Parents, Guardians and Members of the Community

Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the Local Community,

Proposal to expand All Saints CEVA Primary School

Introduction

This letter is to advise you of a proposal to double the number of school places at All Saints CEVA Primary School. There is no room for expansion on the current site in Castle Street, so the proposal is to establish a second site on Croyland Road. This would be operated as an annex. These plans are at an early stage, so we are inviting you to tell us what you think as part of a non statutory consultation process.

The annex is expected to provide an additional 210 places once fully open (30 places per year group, Reception to Year 6), with the places expected to become available from September 2017. It will open in a phased manner to avoid any impact on surrounding schools.

Once the expansion is complete the school will have two campuses, with 210 places available on each. Both sites will admit children from Reception to Year 6.

Why Change?

Northamptonshire has seen a significant rise in demand for school places due to the rising birth rate, new housing developments and in-migration to the county and the County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available. Primary school places in Wellingborough are in great demand and several schools in the town have already been extended, including Redwell, Victoria and Oakway Primary. Despite this, there is very limited availability of places in the town centre, with particular pressure on Reception and Years 1, 4 and 5.

Additional places are required within the town to enable children to attend a school local to their home address and for the Council to provide necessary school places in the area.
Why has All Saints CEVA Primary School and Nursery Unit been selected for expansion?

The school is the only one form entry school (30 pupils per year group) in Wellingborough town; all the others have a larger cohort. This has financial and educational limitations and doubling the capacity will provide curriculum and staff organisation benefits for the school.

The following factors have also been taken into consideration:

- All Saints is a popular church school and is oversubscribed each year with many families unable to secure a place at the school. The Head Teacher and Governing Body would like to be able to offer additional places to parents who have expressed a preference for All Saints, including families who favour the ethos of a church school and those who reside in the local community;

- The school was rated “Good” by OfSTED at the last inspection.

Building consequences

This letter concerns the process regarding the principle of expanding the published admission number at the school, rather than the details of exactly how the annex to the school will be built. The building proposals will be subject to a separate statutory consultation process that will be undertaken by the planning authority once a planning application has been received. An informal pre-planning event will be scheduled, to be advised in due course, to allow parents and local residents an opportunity to see the plans for the annex.

The scheme includes building new accommodation on a site on Croyland Road. The school will have seven classrooms and associated spaces and will include external play areas. The works will be funded by the County Council with a grant from the Department for Education and Section 106 contributions from housing developments.

What is the proposed timetable?

12th September to 7th October: Non statutory consultation with parents, the local community, schools and other interested parties, to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposal to increase pupil numbers at the school.

Week beginning 24th October 2016: The County Council Cabinet Member will review the feedback from the consultation and decide whether or not to proceed to the next stage of the process. If the Cabinet Member agrees to proceed, the next stage is the issue of Public Notices.

10th November 2016 – Public Notices issued followed by a statutory 4 week period of representation. At the end of this period of representation, the Cabinet will make the final decision on the proposals and confirm whether the proposed expansion and building extension can proceed. These decisions are scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 10th January 2017.

If the Cabinet agree to the proposals, the decision will be implemented from September 2017.
Have Your Say...

Consultation period for the principle of expansion: 12th September to 7th October
As an integral part of this process, we are inviting you to take part in this consultation. We welcome your views on the proposed change to the admission number raised in this letter and all viewpoints will be taken into account before a final decision is made. Feedback can be given in the following ways;

1. In writing
You can fill in the box below (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

And returning it to:
Kay Ringwood, Head of Strategic Planning and Admissions
PO Box 216, John Dryden House
8-10 The Lakes, Northampton NN4 7DD

Alternatively, completed forms can also be handed in at the school.

2. E-mail
Comments and views about the proposed change to All Saints’ capacity can also be sent via email to: schoolconsultation@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Details of the proposal can also be found on NCC’s central Consultation Register:

The closing date for comments to be submitted at this stage of the consultation is the 7th October 2016.

Yours Sincerely

Kay A. Ringwood
Head of Strategic Planning and Admissions