

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

St Gregory the Great Catholic School (Voluntary Aided)
Cricket Road
Oxford
OX4 3DR

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school .

n/a

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

To be implemented 1 September 2013

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

- a) Any person may comment or object to this proposal. The representation must be received by Oxfordshire County Council by midnight on 18 February 2013.
- b) Representations can be sent to: Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL. Alternatively, they may be sent by email to: stgregsstat2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk or they may be submitted online using the questionnaire at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to alter the lower age range of St Gregory the Great Catholic School, Oxford to 4 - 18 in order for it to become an all-age school.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Current capacity of the school is 1275. The proposed capacity of the school (including the proposed primary education phase) is 1695.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Currently St Gregory's does not admit children until Year 7. The proposal is to admit 60 children each year into Reception (F1) from September 2013 onward.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

The proposal is to admit 60 children into Reception (F1) classes each year from September 2013 so that by September 2019, as pupils move up the school, the primary phase of St Gregory's from Reception to Year 6 would be in full operation.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

n/a

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

There are currently 1222 pupils on roll.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be

implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

n/a

Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

If the proposals are implemented a currently vacant building on Cricket Road adjacent to the existing St Gregory's site will provide the required accommodation. The primary phase of education will be accommodated in this building upon completion of renovation and remodelling capital works.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

The additional site area is to be provided at the Cricket Road Centre immediately adjacent to the existing school site. Negotiations between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham and Oxford Church of England Diocesan Board of Trustees are at an advanced stage. Draft heads of terms envisage a leasehold interest with an option to purchase the freehold interest in the site at the end of the lease term.

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

n/a

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

n/a

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

n/a

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

n/a

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

n/a

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

n/a

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

The new primary phase of education, if approved, will be located in a vacant building, formerly a school, located on Cricket Road adjacent to the existing secondary phase of education.

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

The proposed primary phase site is adjacent to the existing secondary phase.

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

The proposed primary phase accommodation was formerly a school and so is considered eminently suitable for the proposed use, following necessary renovation. It is located adjacent to the existing St Gregory's site and so provides ease of access for staff and pupils transferring between the two buildings for any reason. The building is currently vacant and the proposal would put it back into use for education.

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

The proposed site is accessible by car, public transport, bicycle or on foot.

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Oxfordshire County Council's published home to school transport arrangements will apply.

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

The school is minutes from several bus routes and a cycle / pedestrian path also leads to the site. No new car parking is proposed to be provided for parents' use, to discourage car travel to the school site. OCC Highways & Transport are working with St Gregory's on methods of encouraging and establishing sustainable travel patterns for the new primary age pupils. The school will have an effective School Travel Plan formulated from extensive consultation and stakeholders.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

The objectives of the proposals are to enable the Governing Body of St Gregory the Great Catholic School to offer education with a Catholic ethos to children of primary age. There is a current deficit of primary pupil places in Catholic primary schools in Oxford, with a significant number of applications to existing Catholic primary schools in Oxford being refused each year. In their desire to alter the lower age range of the school, the governors are supported by the Birmingham Archdiocese and the Trustees. Oxfordshire County Council supports the proposal as fitting with its strategy for commissioning sufficient pupil places in Oxford. Oxford is experiencing high pressures on pupil places at primary age and if this proposal is not approved, the 60 additional pupil places per year will need to be created elsewhere.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) A list of persons who were consulted before the proposals were published may be found at Annex 1.

