

Full statutory proposal information for prescribed alteration to St Matthews CE Primary School

In accordance with the School Organisation (Making “prescribed alterations to maintained Schools” Regulations 2016), Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council proposes to make prescribed alterations to St Matthews CE Primary School with effect from 1st September 2019.

Local Authority details:

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Sandwell Council House,
Freeth Street,
Oldbury,
West Midlands, B69 9EX

School details:

St Matthews CE Primary School,
Windmill Lane,
Smethwick
B66 3LX.

St Matthews CE Primary School is a Church of England voluntary aided primary school providing education for pupils from age three to eleven.

There were 244 full time pupils on roll at the January 2018 census.

The school’s current published admission number is 30 (although this was temporarily increased to 60 pupils in September 2017 and September 2018).

Description of the proposed alteration

It is proposed that the school expands over a period of six years to accommodate more children. The Governing Body has already admitted 30 additional Reception pupils in September 2017 and up to 30 more in September 2018. This is because St Matthew's is a popular, oversubscribed school that has been judged as "good" by OFSTED. We believe that St Matthew's can now permanently expand to offer this good standard of education to more children by building extra accommodation for an extra form of entry. This would mean that if the proposal is agreed the school's published admission number would increase permanently from 30 to 60 in Reception from September 2019. The growth of the school will be gradual as larger numbers of children are admitted into Reception each year and work their way through the school. By September 2023 the school will be operating at a capacity of 420 places across all year groups (at September 2018 it will be 270).

Year Group	PAN* 2017	PAN 2018	PAN 2019	PAN 2020	PAN 2021	PAN 2022	PAN 2023
Reception	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Year 1	30	60	60	60	60	60	60
Year 2	30	30	60	60	60	60	60
Year 3	30	30	30	60	60	60	60
Year 4	30	30	30	30	60	60	60
Year 5	30	30	30	30	30	60	60
Year 6	30	30	30	30	30	30	60

**PAN = Published Admission Number (the number of children the school can take in)*

Objectives

As the population of Sandwell grows so does the demand for school places. The birth rate in Sandwell has increased considerably over the last few years and the number of children either staying in the borough or moving in has also increased. There is a high demand for primary places across Smethwick and the council expects that this demand will continue into the future as the birth rate remains high and new families move into the area. St Matthew's CE Primary School is well placed to meet the expected demand from Smethwick families. As a result of the school's popularity and "good" OFSTED rating we expect more parents will want their children

to attend St Matthew's in the future. We believe that this proposal will support parental choice and add quality provision to the number of primary places in the area.

The effect on other schools in the area

The gradual expansion of the school would ensure a minimum impact on other schools in the locality. Currently other schools in Smethwick are full in Reception Year and the forecasts for the area indicate that there will continue to be a pressure on places if this expansion does not proceed.

Project costs

The cost of the project will be met from the council's capital allocation it receives from the Department for Education for the provision of new school places.

Consultation responses

An initial consultation process took place from 11 May to 15 June 2018. The following stakeholders were consulted:

The Governing Body of St Matthews CE Primary School, parents of children at the school, members of staff, all Sandwell schools, the local authorities of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Walsall, Church of England and Roman Catholic diocesan authorities, Joint Union Panel.

Responses were received as follows:

Category	Number Responding	Yes (to the proposal)	No (to the proposal)	Don't know
Parents	2	2	0	0
Staff	10	8	0	2
Governors	3	3	0	0
More than one category	2	2	0	0
Community member	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	15	0	2

Implementation date

A decision on this proposal will be made by Sandwell's Cabinet within 2 months of the end of this representation period. If agreed, it is proposed to implement this proposal with effect from 1 September 2019.

How to make representations or comments on the proposal

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 23 July 2018), any person may object or make a representation or comment on the proposal. This can be done by writing to Martyn Roberts, School Organisation and Development Team, Education Support Services, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 16230, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 9EX (martyn_roberts@sandwell.gov.uk) or by accessing the council's website: www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation.

Any personal information you provide will only be used to communicate with you on this issue and your details will be deleted at the end of the process.