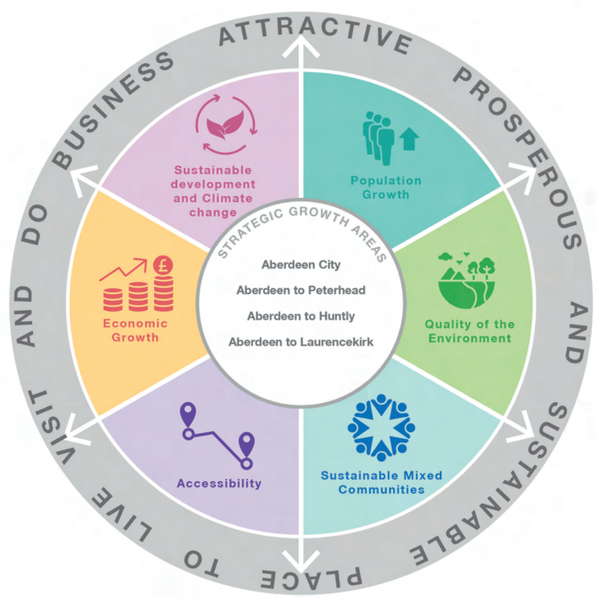
These lifelong cycles can be achieved in collaboration between the citizens and the community planning partnership. The aim is to promote transformation beyond the city and to transform Aberdeen into a **“City of Learning”**

Background and Context



Hazlehead Academy in context





Aberdeen City Council Development Plan priorities



Hazlehead Park
Image Credit: Chris Watson



Hazlehead Primary School
Image Credit: Craig Munro, Press and Journal



Hazlehead Golf Club
Image Credit: All Square Golf



Woodend Hospital
Image Credit: Bill Harrison

Hazlehead Context

Hazlehead is home to one of Aberdeen’s historic green spaces, historically hunting forests and now open parks and landscaped gardens it has been used for recreation by locals for centuries.

Currently the school that sits on the site has limited suitability for twenty first century learning, and the existing buildings offer little opportunity for collaboration, flexible learning and future adaptability.

The proposal will aim to offer a hub for pupils and the wider community to come together and share resources, future proofing the area for any challenges to come.

The existing school currently houses the plant room for the district heating system. This will be relocated and upgraded within the existing site for the new school and surrounding residential area, supporting the council’s climate and environmental goals.

We have carried out place studies of Hazlehead and wider Aberdeen City to understand existing assets and identify how the new school can work in synergy with these to maximise collaboration and potential social benefits.

