

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND

NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES AT ST PAUL'S CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Local Authority Proposals and Contact Details

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN to:

- Enlarge the premises which will increase the capacity of **St Paul's CE VC Primary School, Waterworks Road, Sunderland, SR2 0LW** from 210 places to 315 places with effect from 1st September 2022.

St Paul's CE VC Primary School (St Paul's) is a voluntary controlled primary school maintained by Sunderland City Council.

It is proposed that from 1st September 2022 the capacity at St Paul's is increased from 1 form of entry (210 places) to 1.5 forms of entry (315 places). This will result in the development of 4 additional class bases and required ancillary facilities. The area of the extension will be 361m².

The proposed expansion of St Paul's CE VC Primary School is included within the education infrastructure requirements to meet the school place needs of the South Sunderland Growth Area (SSGA). The infrastructure plans also include the expansion of Benedict Biscop CE Academy in 2021 and the future development of a new primary school at the land North of Burdon Lane.

The scheme was granted full planning permission in September 2018 with works currently proposed to commence in Summer 2020.

Reason for the Enlargement / Increased Capacity at St Paul's CE VC Primary School

New housing in the South Sunderland Growth Area will place pressure on the sufficiency of existing school places. In total it is estimated that between 630 and 720 new primary school places may be required to meet the educational requirements of the projected 300 new homes in the area.

The Council has identified the following infrastructure proposals to meet the projected demand for primary school places:

- A 105 place expansion at Benedict Biscop CE Academy in 2021
- A 105 place expansion at St Paul's CE VC Primary School in 2022
- The future development of a new 315 place primary school at a date yet to be determined

It is anticipated that the expansion of St Paul's will respond to increased demand for places from the South Ryhope/ Cherry Knowles developments.

Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area

The development of the SSGA will place pressure on all schools serving the area. It is projected that by 2023 there will be a deficit of places on account of demand for school places from the new homes. The increased capacity will respond to growing pupil demand and, in the medium and long term, is not anticipated to reduce demand for places at alternative settings in the area.

Project Costs

The capital costs associated with the project have been estimated at £0.92m. This is to be funded by Section 106 agreements from the developments at Cherry Knowles and South Ryhope.

Current funding legislation allows for the allocation of a cost per pupil revenue growth fund. Subject to funding legislation remaining unchanged from the 2019/20 academic year this provides the facility for any schools increasing admission numbers as a result of a defined school place planning requirement to receive the equivalent per pupil funding for any period outside the normal funding round. It is proposed that St Paul's CE VC Primary School is allocated Growth Funding to meet additional revenue requirement associated with this proposed expansion.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

There will be no change to the existing admissions criteria at St Paul's CE VC Primary School post expansion. The school will continue to offer places according to Sunderland Council's Co-ordinated School Admissions Scheme.

Displaced Pupils

There will be no pupil displacement as a consequence of this proposal. Pupils currently attending St Paul's CE VC Primary School will continue on roll at the enlarged school site.

Impact on the Community

The community will benefit from the availability of increased primary school places. This will result in more parents and carers within the area benefiting from the opportunity to access a primary school place within statutory walking distance of their home address.

Families moving into the area will have a greater opportunity to secure school places for children across multiple year groups at a single school.

Balance of Denominational Provision

St Paul's CE VC Primary School is a Church of England (CoE) school. Therefore, this proposal will result in an additional 105 places in a CoE related setting.

However, St Paul's CE VC Primary School does not include faith within its admissions criteria. The school operates a community wide admissions policy, consistent with all Local Authority Maintained Primary Schools across the city. Parents and carers of CoE baptised children will not be prioritised for admission over those from a non-faith background.

Special Educational Needs Provision (SEND)

The expansion of the buildings at St Paul's CE VC Primary School will enhance the facilities already available within the school's existing buildings for pupils with SEND. There will be further ongoing engagement to ensure the needs of children with SEND attending the primary setting are met.

Travel

The Council has considered the impact of travel within this proposal. The increase in capacity at the school will ensure that suitable primary school places are available within statutory walking distance for new homes proposed for the Cherry Knowles and South Ryhope developments within the SSGA.

Consultation

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the following dates:

- 2nd October 2019 to the 18th November 2019

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and the website of St Paul's CE VC Primary School. Consultees included parents, staff, pupils, the local ward councillors and staff representatives (unions).

37 responses to the informal consultation were received of which one was a duplicate response. Of the 36 remaining responses 20 (56%) supported the proposal to expand the school.

The Council submitted a planning application for the capital works required to expand St Paul's. Comments were invited as part of the planning process. No public comments were received. The capital element of this proposal was granted full planning approval on 4th September 2018.

Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposal

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk

Telephone: 0191 5611372

Post: Retained Education Functions Lead, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

By e-mail to :-

schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk

Or by post to :-

Alan Rowan

Retained Education Functions Lead

Civic Centre

Burdon Road

Sunderland

SR2 7DN

Signed : Patrick Melia,
Chief Executive,
Sunderland City Council.

Publication Date: 20th January 2020