

Complete Proposal
to Expand
Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary
School

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19 OF THE EDUCATION AND
INSPECTIONS ACT 2006

PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO A SCHOOL

2 April 2015

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School, Fennell Road, Pinchbeck, Spalding PE11 3RP

Implementation

The proposal is to expand Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2016. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Pinchbeck and the North Spalding area to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the area and to enable the Local Authority (LA) to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire.

Objections and Comments

Any person or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Planning Team, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, 51 Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk to be received by the deadline of 30 April 2015.

Alteration description

The proposal under consideration is to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 and to permanently expand the school from the existing PAN capacity of 315 to 420 places with an implementation date of 1 September 2016. This would initially increase the PAN for the Reception intake in September 2016 to 60 (with the September 2014 and 2015 over-offered intakes of 60 already being on roll) with the PAN for all other years remaining at 45. The increased intake of up to 60 would then be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake commencing in September 2017 until the PAN of 60 applies to all year groups. This phased approach will allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures and help to ensure that pupil numbers at other local schools will be maintained. The proposal will expand the school to 2 forms of entry so removing the need for mixed age classes if the governing body wish to organise in this way.

School Capacity and Site

The school currently has a PAN Capacity of 315 places and accommodation to over-offer up to 345 places in total without the need for additional accommodation. At the request of the LA and in order to meet the demand for places and parental preference the school admitted above the usual intake of 45 by offering up to 60 Reception places for the intake in September 2014 and has been asked to do so again for the intake in September 2015 utilising all accommodation available for teaching and learning. It will not be possible to over-offer again beyond 2015 without additional accommodation being provided.

Suitable accommodation will be provided, subject to planning permission and final approval of this proposal. The necessary building/refurbishment work will begin during 2015 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be

completed in advance of the start of term in September 2016. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making best use of school holidays where possible. Any potential building project would look to be isolated on site from the existing provision to ensure minimal disruption to the running of the school. Suitable additional teaching and resource spaces both inside and outside will be required to ensure sufficient facilities are in place to accommodate up to 420 primary aged children in total. This will include additional classrooms as well as other areas such as group rooms, toilets and suitable outdoor hard play area. These new facilities will benefit the children already on roll at the school as well as provide additional accommodation for increased pupil numbers on roll in the future. It will also be an opportunity to reduce the need for temporary classrooms on site in the future.

The planning application process required is dealt with and consulted on separately from this process. This process will include the consideration of issues arising out of the physical expansion of the school such as the need for additional parking and the impact on traffic. There will be an opportunity for those that are interested to respond directly to the planning application.

The number on roll at the time of the census taken in October 2014 was 319 which is broken down by year group in the table below:-

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll	60	45	45	45	42	40	42	319

Data from October 2014 Census

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2016 and the objective is both to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Pinchbeck and the North Spalding area to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers and also to enable the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire within a reasonable distance from where they live.

The LA considers this to be the most appropriate available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in Pinchbeck and the surrounding area to enable local children to attend their local school and would not be actively participating in this process if it did not see significant advantages for children and young people, their parents/carers and the local community. The LA believes that in addition to the proposal being in the best interests of local children and local parents as well as educational provision in the area it also reinforces the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The proposal will ensure that the provision of school places is planned so as to promote high educational standards, enable fair access to educational opportunity for every child and promote the fulfilment of each child's potential and at the same time sustain local provision and assist in meeting parental preference. It is also an opportunity to address suitability and condition issues where possible, and reduce the need for temporary classrooms on site in the future to benefit not just the additional pupils but those that are already on roll.

Other options around Pinchbeck and the North Spalding area have been explored and all primary schools have been considered for potential expansion. However, none have been found to be as suitable due to reasons such as geographical location in relation to demographic pressures, undersized sites, distance that pupils would have to travel, parental preference, impact on standards, potential planning challenges and the fact that other schools are of suitable sizes for the areas they serve. Further options are being considered in Spalding in addition to this proposal to cope with the increasing demand for primary school places in the town.

The proposal to expand Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School has the support of the Headteacher and the Governing Body, and also the School Improvement Service (CfBT). The LA is confident that the school has the leadership, management and governance required to drive forward a successful expansion which will provide the opportunity to improve the learning experience and outcomes for the children to enable them to reach their full potential.

Having additional classes and more children on roll at the school will also have financial benefits for the school. This may potentially provide the opportunity to enhance teaching provision and career opportunities for staff which in turn will benefit the learning experience of the children. An increase in the potential number on roll at the school to 420 will also enable the option of moving from the current mixed year group structure to one where all children are taught in single year group classes of 30 or less if the governors of the school choose to do so. This opportunity will support the school in maintaining already high standards and provide a platform for continued improvements.