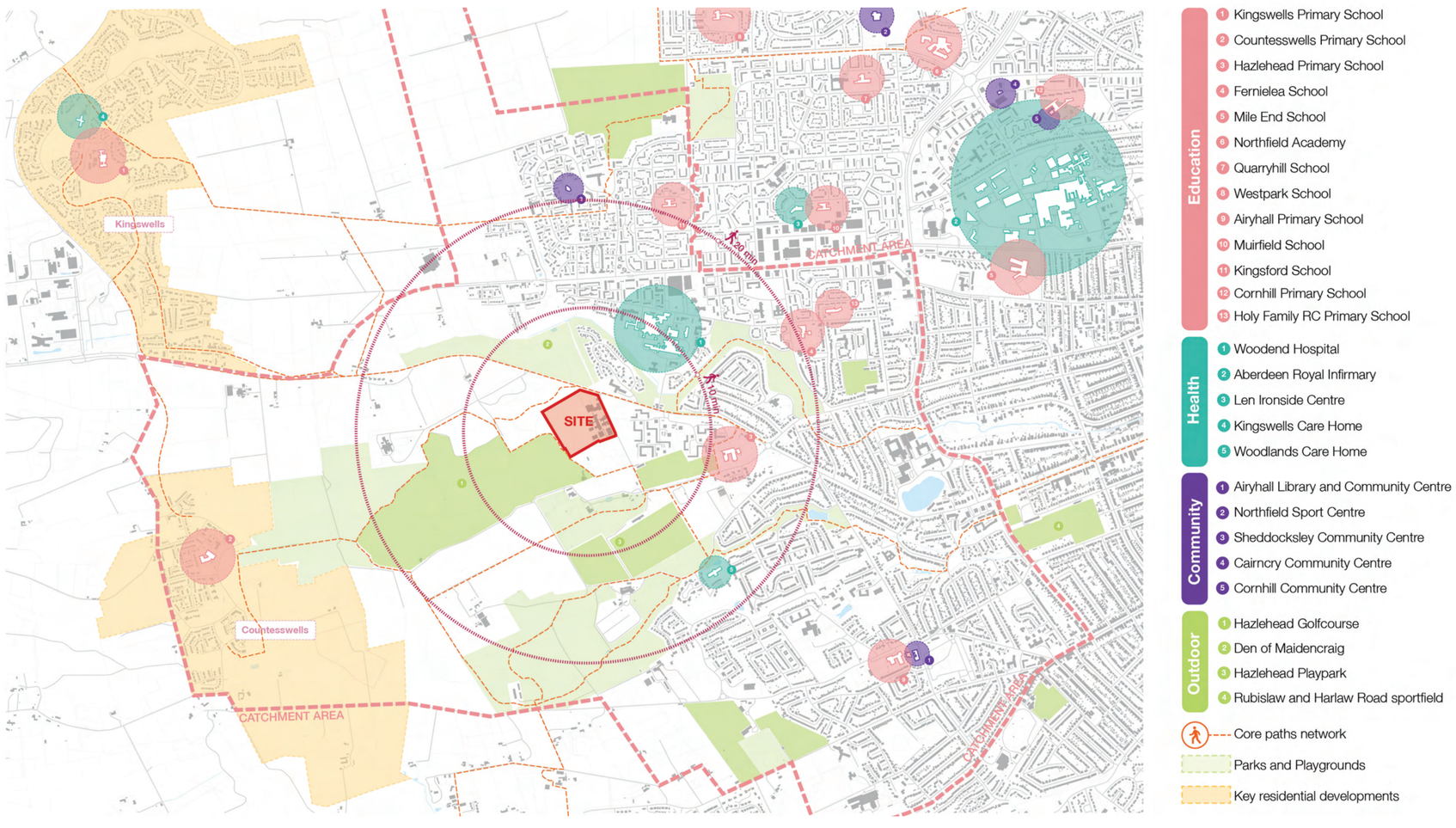
As the design proposal progresses it shall also remain sensitive to Aberdeen’s unique history. The character and identity of Hazlehead point towards the need for a design which respectfully complements the local context and works in harmony with the natural features of the land.

Connectivity

The Core Path Plans for Aberdeen, have been referenced, in order to review the existing opportunities for active travel between Countesswells, Kingswells and Hazlehead, and propose relevant enhancements to aid in connecting all three areas.

The existing network is comprehensive, with a number of safe and scenic routes as identified in the adjacent diagram. These networks can be further enhanced in the future to help create clearer pathways between areas, as well as enable pupils to walk and cycle safely between Kingswells, Countesswells and Hazlehead.

Hazlehead Academy is located on a number of core paths, with direct links to the existing Hazlehead Primary School, thus enabling a more comprehensive learner journey. The site’s central location also offers major benefits to community resilience and wellbeing, offering a wide range of lifelong learning opportunities through partnerships with external groups and improved accessibility to public services.



Local community assets

The Existing Site

Existing School

The existing Hazlehead Academy was completed in 1970. The 1970s buildings on the site are outdated with a main two story teaching block linked to the administration building by an external link corridor and several specialist teaching blocks isolated from the main building entirely. This not only creates issues with energy efficiency and maintenance but also safety problems for pupils traversing slippery or icy paths and require more staff supervision than newer schools.

The location of the buildings on to the western edge of the site does allow ample room for playing fields and landscaping however the current grass expanse is underutilised.

The site is bordered to the west by an area of community woodlands, which enhances local biodiversity and provides well being routes. Car parking is located to the north of the site and the surrounding avenues of Hazlehead Park are used for pupil drop off and sports access.



