

Statutory proposal to establish a new Church of England voluntary aided infant school and nursery on the site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 (1A) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Guildford Diocesan Board of Education propose to open a new voluntary aided Church of England school on the site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries. This proposal is linked to the proposal by Surrey County Council to discontinue Christ Church CofE Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.

Contact details

1. The contact details of the proposer of the establishment of the new school and nursery are:

Guildford Diocesan Board of Education
Church House Guildford
20 Alan Turing Road
Guildford GU2 7YF

Contact details during statutory representation period

This is a four-week consultation, which begins on September 14th 2020 and concludes at midday on 12th October 2020

Any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by completing the online survey at www.surreysays.co.uk

Alternatively representations can be sent by email or post:

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

Post: Jane Keenan, Surrey County Council, Room 326, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DN

Implementation

2. It is proposed that the new school and nursery will open on 1st September 2021.
3. The proposal to open a new voluntary aided Church of England infant school and nursery will be implemented by Guildford Diocesan Board of Education and Surrey County Council each carrying out their respective statutory responsibilities. Linked proposals to close Christ Church CofE Infant School Virginia Water and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries are being published by Surrey County Council and will be implemented by it. No provision is being made by either Guildford Diocesan Board of Education or Surrey County Council for capital costs to implement the proposal because there will be sufficient space in the new school to accommodate the pupils of both predecessor schools without additional immediate investment.

Reason for the new school

4. A new voluntary aided Church of England school and nursery will replace the current Christ Church CofE Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries on the Englefield Green site. Both schools have experienced a decline in admissions in recent years and their school budgets have reduced as a result. By amalgamating the two schools on the Englefield Green site, and closing the Christ Church site, it will be possible to establish a sustainable school that can deliver high quality education to children in the community it serves.

The re-organisation proposal was a strategic response developed by the governing bodies of the two schools – Christ Church and Englefield Green – with the support and engagement of the governing body of St Jude’s C of E Junior, to which the majority of children at Englefield Green transfer aged 7. The new school intends to work closely with St Jude’s C of E Junior to provide integrated early years and primary education for children aged 2 – 11 in the communities served by the school. Surrey County Council and Guildford Diocesan Board of Education welcome and support the collaborative way in which the schools have developed the proposal. Guildford Diocesan Board of Education agreed to be the proposer of the new school at its meeting on 13th February 2020.

Category

5. The new school will be a voluntary aided Church of England infant school opened under Section 11 (1A) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Ethos and religious character

6. The new school will be a voluntary aided Church of England school. It will have a distinctly Christian ethos and will be fully inclusive of those of other faiths and those of no faith. The new school will combine educational excellence with a rounded approach to pupils’ personal development – physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, social, and spiritual – to give them the confidence and resilience to flourish in a complex and rapidly changing world. Its vision will be to offer its pupils an experience of life as part of a community committed to life in all its fullness.
7. It is proposed that the new school will have Church of England character and will be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arrangements for religious education and daily acts of worship. The Diocesan Board of Education intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with religious character once the proposal has been approved by the decision maker, Surrey County Council.
8. Surrey County Council carried out informal consultation on the proposal from 22 January 2020 until 26 February 2020. Of those parents who commented on the religious designation of the new school, those who supported the proposal exceeded those who opposed it by a margin of 3:1.

Pupil numbers and admissions

9. The new school and nursery will accommodate up to 180 pupils of statutory school age from Year R to Year 2. It will have a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 60 in Year R and continue the nursery provision currently provided by Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.

Admission arrangements

10. All pupils currently on roll at Christ Church CofE Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries will automatically be on roll at the new amalgamated school. Parents will have the right to apply for another school if they wish, although there will be no guarantee that a place at the school of their choice will be available.

Parents who express a preference for Christ Church CofE Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, or for both schools for admission for a reception class for September 2021 should note that if the proposal is agreed, a place allocated at either school would become a place allocated at the newly amalgamated school. It is proposed that a decision would be made by the leader of the Council on 10 November giving time before preferences, and therefore allocations are made.

The vision for the new school is that it will serve families in the two communities of the two predecessor schools – that is, Englefield Green and Virginia Water. In line with the Church of England’s wider vision for

church schools, the new school is intended to be a 'church school for the community, not a faith school for the faithful'. The 2021/2022 admissions arrangements for the new school will be those which apply for 2020/2021 at Englefield Green Infant School. Any future changes to the existing criteria would be subject to the requirements of the DfE's Admissions Code and therefore would be consulted on by the new school.

Admissions criteria for the new voluntary aided Church of England infant school for 2021/22 will be Surrey County Council's criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools as follows:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children who will have a sibling at the school or at an infant/junior school which operates shared sibling priority, at the time of the child's admission
4. Children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address as measured by straight line – the nearest school will be the school closest to the home address that has a Published Admission Number to admit pupils of the appropriate age range and which admits local children. The nearest school may be either inside or outside the county boundary.
5. Any other children, prioritised according to the distance they live from the school.

Early years provision

11. Englefield Green Infant School already operate two nursery facilities on its site – Squirrels Nursery for children aged 2 – 3 and Acorns Nursery for children aged 3 -4. The LA-funded 3-year-old nursery (Acorns) of 26 full time places offers the 15 and 30 hours funded entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. The two-year-old nursery (Squirrels) offers 20 places every session for ten sessions per week and provides a level of flexibility for parents to reflect working patterns by enabling parents to buy additional hours where necessary and will have places for FEET funded 2 year olds.

This proposal makes no changes to the current nursery arrangements in terms of the numbers of full and part time pupils, the numbers of places, the number and length of sessions or the services for disabled children.

