

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY : The Arches - Hawick

Description:

The Arches was previously a school that was part of the council’s inclusion and wellbeing team. It has not been occupied, or used for education and learning, for a number of years. There were two buildings with a tarmac playground to the front. The main building was accessed by a number of stairs and a separate annexe could be accessed from the playground.

Suitability Assessment - Overall Rating Matrix

School: Arches - Hawick

Weighting 50% 15% 15% 10% 10% 5.0
 Score out of 20 5 5 5 5 5

	General Learning & Teaching	Internal Social Areas	Internal Facilities	External Social Areas	External Facilities	Total:
Functionality	D	D	D	D	D	D
Accessibility	D	D	D	D	D	D
Environmental Conditions	D	D	D	D	D	D
Safety & Security	D	D	D	D	D	D
Fixed Furniture & Fittings	D	D	D	D	D	D
Total:	D	D	D	D	D	D

Overall Suitability Rating = D

- A=Good- performing well and operating efficiently (the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and community.)
- B=Satisfactory- Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds, generally, support the delivery of services to children and community.)
- C=Poor- Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)
- D=Bad- does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (the school buildings and grounds seriously impede delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)

PRIORITY AREA OF INVESTMENT

- Unable to comment.

Short-term interventions - suitability improvements

- Unable to comment.

Recommendations for occupant comfort upgrades:

- The heating had been turned off and the water drained from the system and the school had not been occupied for a number of years. Therefore, unable to comment on this.

Key Maintenance Actions:

- The school was internally in a poor state of repair, particularly on the West side of the building, where areas of the ceiling and wall lathe plaster were badly crumbling.



Playground

HEADTEACHER INTERVIEWS: The Arches - Hawick

Date – 29th January 2024 @ 10am

Attendees SBC – Steven Drummond (Property)

Attendees T&T / Oberlanders – Rhea Garbe / Katharine Cotter

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Key observations from school walk around:

- The school had not been occupied for a number of years and therefore was in a poor state of repair.
- The building did not appear to have a good flow between rooms.



Classroom with new blinds

1. **Are there any barriers to using teaching space and support spaces effectively and is this school suitable for current and anticipated capacity?**
 - Unable to comment on this no pupils at this school.
2. **Do pupils and staff have both the access to and the knowledge to effectively use technology and the digital environments in order to improve personalized learning initiatives, improve access to information and improve the ability for pupils to work flexibly?**
 - There was no WiFi or IT infrastructure in the building.
3. **Are learning spaces and support spaces fully accessible – and have recent amendments been made to improve accessibility?**
 - We did not observe an accessible entrance to the main building.
4. **Does the school estate have outdoor learning zones or the space to provide them?**
 - There was a small tarmac playground to the front of the school.
5. **Does the school estate have the right balance of traditional and modern/flexible working spaces?**
 - No access for P1/P1/2 to outside (and no opportunity due to the design of the school). Have created a free flow play area for the P1/P1/2 by knocking down part of a wall. This space works well.
6. **Do you have suitable futureproofed, comfortable interior learning spaces?**
 - There are areas throughout the school that would benefit from redecoration and new carpets.

HEADTEACHER INTERVIEWS: The Arches - Hawick

7. What are the key building issues that you are aware of regarding maintenance? Are you aware of any planned improvement works that is scheduled to take place?

- The building has not been occupied for a number of years and a number of areas were observed to be in a poor state of repair.
- Particular issues with lathe plaster crumbling off the walls and ceilings in the rooms to the west of the building.

8. If investment was available, what is the one initiative that the school would invest in, to improve the teaching environment for pupils and teachers?

- Unable to comment.

9. Is the security sufficient – CCTV etc?

- No CCTV observed.
- Arches were being used for drinking – and a number of bottles and broken glass observed.

10. How does the community use your school?

- The community does not officially use the school, although beer bottles and broken glass observed.



Classroom with crumbling lathe plaster walls



Deregulation room



Annexe Coffee Lounge



Library



Hall



Kitchen