

School Organisation Consultation

Proposal to close
Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery
(Voluntary Aided)

March 2018



SURREY

The Proposal

The Surrey County Council and the Diocese of Guildford are proposing to cease to maintain Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery so that the school closes from 31st August 2018.

Reasons for the Proposal

Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery is a voluntary aided school situated in the town of Godalming. It currently has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 30. The Wharf Children's Centre is co-located on the site.

Formerly St Mark's CofE Primary until 2008, Green Oak has had mixed Ofsted judgements over the last 10 years, ranging from good to requiring improvement and special measures. The school is currently rated inadequate following an inspection in January 2017.

The school, following its inadequate Ofsted Judgement, is subject to a directive Academy Order from the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). The effect of the Order is that the school must be placed within a multi-academy trust (MAT) to secure its future. If no MAT is identified to take the school forward then the school is subject to consultation on closure.

As Green Oak School is a Church of England school in the Diocese of Guildford and under the terms of the national memorandum of understanding between the National Society (Church of England) and the Department of Education, it is for the Diocese to agree a suitable sponsoring MAT for a Church school with the RSC. Any MAT which seeks to sponsor a Church school must be able to safeguard the religious character of the school. The RSC have stated that there is no appropriate MAT to sponsor the school.

The Council has a duty to ensure sufficient high quality education for its residents. Without confirmation of a sponsoring MAT the Council does not have confidence that sustainable high quality places can be secured at the school and as such it is necessary for the Council to undertake consultation on the future provision at the school.

Pupil numbers and admissions

Green Oak C of E Primary and Nursery School currently provides 210 places for years R to 6, with 30 places in each year. The school also currently has 10 pupils attending nursery classes.

The numbers on roll per school year group are as follows:

Year group	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Number on roll	12	13	13	15	11	18	11

Preferences for places at the school have decreased over recent years:

Academic year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
First preferences	17	19	10	8

Displaced pupils

If the school is to close, primary consideration needs to be given to protecting the learning of the existing pupils in securing appropriate education at another setting, and to ensuring sufficient numbers of school places in the local area moving forward. The Council will guarantee the offer of appropriate ongoing education placements for all existing pupils, including those with an Education Health and Care Plan. Parents additionally have the right to express a preference for any school at any time.

There may be a requirement for additional temporary classes at schools in the surrounding area from September 2018.

Applications for entry in September 2018

For families who have expressed a preference for Green Oak for September 2018 Reception entry, Surrey County Council will write to each applicant to advise them of the consultation and any further developments which may affect their application. The school will also be removed from the co-ordinated process so that preferences that have been named lower than Green Oak on their preference list would not be disadvantaged.

Impact on the community and travel

The Godalming area is served by a number of schools for infant and junior education. It is recognised that for the local community, journeys to other schools in the town may be longer but a reasonable distance.

In the event of closure in August 2018, children on the school roll at the end of the summer term 2018 may be eligible for assistance with travel costs, in line with policy, where the school they are moved to is over the statutory distance from their home.

Early Years Provision

The existing Nursery Provision on the site would close as it is part of the school. There are currently 10 children attending the nursery class. Early Years Commissioning Team are carrying out comprehensive review of sufficiency of places in the area and the potential impact of closure.

Future School Place Requirements

Current projections indicating the future demand for school places show that from 2019 any places lost through closing Green Oak would need to be provided elsewhere in order to maintain a sufficient number of places in the area. The Council is undertaking a review of the existing provision to establish where this additional provision would be best located. Any developments at other sites would be subject to individual consultation and, where appropriate, relevant planning permissions.

School Buildings

There are no current proposals for the future use of the school site. The ownership of the building and land is split between the County Council and Guildford Diocese, in addition, there is a covenant on the site that restricts what it can be used for which must be considered in any future options.

Next Steps

At the end of the consultation, the Council and Diocese will consider the responses and the Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Education will decide whether to issue statutory notices stating the intent to pursue the proposal. A Statutory Notice would then be published in the local press. A copy of the Notice will also be placed on the school notice board and in the local library. There will then be 4 weeks for anyone to comment on the proposal.

Responses to the Statutory Notice will be reported to Surrey County Council's Leader who will make the final decision regarding the proposal.

Have Your Say

We would like to know what local people think about the proposal.
This informal consultation opens on 5th March 2018 and runs for 6 weeks.

We will hold a public meeting at the school for parents and other interested parties to discuss the proposal and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend. You do not need to register your attendance prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held on the following date:

**Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery, Franklyn Road, Godalming GU7 2LD
on Wednesday 14th March at 6pm**

You can respond to the consultation by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website:

Either by the following link:

www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/green-oak

Or by going to the Surrey Says website www.surreysays.co.uk and searching for the school's consultation (school name or postcode), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations:

b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document.
You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below:

Green Oak Closure Consultation
Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DN

Or email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

c) You could also write to your local County Councillor:
c/o County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN

All responses must be received by 5pm on Monday 16th April 2018

Consultation Response Form

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Please give us your views. Tick the box that best shows what you think of the following question. Please also give any comments you have. You can write on the other side of this sheet if you would like more space to write comments.

Do you agree with the proposal to close Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery in August 2018?

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

Comments:

To help with our analysis of responses please will you tell us something about yourself? Tick the boxes that best apply to you:

A parent/carer of a child in an Early Years setting at the school site	
A parent/carer of a child who may in future attend the school	
A parent/carer of a child already attending the school	
A parent/carer of a child attending another local school	
Staff member at the school	
A governor of the school	
Other link to the school	
A resident living close/adjacent to the school	
Someone else with an interest – please give details:	

It would be helpful if you could give your postcode:	
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Please return by 5pm on Monday 16th April 2018 to:
 Green Oak CofE Primary School Consultation
 Room 326, County Hall
 Penrhyn Road
 Kingston upon Thames
 KT1 2DN

email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

