

La Sagesse

1. Background

- 1.1 La Sagesse school site comprises a large site bounded to the north by Jesmond Dene Road and land owned by the City Council, to the west by a footway between the school and Crossway, to the south by Towers Avenue and Bemersyde Drive and to the east also by Bemersyde Drive as it curves north. The site lies within a primarily residential area and is illustrated on the attached plan.
- 1.2 The site lies within the Jesmond Dene Conservation Area and includes two distinct parts. The eastern area accommodates a grade II* listed building 'Jesmond Towers', the North Lodge, the sports hall, and temporary classrooms which accommodate the science laboratories. The western area accommodates the convent and chapel, together with a number of other school buildings. The principal use of the site is as a school (class D1) with associated open space, and one of the key characteristics of the site is the open space and mature woodland setting of the school. The school and its setting is clearly visible from surrounding development and makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of this part of the Conservation Area.
- 1.3 Access to the western part of the site is from a single access point off Towers Avenue, while access to the senior school to the east is from a single access off Bemersyde Drive. Although there is no boundary on site between land to the north of the school owned by the City Council and the school itself, the northern edge of City Council owned land is bounded by a continuous high stone wall, while a brick wall topped with railings bounds the west and southern sides of the site. The residential properties to the north of Bemersyde Drive bound the southern and eastern edges of the senior school site.

2. Conservation Area designation

- 2.1 The entire site is included within the Jesmond Dene Conservation Area, designated in 1991 and subsequently extended in 2001. There are two key documents relevant to the Conservation Area. The Jesmond Dene Character Statement gives an appraisal of the character of the conservation area, while the Jesmond Dene Conservation Area Management Plan provides a benchmark for assessing and managing change and provides guidance to ensure the character and appearance of the conservation area is maintained. This will principally be through effective management of change, ensuring those opportunities to enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area are maximised.

