



PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



10 September 2012

Dear Whiteley resident, Parents and other consultees

Primary School Places in Whiteley

Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses and Hampshire County Council would like to know your views on proposals to provide additional primary places for pupils in the Whiteley area from September 2013.

Two options are proposed and viable alternative proposals are invited.

Option A – Create a 210 place Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school in temporary accommodation in the Whiteley area pending a move to a permanent site within the north Whiteley development. Two possible sites have been identified.

Option B – Leave the existing primary school provision in Whiteley as it is and continue to provide additional primary age places elsewhere within the Western Wards.

OR Viable alternative proposals put forward during this consultation.

The consultation documents are now available on the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan websites at:

www.portsmouth.anglican.org or www.winchester.anglican.org

These include a summary, background information and frequently asked questions alongside a response form.

The consultation documents can be made available in hard copy, large print or translated versions on request to Tony Blackshaw (contact details at the bottom of this letter).

As part of the consultation we will be holding public meetings and drop in sessions – details are in the consultation materials.

Yours sincerely

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Complete the return form at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/RGQSYVG

Consultation on proposals to provide additional primary school places for Whiteley

Summary

As many of you will know, Whiteley primary school is oversubscribed from within the Whiteley community and a significant number of local children travel to schools outside the immediate area. This consultation seeks your views on proposals for additional primary places for Whiteley.

The Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on proposals to provide a new Voluntary Aided (VA) primary school in Whiteley from September 2013.

This document gives you the opportunity to engage in a debate about the best way to provide educational opportunities for the children of Whiteley. The decision that the County Council makes will be guided by what is best overall for the children and for education in Whiteley. It is likely that the new provision will be provided only if sufficient interest is shown by the community.

For many years, the demand for primary places in Whiteley has outstripped supply and some pupils living in Whiteley have attended schools within the Western Wards. An increase in demand for primary school places, particularly at Year R (age 4+) has exacerbated the position with additional housing being built in the Western Wards area. The County Council recognised the need for additional primary places and in 2007 sought to purchase a suitable site for a new school. Unfortunately the new site could not be secured and additional primary places were made available within the Sarisbury area.

In 2011 the Diocese of Portsmouth, in partnership with Emmaus Learning, applied to set up a Church of England Free School; this was turned down by the Department for Education. Whilst we have looked at progressing the application again, this would mean delaying the opening of a much needed school. Together with Emmaus Learning and the Local Authority the Diocese of Portsmouth believes the best option for opening a school in September 2013 is to propose a Voluntary Aided School. **This is a far simpler process with a more certain outcome.**

The proposed residential development at North Whiteley is being discussed by developers with Winchester City Council and will generate the need for two new primary schools. The proposal for a new voluntary aided primary school is being brought forward on the back of this proposed development. It is intended that the new primary school be set up as a permanent school with a capacity of 210 places, initially in temporary accommodation. The school will admit 30 pupils into Year R in September 2013 with some places available for Year 1 pupils if there is a demand. In the longer term the school will be moved to a permanent site within the North Whiteley development, in purpose-built accommodation. At that stage it would be expanded to meet some of the need for additional school places to serve that development.

If the proposal to establish a new VA primary school in Whiteley is not forthcoming there will be a need to expand one or more schools within the Western Wards to cater for the additional pupils and a continued need to transport Whiteley pupils to these schools until the building of the permanent schools in North Whiteley.

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1.0 Background and supplementary detail

The pressures on Whiteley school places

For many years the demand for primary places in the Whiteley area has outstripped the capacity at Whiteley Primary School and additional primary school places have been provided in primary schools in the Western Wards.

Two factors have now come together to make consideration of another primary school in Whiteley, on a temporary site, a sensible option.

1. There is a projected growth in the number of pupils within the Western Wards area of Fareham Borough Council owing to new housing development which means that additional primary places to accommodate the Whiteley pupils will need to be provided in the Western Wards schools if the current pattern of schooling is maintained.
2. The North Whiteley development (which includes the provision of two new primary schools) can now reasonably be expected to progress within the next five years, providing a permanent site for the proposed new school as the development takes shape.

