

ECHOES DAY NURSERY, MANCHESTER AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT FOR PLANNING APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

Echoes Day Nursery provides around 50 places, primarily filled by children of staff and students based at Manchester University. It is located on the university campus for ease of use. However, when work began on the new Echo Street co-living and student accommodation development, plans were put in place for the nursery to be relocated from Granby Row to Weston Hall, another student accommodation building in nearby Charles Street.

Miller Goodall was appointed by Hermes Asset Group to carry out an air quality assessment to support the planning application for the relocation of the nursery.

PROPOSITION

Weston Hall lies in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), an area of poor air quality, right in the heart of Manchester city centre. The nursery's relocation will entail the redevelopment of an existing part of Weston Hall, which will then become the nursery's new home. Both indoor and outdoor air quality were of concern, but a particular worry was the proposed play area right at the front of the building, next to a busy road and opposite a large multi-storey car park.



INVESTIGATION

We carried out detailed dispersion modelling, which showed that the air quality around the outdoor play area was within acceptable limits, but the air quality inside the building needed improvement. We provided guidance on how this could best be achieved.

ACTION AND OUTCOME

Planning permission was granted, and when the nursery relocates the client will carry out our recommendations, installing a ventilation scheme with nitrogen dioxide filters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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