Consultation

In order for the school to expand the LA must follow the necessary statutory legal processes as required by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 and updated by the Education Act 2011 together with the guidance of the Department for Education (DfE) regarding expansion. The relevant DfE guidance was updated in January 2014. Under this guidance there is no longer a requirement for a prescribed consultation period prior to the publication of the Statutory Notice and Complete Proposal. However, the DfE still has a strong expectation that LAs will consult interested parties in developing their proposal. To fulfil this expectation the LA undertook the following consultation. This is also to enable the LA to operate a fair and open process and ensure all views are considered.

Consultation originally began on 12 January 2015 with a letter, incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal, being sent to all parents of pupils attending the school informing them of the proposal. Interested parties were also informed as required by guidelines issued by the DfE. In addition, individual drop in sessions were offered to parents to discuss the proposal further with an LA officer. These meetings were offered to allow those having an interest in this proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and get involved in the debate. A group of parents met at the school with the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors and a LA officer on 26 January 2015. Listed below are the main points that were raised at this meeting:-

- Pressure on parking and access causing difficulty for residents and potential risk to the safety of the children.
- Will this increase in numbers impact on standards?
- Will this result in a loss of outdoor play area?
- Will there be sufficient availability in after school clubs for all children to attend?

If the expansion goes ahead additional resources will provide the platform for a positive impact on standards. The plans will be drawn up to ensure the inclusion of the facilities required for a 2 form entry school ie adequate outdoor play area and hall space. The headteacher emphasised that this would have a positive impact on standards as children would not be in mixed age classes. In addition, teachers would be able to plan together in parallel classes and share resources.

The school already provides a significant number of clubs and more teachers would enable the school to offer an even wider variety. There will be a minimal loss of play and outdoor space if the proposed plans go ahead. Furthermore, the Parish Council has agreed that the school can also utilise the adjoining Glebe field if the school requires any further space for outdoor activities.

With regard to traffic and parking issues the first priority of the LA is the safety of the children. The LA is committed to promoting the use of sustainable travel and transport to school and this would be reflected in the implementation of the school's revised travel plan. Should the proposal go ahead, all traffic issues will be considered in the planning application process. As part of this process any planning queries will be dealt with through a separate planning consultation and the LA would have to meet stringent requirements at the planning application stage. Options to consider could include a zebra crossing, improved street lighting, speed restrictions, walking buses or park and stride from a local car park and staggered drop off times for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils.

It is worth noting that the school has previously been a 2 form entry school and was able to accommodate 400 plus children on this site but with a smaller car park and the use of temporary buildings. The proposal being consulted on will return the school to a 2 form entry but with purpose built accommodation, improved facilities and with parking and access concerns mitigated through the a revised school travel plan and consideration of available options. These improvements should therefore ensure that the site can provide all the facilities required for a number on roll of 420 and cope more effectively than when previously 2 form entry.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 9 February 2015. Copies of the letter commencing consultation and the response form were also published on the County Council website under the webpage Current Consultations on www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/for-schools/school-organisation-planning-team/current-consultations/

There were 48 valid responses in total with 29 in support, 14 against and 5 which were neither for nor against but made comments for consideration. 60% of the responses were received from parents with just less than half being against the proposal. Those in favour of the proposal included 12 parents, the local MP, 13 members of staff and the governing body of a local secondary school. The majority

of points raised were around parking, access and the safety of the children and the loss of outdoor space with concerns also over whether the facilities at the school would cope with the increased numbers. Many of these concerns were raised and discussed more fully at the meeting at the school on January 26th. All comments made and issues raised will be taken into consideration by the Executive Councillor in the decision making process. Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal.

Project Costs

This proposed expansion will incur capital costs that the LA will fund from the Children's Services capital programme. All capital costs are being covered by the Basic Need funding allocated by the DfE. This funding is provided to add capacity to primary provision where it is needed, and is not intended for alternative uses elsewhere. The capital project aims to create the required facilities to allow for up to 420 pupils to be accommodated.

Revenue costs associated with the proposed expansion would be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (Growth Fund).

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

The expansion of the school is not likely to have any impact on SEN provision other than an opportunity to improve the provision with better access to resources and consistently good quality teaching, learning and leadership at the school. Consideration of pupils with SEN will take place and the LA will continue to look to make improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the education provision for children with SEN.