Existing site plan



View west across grounds



External link bridges between buildings



View from second floor to external dining courtyard



School buildings, from south courtyard



View north across playing fields



School frontage, from south west

Opportunities to Improve the Current Site Layout

The proposed site has great potential to create meaningful external spaces, improved access and active travel for walkers and cyclists and provide a better separation of pedestrian and vehicular movement. It is proposed to locate the new building to the north of the site currently occupied by the grass pitches and multi purpose courts. The grass areas to the south west of the site would remain usable for the duration of the build and all weather pitches would be replaced to the south of the site once the existing school buildings are removed.

Locating the building here will allow the site to be zoned more efficiently, to create a wider range of external spaces to benefit learners, including the new all-weather pitch, covered outdoor social and dining areas, outdoor vocational learning areas and the required amount of parking and delivery areas.

We will look to improve the bus drop off along eastern edge of the site and create a better pedestrian and cyclist route from the east leading to the new school entrance. Recognising the importance of the adjacent woodlands, any access improvements will be dealt with sensitively to minimise removal of existing trees as far as possible, with compensatory planting or transplanting for any trees which need removed.

Better pedestrian access links will also be created from the south, west and northern edges of the site to anticipate desire lines and dilute pupil flow through the main entrance. The car parking provision will be enhanced but remain to the north east of the site maintaining separation of pedestrians and vehicles, with the priority being given to the creation of high quality external space.



Proposed site strategy

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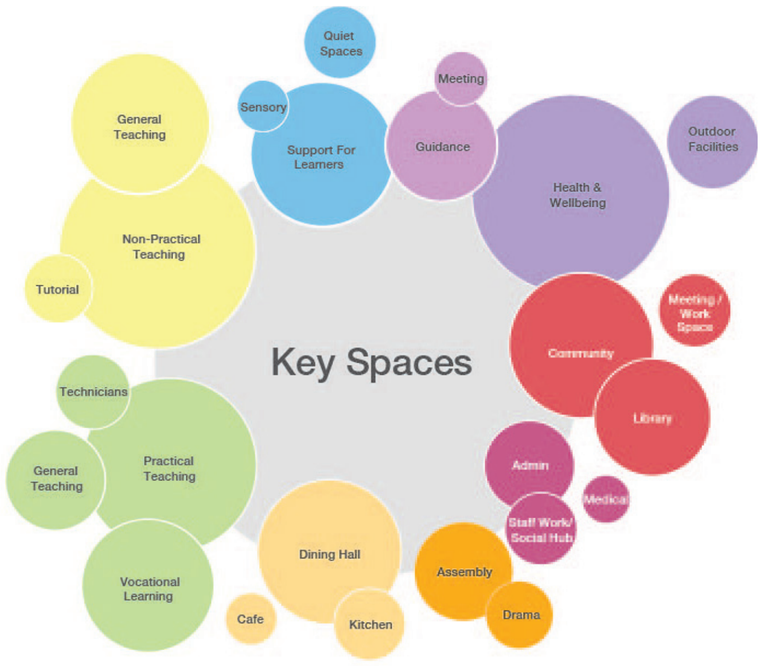
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Strategic Briefing and Engagement

