

## Design Brief for Slough Sikh Primary School

10<sup>th</sup> March 2004

### **Purpose of Design Brief**

The purpose of this brief is to provide the key requirements and wish list to IDC for the new Sikh school.

### **Status of brief**

This brief is the result of two meetings held by the school trust with input from the trustees, members and Raminder Vig. Further consultations are currently underway to receive input from the local and wider community. It is anticipated that additional information will be received by the end of March 2004.

### **Design Objectives**

- To create a school that is safe and secure for its pupils and staff
- To create a place with distinctive identity, particularly when viewed from Wexham Road;
- To create a school where Sikh ethos, culture and principles will be integral and visible throughout the school
- To provide a youth and adult community facility on the site
- To create a school that is ecologically friendly
- To create a school that fits into its natural environment
- To create a school within the budget afforded by the DfeS
- To create a school that is low maintenance and sustainable
- To provide special needs children with access to all areas of the school
- To design the school such that some future expansion may be possible (3FE?)

## **Key Requirements**

It is assumed that the statutory requirements for class sizes, accommodation, playing fields etc will be dealt with by IDC and are not the subject of this brief.

## **Religious Hall**

A separate hall needs to be provided which can be used for prayers, quiet place, religious celebrations and other activities. The hall needs to cater for 300 people (sitting) and an area for the Guru Granth Sahib. The area for the Guru Granth Sahib needs to be higher than the seating area.

The Guru Granth Sahib must be treated with the utmost care and respect and therefore needs to be away from children walk ways or any other area where there is noise or activity. This area must not be under any other room.

## **Underground parking storage area**

Due to the provision of the school for community use, an underground parking and storage area, (also useful for service vehicles etc) would be useful. Therefore, cars, vans could drive into a driveway leading to an area under the school where tables/chairs/boilers can be situated.

## **Library**

Our vision is to have a library not only for the children but also for the community and therefore appropriate accesses need to be taken into account. The library will be open for the general public outside school hours. The library will contain references on Sikh religion, history, novels and general publications.

## **Archway on entry**

We want to have something distinctive about the school without making the school look like a gurdwara, therefore we thought that an archway at the schools entrance near Wexham Road could be appropriate.

## **Music room**

We wish to extend the music curriculum to include Sikh and Eastern musical instruments. The majority of these are played by sitting on the ground and therefore these requirements need to be taken into account. Storage facilities will need to be provided.

## **Kitchen**

As well as serving the requirements of the children, the kitchen needs to be able to serve the needs of visitors to the school attending conferences, religious functions etc. Appropriate boilers, sinks, dishwashers will therefore be required as well as a serving area. The kitchen should be accessible from the religious hall as well as the classrooms.

### **Caretaker's cottage**

Due to the security requirements of the school, a cottage for the caretaker will be required. We anticipate this to consist of a building near but not adjacent to the school (not interfering with the school layout and theme). The property may also need to cater for a priest. Therefore two self contained flats within one building may be appropriate.

### **Lecture theatre**

We would like to know whether it would be possible to turn the main school hall into an area where conferences can be given to the community etc. Therefore a lecture style seating arrangement which can be stored away is required.

### **Community classes**

We anticipate running adult and youth classes during the evenings and therefore some of the class areas need to be used for this purpose. Therefore the design of the classrooms needs to be flexible so that two class areas can be merged for the above purpose. We do not anticipate more than 30 adults per class.

### **Additional suggestions**

The overall school design should be modern, practical and providing an airy and open environment for the children. Flexibility will be a key requirement as we are sharing this facility with the community.

A two storey school would have presence and be visually attractive and have the ability to contain the religious hall on the first floor which could be accessible by the community from the entrance via a staircase on either side.