- b) A meeting was held at St Gregory's for parents and other interested parties on 13 November 2012. Approximately 25 people attended and discussed the proposals with representatives from both the school and Oxfordshire County Council. Formal Minutes were not taken, and the points of discussion and/or concern are summarised below.
- c) The following points were raised at the meeting:
- Concern about the increase in traffic resulting from a primary school being created. Also a related concern about whether, as it would be a Catholic school, children would be local or travelling from further afield.
 - Preference that a vocational secondary educational facility be created instead of a primary phase.
 - Concern that the governors did not publicise the consultation adequately and that therefore response to it has not been representative or sufficient.
 - Concern that there was no costed plan for the proposal and that the proposal is not financially viable.
 - Concern that the proposal would over-stretch the Governing Body and Headteacher and that they should concentrate on making the existing school as good as possible.
 - Query as to the curriculum proposed to be offered.
 - Query as to admissions arrangements.
- d) all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.
- e) The consultation document can be found at Annex 2. This was sent to all parents, staff and governors of St Gregory's and was made available for the duration of the consultation on both the school and OCC websites. It was sent to relevant libraries, Early Intervention Hub and MP and links to the consultation were sent to relevant councillors, School Organisation Stakeholder Group members, relevant County Council officers, Dioceses and all registered local childcare providers in addition to Oxford primary schools and Catholic primary schools across the county.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Detailed proposals are being developed and costed but at this stage it is estimated that investment of approximately £3.0m may be required to meet the cost of converting the Cricket Road centre to provide suitable primary school facilities. The cost of this work will be shared between the Archdiocese of Birmingham and Oxfordshire County Council using capital funding made available by the Department for Education to meet the cost of providing school places.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Publication of a statutory proposal to expand the school requires confirmation from the County Council that funds will be made available for the necessary capital costs. The Capital Investment Board (CIB) has approved funding for the initial feasibility work to establish the preferred option for meeting the additional accommodation needs. The Archdiocese of Birmingham has commissioned consultants to work with the Headteacher and Governors to identify the accommodation requirements.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

The current age range of St Gregory the Great Catholic School is 11 – 18.

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

This proposal does not include 0-3 early years provision. However, the school may in time establish a private nursery on site, depending on demand and viability.

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

n/a

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

n/a

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

n/a

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

n/a

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

n/a

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

n/a

(c) Evidence —

(i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and

(ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

n/a

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

n/a

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

n/a

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

(a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

n/a

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

n/a

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

n/a

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

n/a

(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

n/a

(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

n/a

(g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

n/a

(h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

n/a

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

n/a

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

n/a

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

n/a

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

n/a

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

n/a

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20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

n/a

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

n/a

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

n/a

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

n/a

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

n/a

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

n/a

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

n/a

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The current primary pupil forecasts predict average growth in reception numbers in Oxford schools of 2.7% pa over the next 4 years, which follows average growth of 3.6% pa over the previous 4 years. The current forecast for primary age pupils in Oxford is as follows:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2011-12	1321	1340	1267	1219	1160	1050	1074	8431
2012-13	1424	1286	1329	1273	1224	1207	1038	8782
2013-14	1459	1412	1269	1324	1271	1273	1204	9213
2014-15	1522	1453	1402	1271	1329	1331	1281	9588
2015-16	1560	1512	1438	1397	1269	1382	1331	9889
2016-17	1581	1548	1495	1433	1394	1324	1380	10154

For September 2012 the School Admissions team allocated places at the four Oxford Catholic primary schools as follows:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Admission Number 45

67 first preference applications received

45 places allocated (all allocated to baptised Catholic children)

34 applicants refused, of which 10 were baptised Catholic

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School – Admission Number 30

45 first preference applications received

30 places allocated (all allocated to baptised Catholic children)

32 applicants refused, of which 2 were baptised Catholic

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School – Admission Number 45

79 first preference applications received

45 places allocated (all allocated to baptised Catholic children)

59 applicants refused, of which 11 were baptised Catholic

St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School – Admission Number 30

28 first preference applications received

30 places allocated (3 non-Catholic siblings, 3 non-Catholics)

13 applicants refused, none of which were baptised Catholic

The applicants shown as refused had not been allocated a place at any other school ranked higher on their application. The last successful applicant offered a place lived within 1.4 miles of each school in question, and for Our Lady's and St Aloysius they lived less than a mile away.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

27 baptised Catholic applicants who had expressed a preference for a place at a Catholic primary school in Oxford were unable to be allocated one. 115 non-Catholic applications expressing a preference for a place at a Catholic primary school in Oxford were unable to be allocated one.

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

n/a

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

n/a

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

n/a

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

The Governing Body consider St Gregory the Great as a popular and oversubscribed school. It has a very effective and successful partnership with St John Fisher Primary School. The governors want to build on these exciting and successful links to establish an outstanding 2 form entry Catholic Primary School.