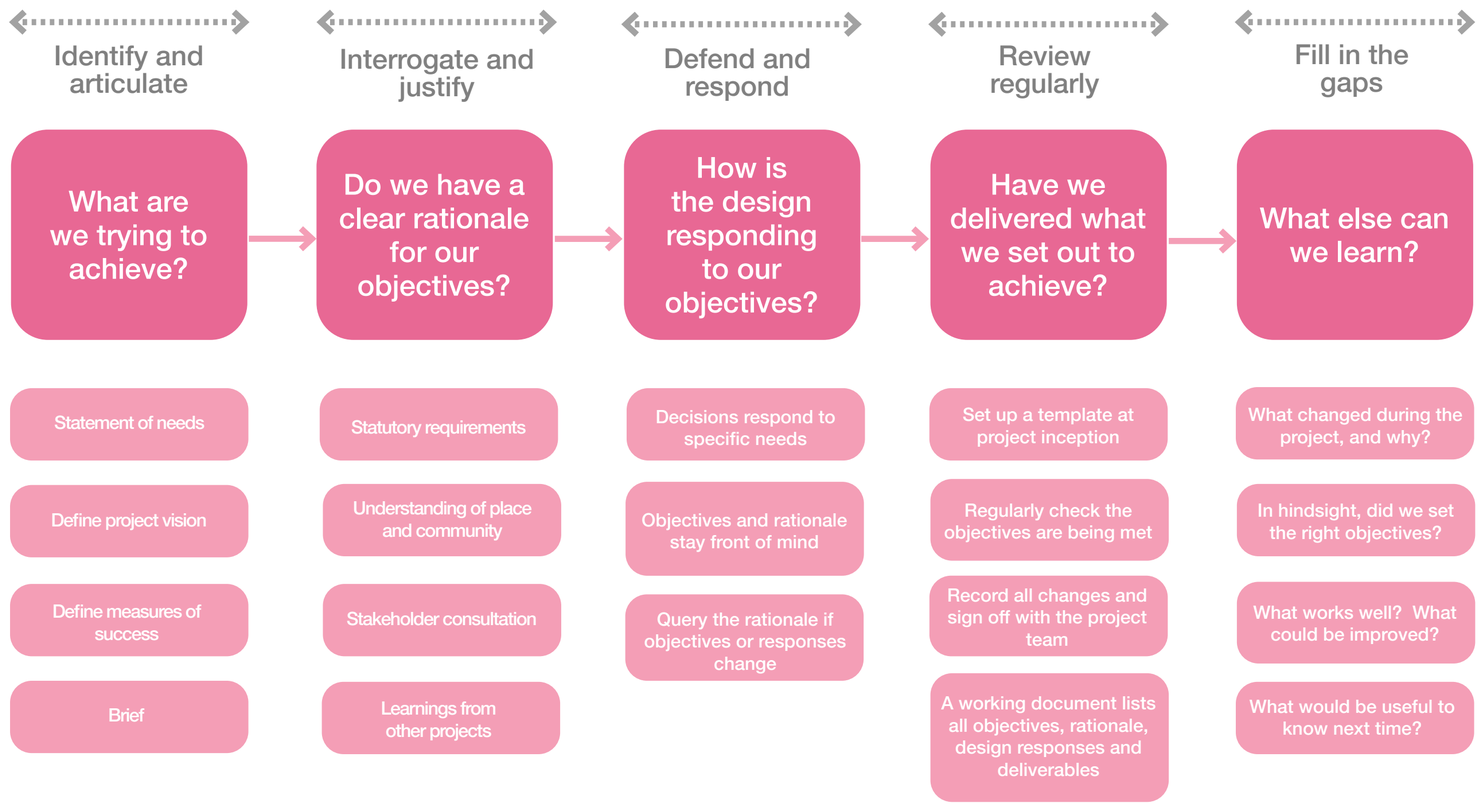
The initial engagement ran over a six week period with three stakeholder workshops. The stakeholders included members of Aberdeen City Council, representatives from Hazlehead Academy staff and key partners. The workshops focused on developing a vision and brief for the proposed site and establishing aspirations and key community links. The workshops were key in establishing the brief and setting the objectives, against which the project's success will later be measured.

Spatial Arrangement

Starting from the key space studies, three options for spacial adjacency were developed. Each diagram indicates how the spaces might work in connection with each other. Pupil flow and vertical adjacencies were investigated. These options have been tested and reviewed at workshops involving staff and key stakeholders.



Engagement and Development Process



The visioning process

VISION

An inclusive, welcoming and collaborative community campus where people feel safe, and which encourages engagement with a variety of services that support community resilience, wellbeing and lifelong prospects. With equity of access at its heart, it will be a stepping stone to the wider world, encouraging a network of interactions within and beyond the campus.

