

APPENDIX C



Complete Proposal

to Expand both

**St Faith's CE Infant School and St Faith and St
Martin Junior School, Lincoln**

(related expansion proposals)

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

PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO A SCHOOL

29 May 2014

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of St Faith's Church of England Infant School, West Parade, Lincoln LN1 1QS and St Faith and St Martin Church of England Junior School, Hampton Street, Lincoln LN1 1LW.

Implementation

The proposal is to expand St Faith's CE Infant School with effect from 1 September 2015 and St Faith and St Martin CE Junior School with effect from 1 September 2018. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in this area of Lincoln to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the community 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 Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk to be received by the deadline of 26 June 2014.

Alteration description

The proposal being consulted on is to permanently expand both schools to be able to take up to an additional 30 children per year group with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 90 at each school. This would result in the current capacity of 180 places at St Faith's Infant School being increased to take up to a maximum of 270 and at St Faith and St Martin the capacity would be increased from 240 to be able to take up to 360. The proposed implementation dates for these changes are 1st September 2015 for St Faith's Infant School and 1st September 2018 for St Faith and St Martin Junior. This would increase the PAN initially for the Reception intake in September 2015 to 90 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 60 across both schools. The increased intake to 90 would then be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake until the PAN of 90 applies to all year groups, with the first increase in PAN at St Faith and St Martin Junior School being September 2018 when the larger intakes from St Faith's Infant School start to filter through.

Both of these expansion proposals are related, as one cannot happen without the other to ensure that there are sufficient primary age places across all year groups to meet the needs of the local community.

School Capacity and Site

It will not be possible to meet the growing demand for school places in the Lincoln West Planning Area without additional accommodation. Accommodation will be provided, subject to planning permission and final approval of this proposal, for September 2015 at the infant school and September 2018 at the junior school. The necessary building work would be expected to take place during the academic year 2014/2015 at the infant school and 2017/2018 at the junior school. This would be

managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making best use of school holidays where possible.

The planning application process required is dealt with and consulted on separately from this process. 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 school census taken in January 2014 was 177 at the infant school and 206 at the junior school. This is broken down by year group in the table below. It also shows the potential Reception intakes for September 2014 to 2016 which is based on NHS GP registration data and historical trends. These projections do not take into account the fact that other schools that serve the Lincoln West Planning Area (Mount Street Infant, Westgate Junior and St Peter In Eastgate Infant) are also projected to be over-subscribed and will not have the capacity to take additional pupils beyond their PAN. Those pupils are expected to require a place at St Faith's Infant and St Faith and St Martin Junior to ensure that they can attend a local school. Those numbers will be in addition to the projected numbers shown in the table below. The published admissions number per year group is currently 60 at St Faith's Infant and St Faith and St Martin Junior:

	2016	2015	2014	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Infant	72	71	69	58	59	60	-	-	-	-	177
Junior	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	58	52	42	206

Data from January 2014 Census, NHS GP Registration and trend analysis

The LA and governors will assess all responses to this consultation and consider the practical solutions for ensuring that there would be suitable indoor and outdoor facilities for taking additional children before making a final decision.

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand St Faith's CE Infant School with effect from 1 September 2015 and St Faith and St Martin Junior from 1 September 2018. The objective is both to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the area to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the community 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 best available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in the Lincoln West Planning Area 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. These two proposals are directly related to each other and one cannot proceed without the other. There are proposals to expand schools in other planning areas across Lincoln, but they are not directly related to these proposals.

The LA believes the expansion proposals at St Faith's and St Faith and St Martin to be in the best interests of local children and local parents as well as educational provision in the area and it 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. This proposal will both enhance the quality of provision and sustain local provision and at the same time it will assist in meeting parental preference.

Other options in this area have been explored and all primary schools (including other infant and junior schools) have been considered for potential expansion, but none have been found to be as suitable to expand on this scale due to reasons such as severely undersized sites, distance that pupils would have to travel, access, parental preference, potential planning issues, potential impact on standards and the fact that other schools are of suitable sizes for the areas that they serve in relation to where the pupils live. The LA believes this proposal to be the most appropriate option for expansion in the area. It is important that the LA considers all views submitted during consultation.

