



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

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TWO NEW SCHOOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Government is pleased to announce the conversion of the Old St Bernard's Hospital site into two new schools and community sports facilities. The works will primarily involve the renovation and modernisation of existing buildings to turn these into a First School and a Middle School.

The project embraces three key elements - education, community and heritage and will greatly contribute to the urban regeneration of the Upper Town.

The two new schools will be St Bernard's First and St Bernard's Middle Schools. The old hospital premises will house both the current St Bernard's and Sacred Heart Schools. Sacred Heart will be renamed St Bernard's Middle School.

The Government is fulfilling a manifesto commitment to re-locate Sacred Heart to a new school which will be able to take an equivalent number of students as other middle schools. The Government also took the view that St Bernard's needed to be re-located and that it was not sufficient merely to refurbish the existing school.

The First School will have 8 classrooms as well as a range of specialised teaching areas and spaces specifically designed to cater for this age range including rooms for Music, ICT and a library.

The Middle School will have 16 classrooms, a library and specialised rooms including dedicated teaching areas for Music, ICT, Art, and Science in keeping with the needs of older children.

A salient feature of the Middle School will be a central glass-roofed, multi-purpose atrium which will be available for students and teachers to enjoy either for social or educational purposes.

Both schools will be fully accessible to pupils, parents or teachers who may have mobility issues. The schools will also be fully networked and equipped with ICT resources and facilities.

The Headteachers of the two schools have been consulted from the outset and they have expressed their delight at the proposals. The relocation will provide the children and staff assigned to these schools with modern, comfortable premises in an environment which is specifically designed to be conducive to learning.

In addition, there will be a Sports Hall which will be shared by the two schools with a play area/sports court on top of the Hall. Both the Sports Hall and court will be available for community use. These can be accessed separately and will house toilets and changing room facilities.

The project also provides an excellent opportunity for the restoration and renovation of iconic buildings which were built in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The project has been submitted to the Development and Planning Commission for guidance and advice.

The Minister for Education, Gilbert Licudi QC, said:

"This exciting project creates much needed school facilities in this area as well as sports facilities for the Community. This will be, in fact, the first purpose built Sports Hall in the Central or Upper Town area.

It will be a showpiece of urban regeneration in the Upper Town combining heritage with educational needs and new facilities for the whole community to enjoy."