

# **St Matthew's CE Primary School**

**May 2018**

## **PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE ST MATTHEW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### What is the Proposal?

Sandwell Council, with the support of the Governing Body of St Matthew's CE Primary School, is proposing 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 this year it will be 270).

### Why is this necessary?

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.

Will there be changes to the school building?

Yes, the proposed increase in places means that significant work will need to be undertaken at the school to provide the additional places. A scheme will be developed to ensure continuity of provision across the school. Over last summer a new 2 classroom modular block was completed at the school to enable the 30 additional pupils to be admitted into Reception last September, and to accommodate a further class of 30 Reception pupils in September 2018.

Further building work will commence soon to build a new Key Stage 2 classroom block for the school on land in Windmill Lane, opposite the school's existing site. The proposed works are scheduled for completion by Summer 2019.

What will the new modular classroom block be used for after Summer 2019?

The modular classroom has been designed for long term use as a Pre-School Nursery. The Governing Body is keen to develop provision for 2-3 year olds to meet local demand. Once the new Key Stage 2 classroom block is complete, the school will re-organise and relocate the pupils from the modular block to the main school building which will become the Key Stage 1 building.

How will an additional 30 pupils be accommodated for September 2018?

In September 2018, an additional 30 pupils will be accommodated through use of the new modular building completed in summer 2017 and the existing school building.

An additional teacher and classroom assistant will be employed for each of the extra classes.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Pupils will notice some changes but these are likely to be limited. The change in pupil numbers will occur gradually (see table on next page) and will not impact on current year groups. The Governing Body may want to organise the school slightly differently but they will keep you fully informed about this.

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

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

Will the nursery capacity increase?

The school's nursery will not increase immediately. The capital funding available through the Local Authority to fund the alteration / extension works is provided by central government to provide new school places from Reception to Year 6. The school plan to consider whether the new expanded school building will provide scope for the nursery to be expanded to take up to 52 children with provision offered on a 26 morning and 26 afternoon basis.

As currently applies, securing a nursery place will not guarantee a place for a child in Reception. Admission to Reception will continue to be administered on an annual basis with parents / carers being required to apply for a place for their child.

Will this mean more traffic and parking in the locality of the school?

Inevitably if the school takes on more children there is a potential for more traffic in the locality at the beginning and end of the school day. The council and the school will need to carry out and support measures to reduce the impacts of this and, as part of the scheme to expand school facilities we will be required to satisfy highway and planning issues. A new Travel Plan will be developed to identify measures that we will need to adopt to reduce such impact to the local area.

As part of the expansion scheme, requirements for staff and visitor parking will also need to be considered. At peak times of the day alternative off-street parking may be

considered, and the introduction of additional traffic calming measures may also be an option. Officers within the council's Highways Section will continue to provide advice and guidance to the school, including consideration of alternative means of travel, walking buses and possible staggered start and finish times for the children.

Will there be an opportunity for parents and local residents to raise individual concerns during the planning application period?

Yes. If the proposal proceeds "drop in" sessions will be held at the school for parents and local residents to view the proposed expansion schemes. These sessions will provide an opportunity for questions and concerns to be raised prior to a planning application being submitted. The council's project delivery team will arrange these "drop in" sessions and for invitations to attend to be sent to all stakeholders.

I prefer a smaller school – won't this proposal affect performance?

There is no evidence that smaller schools perform better than larger schools and there are many, many examples of good and outstanding schools of the size we are proposing.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected; there will be a need to increase staff and a larger school will offer more opportunities for professional development.

Will this have an 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.

How will the building works be funded?

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.

Will the expansion allow for community use to increase?

It is hoped that community provision will be extended as the expanded school will offer the opportunity to be more flexible with space and assist with the development of wider community use.

The Governing Body already plans to develop the new modular classroom block for the purpose of offering a wider 2-3 year old provision to support the local community.

Who are you consulting with?

We are consulting with parents, staff, pupils, the local Diocese, Birmingham Council, all other Sandwell schools, local councillors and the local MP.

How can I make my views known?

We would welcome your views on this proposal. Please complete and return the response form at the end of this document to school, or email the council with your views at:

**paul\_hayward@sandwell.gov.uk**

or write to the council as follows:

Paul Hayward,  
School Place Planning and Admissions Manager,  
Education Support Services,  
Sandwell Council House,  
Freeth Street,  
Oldbury,  
West Midlands  
B69 9EX.

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.

This document is also available on the council's website:

**[www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation)**

The closing date for responses is Friday 15 June 2018. Although it will not be possible to respond to individual comments, all issues raised during consultation will

be considered when we decide whether or not to move to the next stage of this process.

What happens next?

The following timescale for the proposal is for guidance only and may change. The dates set out below meet the legal requirements to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal and every effort will be made to keep to them. The timetable assumes approval of the proposal.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Initial consultation	11 May to 15 June 2018
Statutory notice published – four-week representation period	22 June to 20 July 2018
Cabinet decision	September 2018
Implementation	September 2019

**Expansion of St Matthew's CE Primary School  
Consultation Response Form**

Are you a:

**Please tick**

Parent / Carer of a child

Student

Governor

Member of Staff

Member of the Community

Do you agree with the proposal that St Matthew's CE Primary School should expand to offer 60 places each year in reception from September 2019?

Yes  No

Don't Know

**Please add any comments here (and overleaf if necessary):**

Please return this form by Friday 15 June 2018 to either St Matthew's CE Primary School or Paul Hayward, Education Support Services, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury West Midlands B69 9EX