The Dioceses of Portsmouth and Winchester are therefore proposing that a one-form entry (210 place) voluntary aided primary school be set up in temporary accommodation within Whiteley. This school would eventually move to permanent accommodation on the North Whiteley development and increase in size to accommodate some of the predicted growth.

The school will provide 30 additional places for each year group with the intention that the school fills from the bottom up, i.e. 30 pupils will be admitted into Year R (reception) each year until the school is full. Initially some further capacity may be available for pupils in Key Stage 1.

Whiteley is served by one primary school with an admission number of 90. This is against projected year R figures of 141 for the 2013 admissions round, 138 in 2014, 127 in 2015 and 122 in 2016. Whilst it is the case that not all Whiteley children apply for a place in a local Hampshire school should a new 1 form entry primary school be established, there may still be some Whiteley children who need to access school places in the Western Wards schools. There will be sufficient places in these schools for those children.

New housing in Whiteley

Within Whiteley Parish (which sits within the geographical boundaries of Winchester City Council), development on sites with planning permission is expected to add about 130 additional dwellings by 2018. There will be a similar number of new dwellings in that part of Whiteley located within Fareham Borough.

For the longer term, Winchester City Council's *Winchester District Local Plan Core Strategy*, which can be found at <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1/submission/>, has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination later this year. That strategy proposes development at North Whiteley, comprising 3,000 dwellings with supporting infrastructure, including two primary schools and the opportunity to provide a new secondary school. Development is expected to start in 2014.

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Option A

Under this option a permanent voluntary aided school would be set up in temporary accommodation at a site to be agreed. Admission to the school would be at 4+ (Reception year/Year R) and possibly for other Key Stage 1 children in September 2013. Initial feasibility studies indicate that it would be possible to provide a temporary school on either of the sites under consideration.

Should the option of a Voluntary Aided School be taken forward the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses and the County Council would be minded to work to a "phased opening" of the new provision where the intake gradually grew by adding successive year groups.

Option A: Issues to consider

- New primary provision for 210 pupils in Whiteley.
- Primary places in the area of greatest demand.
- A perceived disadvantage for other primary schools in the Western Wards area as parents choose to keep their children in Whiteley.
- There would be a need to set a catchment area for the new voluntary aided primary school which is likely to cover the existing Whiteley Primary School catchment and a larger area based on the parish boundary.

Option B

A meeting has been held with the Fareham Headteachers to share with them the challenges facing the County Council in terms of school place planning. They are aware that there is a need to provide additional school places in the area and two primary schools have agreed, in principle, to expand to provide the additional places required. Consequently if the proposed new voluntary aided primary in Whiteley does not receive sufficient support the County Council would proceed with the expansion of one or more schools in the Western Wards to ensure sufficient school places for children within the Western Wards and Whiteley.

There is a need to take into account the infrastructure needs of an expanding school beyond the immediate classrooms. Depending on individual schools' current facilities, increased numbers of pupils may put pressure on areas such as dining and play areas, staffrooms, circulation space and the external areas of schools.

These needs would be considered as part of the expansion but only the most essential would be able to be funded. There would have to be compromises (potentially quite significant ones) around the provision of accommodation because the cost of providing all that would be desirable in terms of additional infrastructure in permanent buildings would be prohibitively expensive or constrained by the limitations of physical space.

Discussions regarding permanent expansions would be held with individual schools' headteachers and governing bodies. Should this option be the final preferred option at the end of this consultation then feasibility studies and plans for individual schools, once drawn up, will be shared with parents and where appropriate local communities either as part of formal consultations (where that is the legal requirement) or through less formal arrangements.

3.0 Frequently asked questions including catchment areas and traffic

Will there be changes to primary schools' catchment areas?

It is not intended to make any changes to the catchment area for Whiteley Primary School. The catchment area for the new school would probably include, but be wider than, the catchment area for Whiteley Primary School. In general voluntary aided schools have larger catchment areas than a community school as the catchment area for a voluntary aided school covers the whole parish. It is likely that this position would remain following the building of the permanent voluntary aided school in the future although further discussions would take place with the Diocese, the school and the County Council about the catchment area covered by the school.

Will there be changes to secondary school catchment area?

The current Whiteley Primary School is linked to Henry Cort Community College. It is proposed that the new school will also be linked to Henry Cort. The County Council anticipate that the current general patterns of movement of pupils from primary to secondary from Whiteley will remain broadly unchanged.