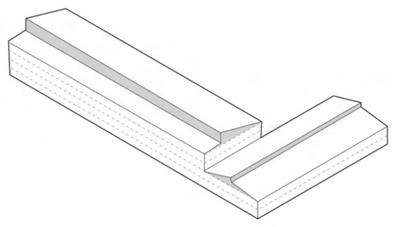
- Collaborative Service Delivery
- Supporting Resilient Communities
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Increasing attainment, skills and lifelong learning
- Environmental / Sustainability
- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Equity of Access
- Inclusive Economic Growth
- Digital
- Achieving more with less

Vision

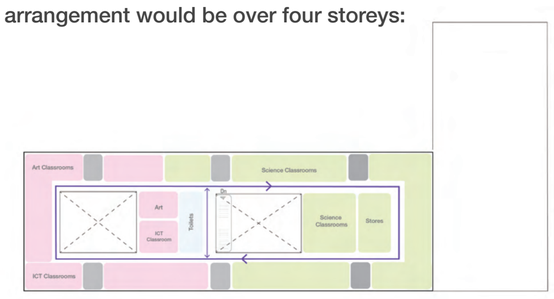
Options Development

Option 1 - Superblock

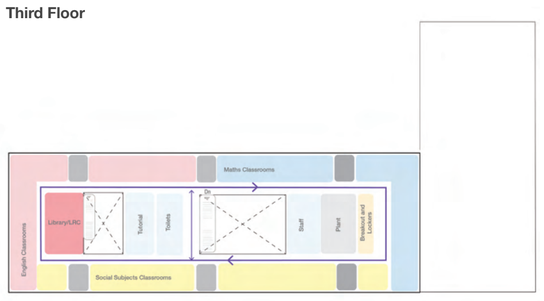
The superblock adopts a simple rectangular form, with classrooms requiring full daylight on the perimeter, and a range of support spaces and spaces which can function with top lighting and borrowed light to the interior of the building.



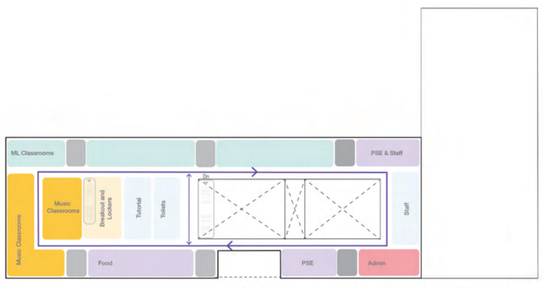
This arrangement would be over four storeys:



