

PROPOSAL TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO WHITEFRIARS INFANTS SCHOOL

**Note: this is a linked proposal and should be read in conjunction with the proposal to
discontinue Whitefriars Junior School**

In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation Regulations 2013, linked proposals are being published regarding primary education in East Northamptonshire. This document is the 'Full Proposal' to accompany the Public Notice published on 24th November 2016

1. Name, address and contact details of proposer

Northamptonshire County Council, Strategic Planning Team, PO Box 216, John Dryden House, 8-10 The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7DD.

2. Name, address and category of school

Whitefriars Infant School, Boughton Drive, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 9HX, a community school

3. Date of implementation

Northamptonshire County Council proposes that the alteration to the school take effect from 1st September 2017

4. Objectives and reason for alteration

The prescribed alteration is that Whitefriars Infants School increase its age-range from the existing 4 – 7 years to 4 – 11 years. This is proposed so that Whitefriars Infant and Junior Schools can be amalgamated to operate as an all-through, 4 – 11 primary school. This involves the technical closure of the Junior School and the alteration of the age-range of the Infant School.

The objectives of the alteration of the Infant School are:

- To aid in the delivery of the curriculum in a consistent manner and share best practice across the primary age-range.
- A seamless transition between Key Stage 1 (Infants) and Key Stage 2 (Juniors), national data indicates that children educated in full primary schools, generally, achieve better levels of attainment and progress
- Greater capacity to track pupils progress between Key Stages
- All-through primary schools are more attractive to prospective members of staff, allowing the school to attract the highest possible quality of candidate for future

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- More development opportunities for staff, including shared training and an understanding of all Key Stages across the primary phase of education, that will ultimately benefit pupils
- Increased time for relationship between pupils, parents and staff to develop, allowing the school to better understand each child's individual needs
- Increased financial viability in the long term

5. Pupil Numbers and admissions

The Infant School currently has a published admission number (PAN) of 60 per year group and the maximum total toll of 180 pupils. The Junior School currently has a published admission number of 60 per year group and a maximum total roll of 240 pupils. Girls and boys aged 4 – 7 attend the school for the Key Stage 1 part of their primary education. The school does not provide reserved places for children with special educational needs. The new, amalgamated primary school would admit 60 pupils at the beginning of each academic year into its reception cohort and pupils would remain at the school until the end of Year 6.

6. Displaced pupils

There will be no change to the overall number of school places available in the primary phase within the area of the School as a result of this proposal and no children currently attending the Infants School will be displaced.

7. Impact on the community

It is the view of Northamptonshire County Council that the proposals will have a positive impact upon pupils attending the newly amalgamated school for the reasons outlined in section 4.

The proposals are not expected to have any impact on other schools, academies or educational establishments in the area.

8. SEN Provision

There will be no overall change to SEN provision as a result of these proposals.

9. Travel

There will be no increase in travel resulting from this proposal. The newly, amalgamated primary school will be housed in the existing Infant and Junior school buildings.

10. Consultation

Public consultation regarding the school organisation arrangements connected with amalgamation and expansion took place between 12th September and 21st October 2016. The results of this consultation were considered by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Skills & Education on Tuesday 1st November 2016 and the decision was made to issue the relevant statutory notices and proposals.

The proposal has been the subject to a six week period of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including East Northamptonshire Parish Council's and East Northamptonshire District Council.

115 consultees contributed to the initial period of consultation conducted in relation to the Whitefriars proposal. 105 people (91% of respondents) expressed their support for the proposal, whilst 10 respondents (9% of respondents) expressed their opposition. The clear majority of consultation responses indicated that they were in favour of the proposed amalgamation.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any interested party may; support, object to, or make comment upon the proposal by writing to:

Strategic Planning Team, Northamptonshire County Council, John Dryden House, 8-10 The Lakes, Northampton NN4 7DD. Or via;

schoolconsultation@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Date: 24th November 2016