The publication of the Statutory Notice will enable the statutory and legal processes to proceed. This continuation to the next stage of the process will allow a further opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the Executive Councillor.

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 06 March 2014. A letter incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal was sent out to interested parties on 06 March 2014 to commence a four week period of consultation. Individual appointments were offered to anyone interested to meet with representatives of the LA at the school to ask questions and raise any concerns and three separate meetings were held. One individual representing the junior school took the opportunity to meet and raised concerns about the adequacy of the existing toilets and the potential increased traffic and loss of outdoor space that they felt might follow the expansion. Similar concerns were also raised by two parents of children at the infant school. The LA officer was able to give assurance that all of these issues will be taken into consideration in the design and future planning of the buildings and on both school sites if the proposal goes ahead. The parents also expressed concerns about the impact on the ethos and culture of their school together with the impact on the current pupils but were reassured that this has already been taken into consideration by the LA in the proposed phased intake basis of the implementation of the expansion. In addition, although the parents had concerns about the expansion they understood the need for additional places within the community. They do want children to be able to attend their local school firstly to avoid young children having to travel and also be separated from their friends within the

community and secondly from an environmental point of view to reduce car usage. They could also see the potential benefits of more suitable hall space and additional facilities and suggested that this would provide an opportunity to carry out a review of the outside space and its usage at the school.

There was the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation by letter, email or by returning the response form attached to the consultation document by 3 April 2014. 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/schoolorganisation

All written responses received during consultation have been provided to the Executive Councillor for consideration and further details are confirmed in this report in Appendix A. To briefly summarise, however, there were 14 valid responses in total with 7 in favour and 7 against the proposal. The majority of the responses were received from parents with 5 in favour and 7 against. The main concerns of those against the proposal were loss of outdoor space and potential increases in class size. If the proposal goes ahead, the design and future planning of the buildings and sites at both schools will be undertaken with the aim of ensuring minimal impact and making best use of the outdoor space. The expansion proposal is to increase the PAN from 60 to 90 both of which are based on class sizes of a maximum of 30 and therefore class sizes should not be affected.

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 at both schools.

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 schools 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 have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with changes in migrational trends and the effect of new housing development, is now starting put significant pressure on primary schools across the country. There is expected to be a shortage of school places if additional capacity is not created. Birth data for the Lincoln area shows an increase

in births resulting in larger projected intakes than there are currently places for in planning areas across the city. This area also has the added pressures of over 300 new homes being built on a housing development off Carholme Road on the former E2V site. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more primary school places.

Lincoln will therefore experience a shortage of available primary places if capacity in the area is not increased. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting young children to alternative schools outside of their local communities.

The expansion is required to meet the projected demand for places in Lincoln 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 in Lincoln and not to replace existing capacity in the primary sector, therefore not having a significant negative impact on neighbouring primary schools.

Having additional classes and more children on roll at the schools will also have financial benefits for the schools. 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.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

The proposal will assist in meeting parental preference. The Government have made it clear that the wishes of parents should be taken into account in planning and managing school estates. DfE guidance states that places should be allocated where parents want them and that successful and popular schools be allowed to grow. The St Faith's CE Infant School is rated overall by Ofsted as a 'Good' school. St Faith's and St Martin is currently rated as 'Requires Improvement', but since their Ofsted necessary steps have been taken to ensure that significant improvement is being made. The School Improvement Service are confident that by the time the expansion would need to happen (commencing in 2017) the school will have made the progress required to successfully manage an expansion.

The LA considers the proposal to be the most appropriate available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in this area of Lincoln to enable local children to attend their local school. This proposal has the support of the School Improvement Service (CfBT) who are confident that the schools have 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.

Related Proposals

The prescribed alterations (expansions) being consulted on at both the infant and the junior school are directly related to one another. Both expansion proposals will be determined together and therefore are dependent on the success of the other.

What will happen now?

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to Property and Technology Management, Corporate Property, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 26 June 2014 responses will be collated and analysed and a further report will be presented to the Executive Councillor for a final decision in August 2014 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.