What about traffic?

The County Council appreciates that local residents will be concerned about the potential traffic implications around the new school and recognises that it will cause concern to residents immediately local to the site. When the new school is moved into the North Whiteley development we plan to create school places as close as possible to where children live and, therefore, create the best chances that those children will make their way to school other than by car.

Initial thoughts from the highways consultants on the proposal for the new primary school to be located immediately to the south of the existing Whiteley Primary School off of Rookery Avenue are that it would be suitable, in terms of transport, for use as one-form entry primary school site. The highway consultants have drawn attention to the traffic calming in place around the area of Lady Betty's Drive and the narrow roads leading to the site. These preliminary views will be subject to more detailed investigations and assessments should this proposal be taken forward.

A school travel plan will be produced in consultation with other interested parties. It looks at how pupils, staff and visitors travel to and from school, and sets out measures to:

- encourage and enable students, parents, guardians and staff to walk and cycle
- encourage and enable children, parents, guardians and staff to use bus and train services
- encourage and provide educational programmes relating to child travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health
- improve safety.

Complete the return form at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/RGQSYVG

How can my views be heard?

We will listen to views at the consultation events.

We will also consider all electronic or hard copy returns. We urge you to use the response form and complete it in detail. A response using the electronic survey form would be the most efficient for our analysis.

www.portsmouth.anglican.org or www.winchester.anglican.org

Further questions

If you have further questions or would like more information which is not covered in this document please contact:

Tony Blackshaw, Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Portsmouth
First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB
Email: tony.blackshaw@portsmouth.anglican.org
Telephone: 02392 899 658

4.0 Consultation events

Public meetings

As part of the consultation, we will be holding an open meeting:

- Tuesday 25 September – 1930 - 2130 Whiteley Primary School.

Drop-in sessions

We will also be holding a drop-in session, at which officers will be present to explain the proposals and answer any questions you may have. This will take place on:

- Friday 5 October – 0930 – 1130 Drop in coffee morning – Whiteley Community Centre.

You are welcome to attend either of the above meetings.

Complete the return form at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/RGQSYVG

5.0 Consultation return form

Consultation on the proposal to provide additional primary places in Whiteley
Public consultation 11 September to 23 October 2012

The Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses and Hampshire County Council would like to know your views about how we should provide additional primary school places in the Whiteley area from September 2013.

Responding to the consultation is entirely voluntary. If you would like to respond, please read the supporting information on the Diocesan website at:

www.portsmouth.anglican.org or www.winchester.anglican.org

All responses to this consultation will be treated as confidential. The consultation results, and analysis of the findings, will be taken into account by the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses before deciding whether to publish a public notice to establish a new primary school in Whiteley. The responses will be kept for one year.

In order to complete the survey, you must tick one of the three options set out below (please select one option only)

Q1. Which is your preferred option for primary places in Whiteley?

Option A	Create a 210 place primary school in temporary accommodation pending a move to a permanent site within the North Whiteley development.	
Option B	Leave the existing provision in Whiteley as it is and provide additional primary age places elsewhere within the Western Wards.	
Option C	We would welcome proposals for viable alternative options.	

If you selected Option C, please provide further information below. (Please continue on a separate sheet if required).

Complete the return form at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/RGQSYVG

Q6. About you

The information you provide is voluntary and confidential. You do not have to fill in this section if you do not want to. If you complete this section you will be agreeing to us holding this information but using it for monitoring purposes only. Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

If you are connected to a particular school(s), please tell us which one(s):

Whiteley Primary School	
Park Gate Primary School	
Sarisbury Infant School	
Sarisbury Junior School	
St John the Baptist CEC Primary School	
St Anthony's RCA Primary School	
Locks Heath Infant School	
Locks Heath Junior School	
Hook-with-Warsash CEC Primary School	
The Henry Cort Community College	
Brookfield Community School and Language College	
Other (please specify)	

Q7. Personal information

Are you:

Male	
Female	

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Q8. Which category below includes your age?

17 – 24	
25 – 34	
35 – 44	
45 – 54	

55 – 64	
65 – 74	
75 – 84	
85 or over	