Need for places

National birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with inward migration and housing development is resulting in increased demand for primary school places. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more school places and Pinchbeck and the surrounding area will experience a shortage of available places if capacity is not increased. There are proposals under consideration for expansions in other parts of Spalding and the surrounding area but this proposal is being put forward to meet the projected demand for places in the local community and within a natural catchment of no more than two miles from the school. This proposal is also to ensure that there will be sufficient school places for future housing development planned for the local area. The proposal is being made to meet the need for additional capacity and not to replace existing capacity in the primary sector.

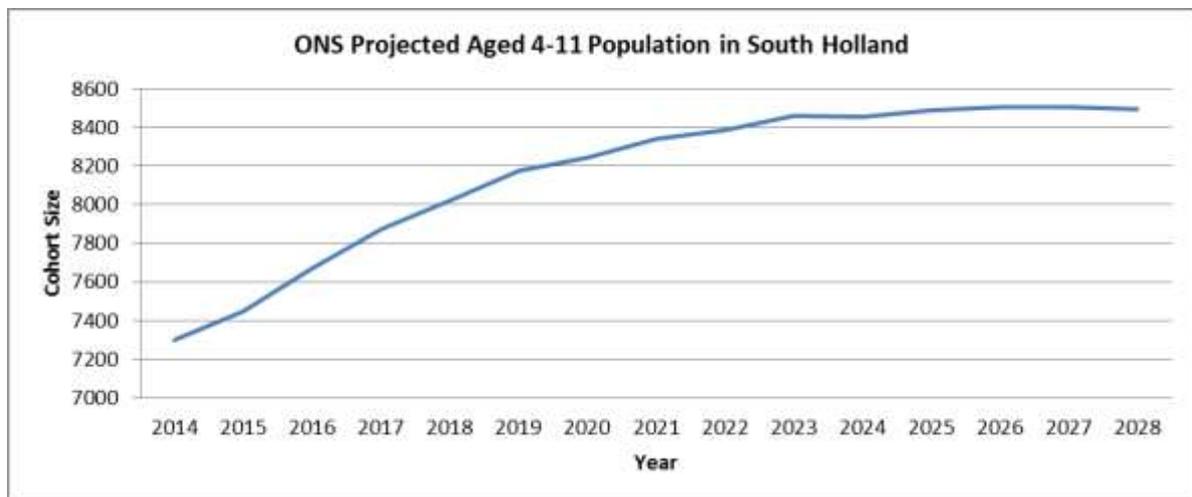
This is evidenced in in the table below which shows the LA projections for the whole of Spalding:

Forecast Years	Min Projected Surplus							Max Projected Surplus Places						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2014	22	1	-4	4	9	7	9	21	-3	-8	0	5	3	5
2015	-54	22	1	-4	4	9	7	-63	10	-11	-19	-11	-9	-11
2016	-88	-54	22	1	-4	4	9	-103	-73	1	-20	-25	-20	-18
2017	-34	-88	-54	22	1	-4	4	-60	-114	-80	-4	-25	-30	-22
2018	-34	-34	-88	-54	22	1	-4	-55	-55	-113	-87	-9	-29	-34

The table below shows the LA projections for the West of Spalding which includes Pinchbeck East within the planning area:

Forecast Years	Min Projected Surplus							Max Projected Surplus Places						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2014	22	1	-2	1	10	15	6	21	0	-3	0	9	14	5
2015	-12	22	1	-2	1	10	15	-21	13	-8	-11	-8	1	6
2016	-43	-12	22	1	-2	1	10	-58	-27	7	-14	-17	-14	-5
2017	-22	-43	-12	22	1	-2	1	-43	-64	-33	1	-20	-23	-20
2018	-22	-22	-43	-12	22	1	-2	-43	-43	-64	-33	1	-20	-23

Population data [birth data supported by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)] confirms this expected long term requirement for more places for children of a statutory school age in this area of Lincolnshire. This is evidenced by the ONS projections data for South Holland shown below:



Therefore, a permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community that are not within a reasonable distance.

The expansion is required to meet the projected demand for places in Pinchbeck and to ensure that the LA meets its duty of providing sufficient places for children of statutory school age in the immediate area, without the need to transport young children more than 2 miles away. The expansion is proposed to meet the need for additional capacity and not to replace existing capacity in the primary sector, therefore not having a significant negative impact on neighbouring primary schools.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can choose an excellent school for their child with the wishes of parents being taken into account. There is a strong presumption that proposals to expand popular and successful schools should be approved. DfE guidance states that places should be allocated where parents want them and that successful and popular schools be allowed to grow. This proposal will assist in meeting parental preference to help ensure that pupils do not have to be placed outside of the area against preference.

Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School was rated overall by Ofsted as an 'Outstanding' school at its last inspection in May 2012. The school is popular with parents and has been over-subscribed for the last four years on 1st preferences, and in addition continues to be very popular with 2nd preferences. It is also situated geographically in an ideal location in relation to the demand for places.

Related Proposals

The proposal to expand Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School is not related to any other statutory proposal.

What will happen now?

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Planning Team, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, 51 Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk by 30 April 2015.

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 30 April 2015 responses will be collated and analysed and a further report will be presented to the Executive Councillor for a final decision in June 2015 on the expansion of the school. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.

APPENDIX A Written Responses in the Consultation Period on the proposed expansion of Pinchbeck East

Point of View	Supports Proposal	Against Proposal	Not For or Against	Other comments/Notes	Lack of space	Increased traffic/car parking	Expand /Build other schools	Standards might/ will suffer	Standards will improve	Loss of mixed classes	Move to single year groups	School might become too large	Children can attend school
Parent/Carer			y	Will the school grounds cope with more classes? Parking and congestion in the passage is already a problem and more cars may affect the safety of the children.	Y	Y							
Parent/Carer		y		Not enough parking space and village will not cope with extra traffic- safety of children will be put at risk.Depends where additional facilities will be put - I hope this will not take up too much playground and field space. Why wasn't new school at Wygate not built big enough to cope with additional children?	Y	Y	Y						
Parent/Carer		y		Pinchbeck school should be for Pinchbeck children. The reception class has children from Spalding. Spalding Primary schools should be expanded for Spalding children if required.			Y						
Parent/Carer		y		Loss of outdoor space.Animosity between parents and local residents re parking will worsen. Standard of teaching likely to suffer - would Outstanding status be maintained? Concerned about safety of children at dropping off time.	Y	Y		Y					
Parent/Carer		y		Not enough space for additional classrooms without significantly reducing outdoor space. Pressure on car parking(already an issue) could mean pupils would be unsafe. Mixed year groups have helped my children - benefitted from working with older children	Y	Y		Y		Y			
Parent/Carer	Y			School is already oversubscribed and will not cope with such a large increase. It may lead to reduction in quality of education. After school clubs already not able to be offered to all children. Building work will have negative impact on children. Concerned about safety of children walking to church. Not enough parking and roads often jammed when children being collected and dropped off.Solution should be to build a new school for the Wardentree development. Following meeting at school on 26 January and solutions offered to problems raised now in favour of proposal		Y	Y	Y					

Parent/Carer		Y		I prefer mixed classes as children benefit from being with older children. Not enough parking space, school hall isn't big enough, no space for another buildings and would mean loss of playground.	Y	Y		Y		Y			
Parent/Carer		Y		Adverse effect on educational standards. Expansion will mean huge disruption to pupils. My daughter's class is already in a portacabin. This would force us to consider a move to a quieter area. Not enough parking space for parents and more congestion problems for residents		Y		Y					
Staff at local school	y			As this is rated by Ofsted as an Outstanding school it can only benefit the children who require places to go to the school									Y
Parent/Carer			Y	Understand the reasons for expansion. Concerned over access and parking causing danger for children who walk or bike to school. If this is not addressed I would object strongly to the proposal. Pupils currently benefit from mixed classes ie having older role models and supporting younger children - this culture may be lost in a larger 2 FE school		Y		Y		Y			
Parent/Carer	Y			Ideally would prefer school not to have to expand but would have more certainty of a place for my 3yr old child if school larger. Concerned about drop-off and pick-up - too many cars already parking dangerously.		Y							Y
Parent/Carer		Y		Site is not big enough - playground already crowded, hall too small and if building is undertaken on the field this will restrict space for sports etc.	Y								
Gov Body of local secondary school	Y			essential that sufficient places are available to meet projected need in the local community area.									Y
Resident		Y		Not against physical increase to buildings but concerned about increased traffic impact on parking, access and safety of pupils		Y							
Parent/Carer		Y		Move to single year group classes is positive. Concerned that school is becoming too large - impersonal and staff lose hands on approach and children will lose sense of community. Hall and playground not large enough for whole school activities. Negative impact on parking and traffic. Reduction in after school club availability.	Y					Y	Y	Y	
Parent/Carer			Y	Please consider noise disruption which is not conducive to learning. Parking is a very important issue as it is very restricted. Consider a drop-off scheme eg as used at Weston Hills.		Y		Y					

