

# School Organisation Consultation

**Proposed change of age range  
and extension of premises at  
Meadowcroft Infant School**

**June  
2022**



## **Introduction**

This paper outlines a proposal by Surrey County Council, in cooperation with the Governing Body of Meadowcroft Infant School, to change the age range of Meadowcroft Infant School from a one-form entry infant school to a one-form entry primary school and extend their premises to accommodate the additional children. The statutory process and timescales for the expansion are detailed below.

## **Background**

1. Meadowcroft Infant School is a community school. The school is situated in Chertsey, within the borough of Runnymede.
2. At present, Meadowcroft Infant School is a one-form entry infant school for pupils aged 4-7 years, with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 and provides permanent accommodation for up to 90 pupils. The school is rated as “Good” by Ofsted in its last full inspection in November 2021.
3. St Ann’s Heath Junior School is a community school with a “Good” rating from Ofsted. The school is situated in Virginia Water and is a three-form entry junior school for pupils aged 7-11 years with a published admission number (PAN) of 90.
4. Children currently leave Meadowcroft Infant School at the end of Year 2 and parents make separate admission applications for Year 3 places. The admissions criteria for St Ann’s Heath Junior School currently lists Meadowcroft as a feeder school. If this proposal goes ahead, there will be a change to the admissions criteria and reduction to the PAN at St Ann’s Heath Junior proposed in conjunction.
5. Pupils leaving Meadowcroft are also able to seek Year 3 places at other junior schools or primary schools without a separate Year 3 intake, which can be offered subject to vacant places being available.

## **The Proposal**

6. It is proposed that Meadowcroft Infant School’s age range is changed to accommodate ages 4-11, becoming a 1FE primary school. This would allow for a roll of 210 pupils across the school.
7. Further building work will be required on the site of the school to provide appropriate accommodation for the additional pupils.
8. If the proposal to expand Meadowcroft to 210 places is successful, there will also be a consultation to amend the admissions criteria and reduce the PAN at St Ann’s Heath Junior School, from 90 to 60 places. This will be put forward through the School Admissions consultation process for September 2024.

## Rationale

9. This proposal provides Surrey County Council with the opportunity to re-organise primary places in an area of Chertsey by providing an all-through primary school which will benefit the local community and provide opportunities for siblings in a family to attend the same school. It would also ease the transition made by children when transferring from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2, as pupils will have the opportunity to remain at Meadowcroft School instead of transferring to another school for their junior education.
10. Historically, Meadowcroft Infant School has had no formal follow-on for junior provision and, as such, pupils have previously been offered places at different schools across Chertsey, Addlestone, Ottershaw, and beyond; based on wherever Year 3 vacancies existed at the time.
11. In 2014, Meadowcroft became a formal feeder school for St Ann's Heath Junior School to secure a junior pathway for Meadowcroft pupils.
12. However, St Ann's Heath is over three miles away from Meadowcroft and therefore some distance from the homes of Meadowcroft pupils, who tend to live near the infant school. This does affect parental preference and as a result, Meadowcroft suffers with fluctuating pupil numbers as parents elect to move their children at other points during the school year to avoid having to make a junior transition by securing a place in a local all-through primary school.
13. The proposed change of age range allows Meadowcroft Infant School to offer junior places. The increase in junior places in the Addlestone and Ottershaw planning area will then match the total number of Reception places available. This would improve the sustainability of the school without negatively impacting pupil numbers at other primary schools across Addlestone, Ottershaw and Runnymede.
14. Meadowcroft's 1<sup>st</sup> preferences have been affected over the years due to the uncertainty of local junior provision, as illustrated below:

Meadowcroft Infant School	
Academic year	No. 1st preferences
2022/23	9
2021/22	12
2020/21	9
2019/20	13
2018/19	9

15. St Ann's Heath Junior School also has fluctuating numbers due to the uncertainty of pupils transferring across from Meadowcroft. As a result, the school is now operating at two classes in some year groups rather than three.

The table below shows the numbers on roll (NOR) at St Ann's Heath Junior School from the last four years' October census data:

<b>St Ann's Heath Junior School</b>				
	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
<b>2018</b>	73	73	55	69
<b>2019</b>	88	76	76	56
<b>2020</b>	56	86	73	72
<b>2021</b>	78	54	83	68

