

Heltwate School

PFA Registered Charity No: 1180923



Heltwate School
Heltwate
Bretton
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PE3 8RL

Heltwate St. George's
Lawn Avenue
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Peterborough
PE1 3RB

Headteacher: Mr Adam Brewster

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29th April 2022

Dear Jonathan,

Further to our recent conversations, I was pleased to hear that there has been a rethink about the Heltwate St. George's site. As we discussed, we feel incredibly strongly that it would be a missed opportunity if Heltwate school could not benefit from the additional space of the hydrotherapy pool site. As you are aware the cohort of children attending Heltwate school is rapidly becoming far more complex. They now have many of the characteristics of young people which would previously have attended Phoenix (Lime Academy Orton) but are now attending Heltwate. There has been no investment in the school to help us manage this change from moderate learning needs to severe learning needs.

Presently St. George's hosts our older students mostly with moderate disability, each year the complexity of need increases. On health and safety grounds as the severe needs come through, we are going to need to reduce the numbers who can attend and without additional space I am unsure where these students will go. With the increase in complexity, we need more specialist resources, staff facilities, parking, outdoor space. We already have more students on site than the building was designed for.

The building could very easily be converted to give us some specialist facilities. It could house 2 large teaching spaces or an appropriate sensory hall, provide some PE space, break out rooms, community areas, work experience, alternative provision etc. This in turn would go some way towards compensating for the lack of outdoor space. It would certainly help make St. George's more fit for purpose.

Looking at the new White Paper and the proposed SEND review I think Heltwate and the City need this site to help meet expectations. It could enable us to meet the new curriculum expectations particularly around PE and Music. Alternative provision is difficult to access, it could provide opportunities. I think it would help the authority place the more complex young people which often must be placed out of authority. This has been evidenced this year.

I look forward to further updates.

Thanks

Adam

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