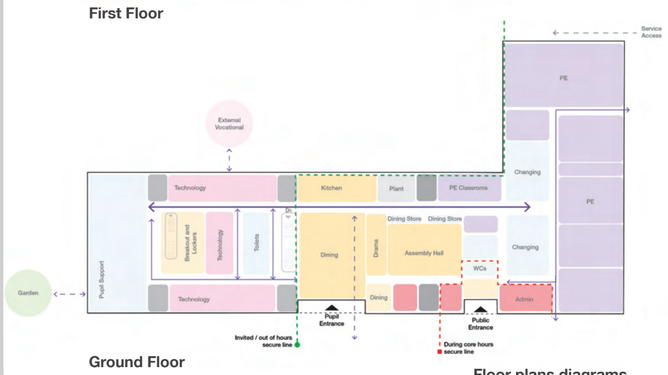
Third Floor



Second Floor



First Floor

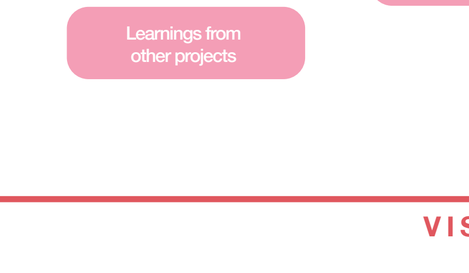


Ground Floor

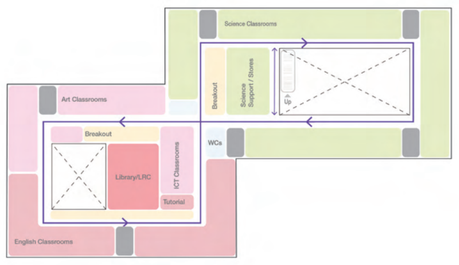
Floor plans diagrams

Option 2 - Staggered Loop

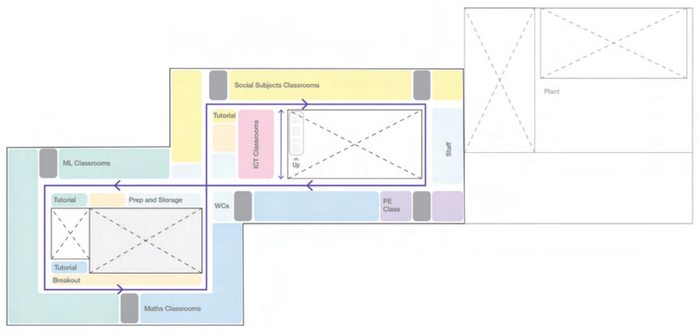
This staggered loop, similar to the superblock arranges classrooms requiring daylight to the perimeter while utilising the central depth for assembly and dining. A figure eight circulation route avoids dead end runs and the stepped plan form can also provide sheltered external space.



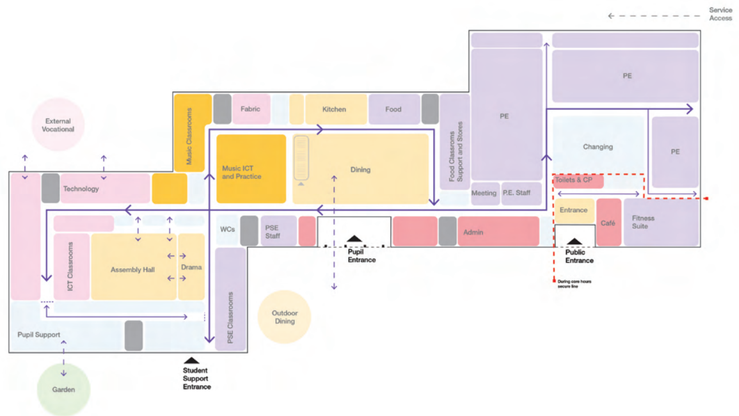
This arrangement would be over three storeys:



Second Floor



First Floor

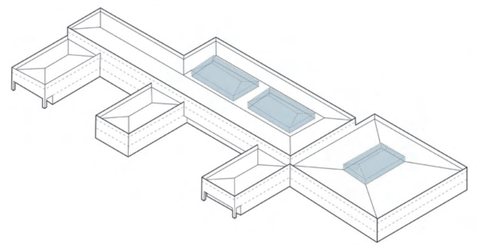


Ground Floor

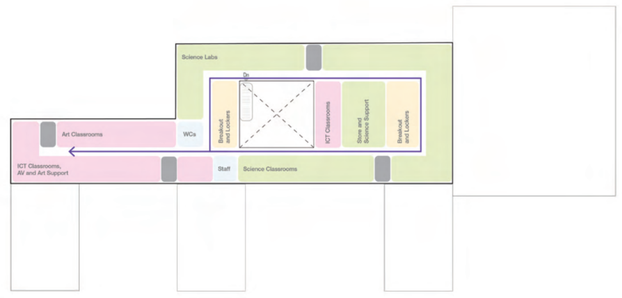
Floor plan diagrams

Option 3 - Finger Model

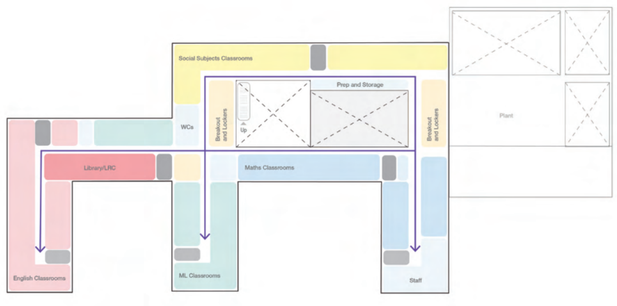
The finger plan model prioritises a greater level of external frontage to provide natural light to classrooms. The courtyards create meaningful, sheltered outdoor spaces which benefit from good southerly aspect.



