

# **GREENFIELD SITE**

## **(Field opposite St. Bede Academy)**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**(UPDATED 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

- 1. How big will the L shape be (need to see the plan) and how much land will be left for the public to access?**  
We are looking at obtaining approx. 65% of the field; enough for the children to safely play on.
- 2. What alternate facility will there be for local children to play?**  
Local children would still have approx. 35% of the field to use. Local residents could also hire the part of the field which St. Bede would occupy.
- 3. Can we have a little park back and maybe some football nets?**  
The school will lease only part of the field which would be secured by fencing which we would ensure looked aesthetically pleasing. Our understanding is that the rest of the field would be the responsibility of the local council.
- 4. How high is the fence going to be?**  
Ofsted guidelines state that fencing needs to be a minimum height of 1.8 metres, however contractors recommend a height of 2.4 meters in order to keep children safe and keep trespassers out.
- 5. Will locals be able to access it free of charge outside of school hours?**  
This will depend on what local organisations will want to use the field for. If it is a non-profit organisation it will be free of charge.
- 6. If St. Bede do not get the field, will it then be auctioned for development?**  
The council have not yet confirmed what the field will be used for if it is not leased.
- 7. Parking is already bad in the area during school hours; what guarantee do the locals have that the school won't extend even more and use part of it as a playground and the existing playground be used for porta-cabins/classrooms, or a staff car park?**  
The school will not be growing in size. The part of the field we wish to lease will be used for the children to play on and for learning activities. We have no plans to build on the field or use it as a car park.
- 8. If local councillors have been working on this plan for months, why has it taken the Bolton News so long to publish it for the local people to find out?**  
The school have been in talks with the local council for a number of years; during this time local residents have been invited to attend meetings with the school to express their thoughts and opinions. The article in the Bolton News was as a result of a council meeting.

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- 9. If the school fence off a large proportion then the playing field will essentially be lost, and legally a new one should be built, where will that be?**

**Approx. 35% of the field will still be available for public use.**

- 10. How often do the school think they will be using the field?**

**Spring and summer terms for break-times, however we will look to use the field all year round for outdoor learning. Our school caretaker would also be available during the school holidays to look after the field, and Morris Green Out of School Club may also look to use the field during school holidays.**

- 11. The school have never had P.E. on the field and chose to build on the playground, so losing outside space for the children. As it's an academy, so a business and makes more money, the more children it has in the school. Why should we lose the field for a business?**

**The school has grown in size to a three-form entry school due to the demand for school places in the local area. St. Bede Academy is a non-profit educational establishment so funding received for each pupil is invested back into the pupils. We haven't used the field previously for P.E. due to it not meeting safeguarding standards.**

- 12. Will access be removed to the field from certain points?**

**If we were to lease a portion of the field there would be one access point for the secure, fenced area. Two 'natural' entrances would be available to the rest of the field not leased by the school.**

**Should you have further questions regarding the Greenfield Site, which are not answered above, please send an email to: [greenfield@stbedeacademy.org](mailto:greenfield@stbedeacademy.org) and we will respond as soon as possible.**

### **Next Steps:**

*St. Bede Academy have asked the council to consider leasing a proportion of the land to the school. For two consecutive weeks the planning department will arrange to advertise in The Bolton News the intention to lease part of the land to the school, in accordance with the Local Government Acts.*