Full details about Englefield Green's nursery provision are set out <https://www.Englefield-green.surrey.sch.uk/surrey/primary/Englefield/site/pages/aboutus/admissions>

Sixth form provision

12. The proposal does not include provision for sixth form education.

Special educational needs provision

13. The new school will not have designated provision for children with special educational needs but will continue to welcome children with special educational needs.

The proposed policy of the new school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs will be in line with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice (2015). Underlying the policy is the fundamental principle that 'all children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential.' In particular, the new school:

- respects the unique contribution which every individual can make to the community
- strives to ensure that all children 'achieve their best, become confident individuals and are given the skills to lead fulfilling lives'
- seeks to plan ahead so that each child can make a successful transition to the next stage of their education
- empowers each teacher to be a teacher of every pupil including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

School leaders will work carefully with the parents or carers of any child with special needs moving from Christ Church to Englefield Green to ensure that the new school plans provision to meet that child's needs.

14. The aim of the new school's SEND policy will be to:

- ensure that all children, regardless of their particular needs, are provided with inclusive teaching which will enable them to make the best possible progress in school and feel that they are a valued member of the wider school community.
- enable all children with SEND to meet or exceed the high expectations set for them based on their age and starting points
- set ambitious educational and wider outcomes for each child in partnership with their parents/carer and the child themselves
- use the school's best endeavours to give children with SEND the support they need
- enable all children to become confident individuals who will be able to make a successful transition on to the next phase of their educational journey and into adulthood

15. The new school will not replace other existing provision for pupils with special educational needs.

16. Boys and girls will be admitted by the new school.

17. The school will meet the general requirements in relation to the curriculum contained in Section 78 of EA 2002 (1) – that is, it will provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. As a voluntary aided school, religious education will be taught in line with Guildford Diocese's RE Guidelines.

Relevant experience of proposers

18. Guildford Diocesan Board of Education is the religious authority for the 83 Church of England schools in Guildford Diocese and the sponsor of The Good Shepherd Trust. The Diocese works collaboratively with the Local Authority using risk assessments to target support for schools where standards and/or performance are vulnerable. The diocesan education team also support senior staff appointments in church schools.

More recently, the Diocese has become a key partner in SAfE (Schools Alliance for Excellence), an alliance of schools, the Local Authority and other partners committed to delivering high quality, cohesive, school led improvement for all Surrey schools. The Diocese has also been commissioned as a consultant to ensure high quality teaching, learning and leadership in Church of England schools.

Englefield Green Infant School will close as a community school and reopen immediately as a voluntary aided Church of England school under this proposal. Englefield Green was inspected by OFSTED in January 2018 and judged to be Good. The inspector commented that 'the school fulfils its core aim of providing 'excellence in early education''. The headteachers of Englefield Green and St Jude's and the executive headteacher of Christ Church Virginia Water – all of whom are experienced school leaders – have been working together on the vision and educational provision for the new school and are confident that this collaborative model of working, together with the improved financial viability of a bigger school, will secure improved educational outcomes for the pupils of the new school.

Effects on standards and contributions to school improvement

19. The new school and nursery will be led and managed by an experienced school leader, responsible for appointing skilled staff who share non negotiables around teaching and learning. Expectations of staff and pupils will be made clear from the outset.

The new school will develop and maintain a robust approach to measuring pupil performance. The expectation is that all pupils will make at least expected progress from EYFS to the end of KS1. Equality of opportunity for all pupils will be central to the curriculum offer at the new school.

A continuous process of assessment will be used including: the use of tests and self assessment and drawing a range of evidence including observations, speaking and listening and written learning.

The new school will work in close partnership with local schools and established local professional networks; it will also work as part of the Guildford diocesan family of schools where it will both contribute to and receive support around school improvement. Already established local networks will provide support for benchmarking and moderation. Expertise from staff will be identified as used as professional support to other local schools.

Staff will have the opportunity for joint working in collaboration with the new school's feeder junior school, St Jude's C of E. This will provide additional capacity into the school improvement model which will operate between the schools. Staff will have opportunity for joint training, moderation and subject leadership which in turn will drive forwards educational standards and school improvement across the local pupil community. Governance across the two schools will ensure that expectations and standards are high, school leaders will be held to account.

The new school has the opportunity to be supported by educational leaders from SAFE/National Leader of Education during the establishment of the new school.

20. Location and costs

- a. The new school will predominantly serve the communities of Englefield Green and Virginia Water; children from other local communities will be able to apply for places in accordance with the admissions criteria
- b. The address of the current school is Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, Barley Mow Rd, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 ONP. The new school will operate from the same address.
- c. The land and buildings are currently owned by Surrey County Council and, in accordance with Schedule 2 Part 5 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, will be transferred to be held in trust by the trustees of the school when the new school opens. The trustees will in return transfer to Surrey County Council the land value of their Virginia Water site up to the land value of the Englefield Green site.
- d. The site is currently used by Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries as a community school. The same site will be occupied by the new voluntary aided school.

Travel

21. The proposers recognise that the journey to the Englefield Green site may be longer for a small number of children who currently attend Christ Church CofE Infant. Free transport to the new school will be provided for eligible pupils provided they meet the criteria. The criteria can be found on the Surrey County Council website at:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-transport/under-16-transport-to-school>

Federation

22. There are no proposals for federation as part of this proposal. Should the new school decide in future to form a federation with any other school, the governing body will initiate the necessary statutory consultation.

Voluntary aided schools

- 23.
- a. The site will be held on trust by the trustees of the present Christ Church VA Infant School.
 - b. The governing body of the proposed new school have confirmed their willingness to carry out their obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998 (3) ie to meet 10% of the costs of future capital investment in the school