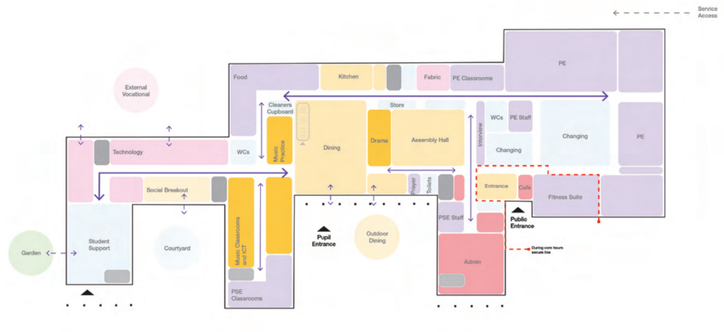
In this arrangement would have wings over two storeys to the south and the main block would be over three storeys:



Second Floor



First Floor



Ground Floor

Floor plan diagrams

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Current Proposal

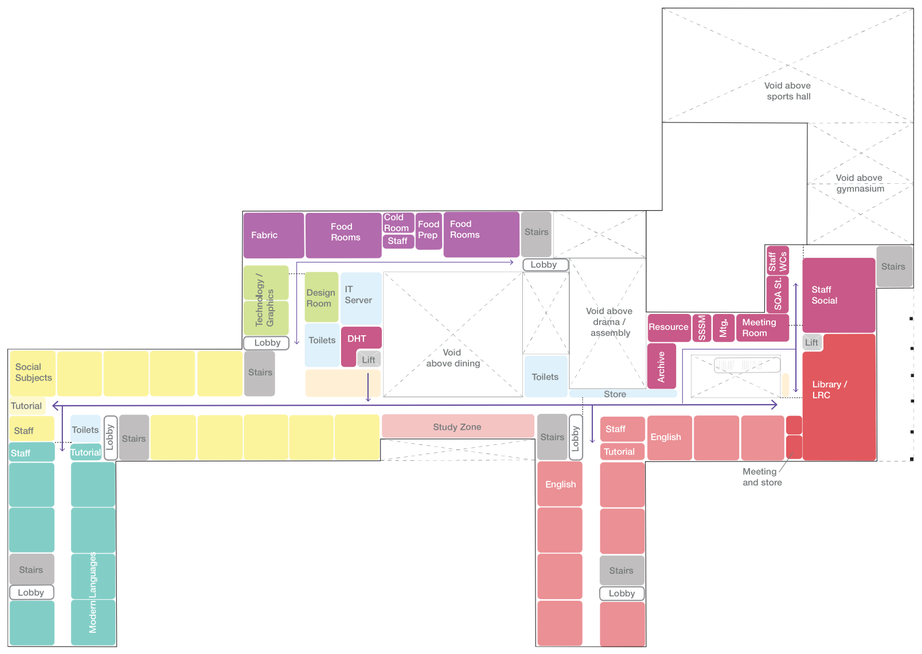
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Proposed site plan