Parent/Carer		Y		The village is not big enough to cope with the extra children and cars - drop-off and collection times are already very hectic. Concerned about the size of the school and how the facilities will be compromised by the expansion - the school is just right as it is.	Y	Y								
Local Authority			Y	No reason to object to the expansion										
Teacher/School Staff	Y			This will mean that all local children will be able to attend their local school. It has previously been 2 form entry so the site will easily cope with more children. It will benefit children and staff through increased resources and improved finances. Staff will be better able to share expertise and to work in parallel classes and planning together rather than mixed year groups. This will ultimately improve outcomes for all children.					Y				Y	
Parent/Carer	Y													
Teacher/School Staff	Y			very aware of the shortage of pupil places in this area									Y	
Parent/Carer	Y			all children deserve an education and if this expansion is necessary to accommodate the growing population this is a positive way forward for the school									Y	
Other			Y	County and District Councillor - concerned about parking, access and the safety if the children. LA need to make major decisions about a whole new road system with drop off zones, walking buses and parent education. Will places still be needed if the Wardentree development does not go ahead.		Y								
Parent/Carer		Y		Consider a lollipop person at Wimberley Way/Fennel Road junction. Make the school entrance at the passage wider.										
Parent/Carer		Y		The playground has already been taken up for 2 new classrooms . The hall will be too small. Parking will be a problem. The Headmaster is already running other schools - how will he cope? A nice village school will be made too big and it is all moving too fast. Why can't we build a new school?			Y					Y		
Parent/Carer		Y		Area unsuitable to deal with increase in traffic. My children will not benefit just suffer the disruption. The school seem too eager and parents feel that the decision has already been made. Any additional funding will go to funding for resources for Eastern Europeans.		Y								

Other	Y			MP - School has recently achieved Outstanding from Ofsted and expanding the capacity will allow more children access to this excellent school															Y
Parent/Carer		Y		Less time for each student - smaller school achieve higher education					Y										
Teacher/School Staff	Y			Beneficial to the village as hopefully no Pinchbeck child would have to attend a school outside of Pinchbeck. The school does have land to accommodate the new buildings. There are several entrances to enable safe drop off/pick up points															Y
Parent/Carer	Y																		
Teacher/School Staff	Y			otherwise school will be oversubscribed and village children have to attend other schools															Y
Teacher/School Staff	Y			to ensure local children will be able to get 1st choice / attend local school															Y
Parent/Carer	Y																		
Teacher/School Staff	Y			2 form entry will have huge benefits for teachers and children.Parallel classes can plan more effectively and resources can be shared. Important for children who live in the community to be able to attend their local school.					Y					Y					Y
Teacher/School Staff	Y			good for the school to grow to cater for the growing number of children. We are an outstanding school - fabulous opportunity to provide the facilities to give children an outstanding start to their school career															Y
Staff/governor	Y			needs to expand to accommodate the number of children wanting to attend. Enables the provision of an outstanding education and start to life for more children															Y
Teacher/School Staff	Y			Great to school all the children in the Pinchbeck area. Parallel classes would support staff in providing learning across the years and therefore progression.										Y					Y
Parent/Carer	Y			It is the best school for my child with daily lessons being very interesting and progress. I support this for more children. I do have a small worry that if more children attend the level of education will fall					Y										Y
Parent/Carer	Y			All children should have equal access to learning.I would prefer less children so mine would have more of the focus of the teacher. But we cannot be this selfish - and we are positive about the expansion															Y

Parent/governor	Y			A PAN of 60 will mean the end of mixed year groups and expand opportunities for the school							Y	Y		
Teacher/School Staff	Y			Fantastic opportunity. Will allow teachers to work in parallel classes which will allow pupils learning to be more effectively differentiated to their needs.							Y	Y		
Parent/Carer	Y													
Teacher/School Staff	Y			The number of children is growing and they need school places. The school previously had 14 classes so the site will be able to cope. It will be excellent to have brick buildings rather than portacabins.										Y
Parent/Carer	Y													
Parent/Carer	Y													
Parent/Carer	Y													
Teacher/School Staff	Y			Exciting opportunity. We are continually turning children away. We have a dedicated team of staff keen to build on our reputation. 2 form entry will allow a team approach within each year group to planning and education. More space for intervention and group activities. More opportunities for teaching and learning within a larger school - asset to the village.						Y		Y		Y
Teacher/School Staff	Y			The school is in need of additional teaching and resource spaces.										Y
Pupils at school	Y			The children considered many good things (eg single year group classes, new friends, everyone who wants to come to our school should be able to do so). Some concerns were raised eg impact on nature area, and there was also discussion about what should be looked at in any expansion eg bigger car park, bigger playground, more toilets, bigger kitchen, split lunchtimes. Overall the response was positive - <i>'our school will be even better'</i> .										

