PROPOSED NEW SCHOOLS FOR
ST. BERNARD’S INFANT AND SACRED HEART MIDDLE SCHOOLS

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN SUBMISSION FOR OUTLINE PLANNING CONSULTATION

DATED: 03.06.13
INTRODUCTION:

This document comprises the evaluation and conceptual ideas for the refurbishment of the site known as ‘Old St. Bernard’s Hospital’, in to two schools to serve the community in the upper town area. The two schools to be relocated to this site are St Bernard’s Infant and Sacred Heart Middle School.

NOTE:

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Let us reform our schools, and we shall find little reform needed in our prisons.

John Ruskin
The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.
Jean Piaget
We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet.

Margaret Mead
Freedom begins with what we teach our children. That is why Jews became a people whose passion is education, whose heroes are teachers and whose citadels are schools.

Jonathan Sacks

SITE LOCATION:

The site is located in the upper town area, and encompasses most of the buildings which used to be occupied by the old St. Bernard’s Hospital.

This area lies in what is considered dense urban space and steep gradients generated by the western slopes of the Rock of Gibraltar create further challenges with regards to access. Despite this the site lies within a relatively central catchment area and could potentially serve the immediate local community with a much needed school facility. The proposal also includes a sports hall for the community all of which should help enormously to drive forward the plan for urban regeneration and renewal of the upper town.

Whilst vehicular access to the site is restricted and limited by the narrow roads that serve this part of town, it is within relatively short walking distance from the town centre. There is also a bus route near by, which could potentially be easily linked to the new school, via an alternative entrance.

The current state of the site is a vacated property which has undergone a controlled and programmed demolition stage, to do away with the less important and unusable structures leaving behind what are considered to be the more historically and architecturally sensitive buildings and structures. The relative importance of these buildings have been evaluated in terms of their heritage value, and this has been carefully considered in terms of the proposed intervention, as part of the proposed scheme.
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

05.00 SITE PLAN:

NOT TO SCALE
TOTAL SITE AREA [SHOWN IN RED] APPROX. 3,867M2
An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin
It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

Aristotle

Precedent images showing examples of a multi-use space serving as an "internal street", where students can interact, dine etc.
Fig 01: Image showing an example of an integrated ICT and Library space.

Figs 02, 04: These precedent images depict growing shift in U.K Primary, Secondary schools and Academies, to integrate ICT throughout the curriculum. Laptops and tablets as well as interactive smartboards are commonly used as cross-curricular teaching and learning tools.

Fig 03: Precedent image showing an example of two schools sharing a main entrance approach.

Fig 05: Image showing an example of a multi-use Sports Hall, being used for dining. Other uses include theatre productions, community events.

*Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.*

*George Washington Carver*
The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.
Sydney J Harris

Precedent image showing an example of the flexibility of a multi-use sports hall with retractable seating which is used for theatre productions, school plays, assemblies, lectures, community events, etc.

Precedent image showing an example of a rooftop play area in an urban environment where space is limited.

Precedent image showing an example of a typical sports hall offering a variety of sports types, such as basketball, 5-a-side football, badminton, table-tennis, gymnastics, Drama, movement studies, etc. Halls are also commonly used for school dining.
Precedent image showing examples of breakout spaces. These types of spaces are successfully being used in the UK in Primary and Secondary schools as a flexible space for small group workshops, one-to-one teaching or reading. Classroom assistants can work with small groups of pupils in these breakout spaces located close to the classroom clusters without disrupting the rest of the class. Breakout spaces are also commonly used as an area for informal teachers meetings, discussion groups, etc.

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. Albert Einstein