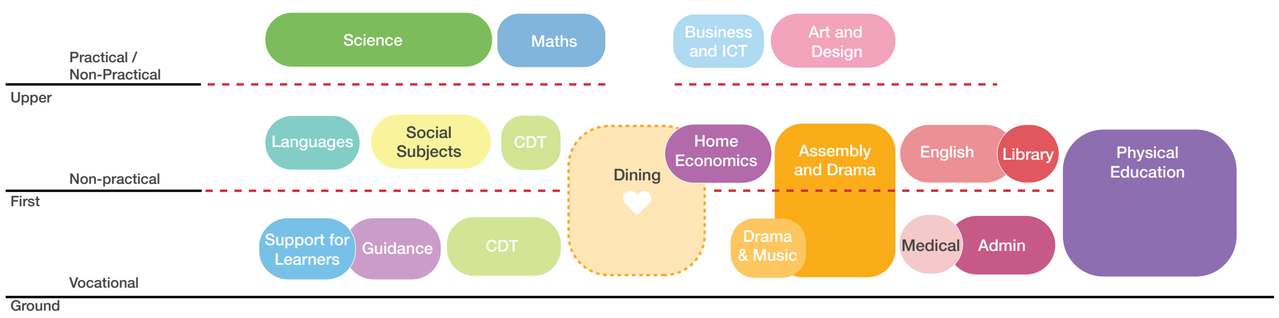
Second Floor



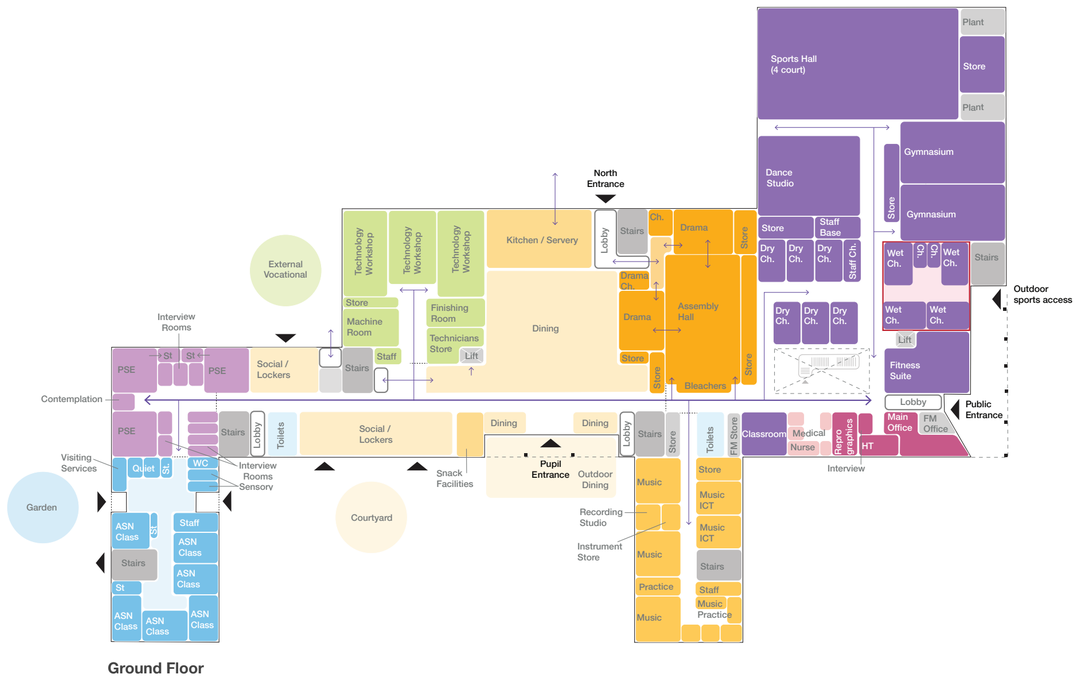
First Floor

Preferred Option

The new site layout takes advantage of south-facing outdoor sports and teaching areas. The building's public spaces are positioned near the eastern entrance, while classrooms that require a quieter environment are placed closer to the western woodland boundary. The chosen finger model design maximizes natural light in the teaching spaces and creates distinct departmental zones. Staff rooms and offices are strategically dispersed throughout the building to foster support and transparency. On the ground floor, social and shared spaces are seamlessly connected to sheltered outdoor areas and courtyards.



Vertical stacking diagram



Ground Floor

Adjacency diagrams - preferred option

Next Steps

Submission of Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)
November 2024

Pre Application Consultation Period
November 2024 - March 2025

Submission of Planning Application
April 2025

Tell Us What You Think

We hope that you have found this exhibition useful. We would be grateful if you could complete a feedback form to ensure that your views are recorded and can be considered as the proposal further develops. Please leave your comments form in the box provided, or alternatively send your comments by Friday 20 December by email to: schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk or by post to:

New Hazlehead Academy Public Consultation,
c/o Corporate Landlord,
Families & Communities, Hub 10, 2nd Floor South,
Marischal College, Broad Street,
Aberdeen,
AB10 1AB

You can find these boards online by scanning the adjacent code, or by visiting:
https://newhazleheadacademycampus.commonplace.is
where you will be able to leave your comments digitally.

A second session showing more detailed proposals will be held next year at Hazlehead Academy.

The Design Team

Client
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Wallace Whittle

Acoustic Consultant
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Architect / Landscape Architect
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