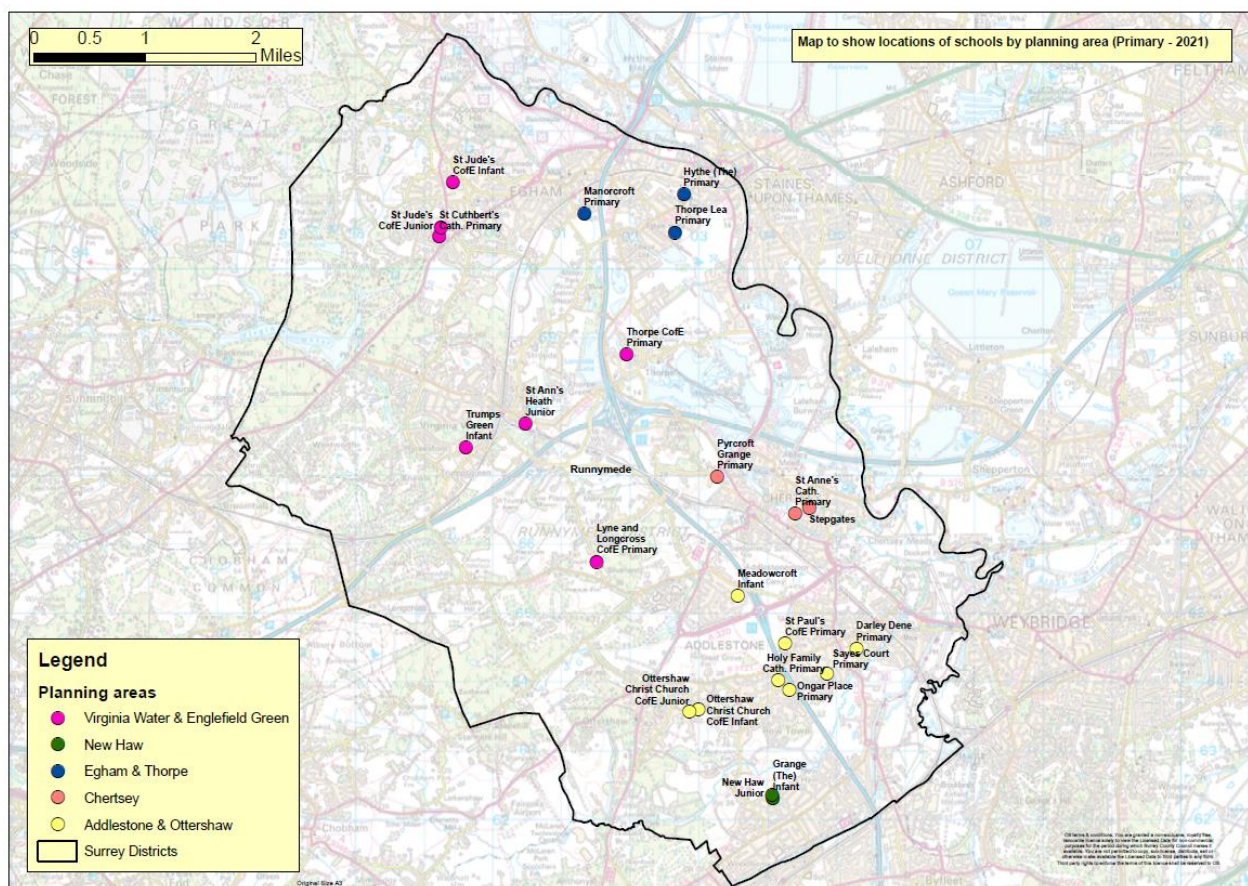
The table below shows the number of first preferences St Ann's Heath Junior School has received for September 2022 entry and the previous two intake years. The table also illustrates how many of the children allocated a place at St Ann's Heath Junior School attend Meadowcroft Infant School. In 2020-2021 only 13 children transitioned to St Ann's Heath Junior School from Meadowcroft Infant School.

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>St Ann's Heath Junior Preferences received</b>	<b>Number of children allocated St Ann's Heath Junior from Meadowcroft Infant</b>
<b>2020-2021</b>	81	13
<b>2021-2022</b>	99	22
<b>2022-2023</b>	97	25

## **Pupil Placement**

16. For the purposes of education place planning, Surrey County Council produce pupil projections based on planning areas. Planning areas do not have geographical boundaries but are groups of schools which reflect the local geography, reasonable travel distances and existing pupil movement patterns.
17. Despite Meadowcroft being located in Chertsey, it currently falls under the planning area of Addlestone and Ottershaw. St Ann's Heath currently falls under the planning area of Virginia Water and Englefield Green. Figure 2 below illustrates the location of the schools by planning area in Runnymede.

## Map to show Runnymede schools by planning area



18. The table below outlines the primary projections for the Addlestone and Ottershaw primary place planning area. Housing permissions and trajectories received from boroughs and districts are combined with birth data and pupil movement trends to create projections. Providing year 3 places at Meadowcroft from September 2024, will help reduce the forecasted deficit of places in the planning area. By moving the Year 3 places from St Ann's Heath to Meadowcroft, it enables a continuity of education within the area where they are most needed.

Addlestone and Ottershaw									
School year	Year R places	Year R Forecast	Surplus / Deficit	Current Year 3 places	Year 3 Forecast	Surplus / Deficit	Proposed Year 3 places	Year 3 Forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2024-25	270	273	-3	240	268	-28	270	268	2
2025-26	270	272	-2	240	267	-27	270	267	3
2026-27	270	270	0	240	265	-25	270	265	5
2027-28	270	269	1	240	252	-12	270	252	8
2028-29	270	271	-1	240	246	-6	270	246	24
2029-30	270	272	-2	240	242	-2	270	242	28
2030-31	270	272	-2	240	240	0	270	240	30

19. The table below outlines the primary projections for Virginia Water and Englefield Green primary place planning area. Though the forecasts indicate a deficit of places this can be managed by bulge class provision should it be required.

Virginia Water and Englefield Green									
School year	Year R places	Year R Forecast	Surplus / Deficit	Current Year 3 places	Year 3 Forecast	Surplus / Deficit	Proposed Year 3 places	Year 3 Forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2024-25	210	215	-5	240	254	-14	210	254	-44
2025-26	210	214	4	240	259	-19	210	259	-49
2026-27	210	210	0	240	253	-13	210	253	-43
2027-28	210	208	2	240	236	4	210	236	-26
2028-29	210	209	1	240	231	9	210	231	-21
2029-30	210	208	2	240	224	16	210	224	-14
2030-31	210	206	4	240	221	19	210	221	-11

20. Should this proposal be agreed for Meadowcroft to expand to a primary school, there will be subsequent proposals to amend the admissions criteria and PAN at St Ann's Heath Junior School. This will mean that there is a complete match of infant and junior places across the borough, and lead to improved strategic place planning.

21. The proposal will enable Meadowcroft to start providing Key Stage 2 places from September 2024. The Year 2 class for 2023/24 would transfer into the newly established Year 3 class in September 2024/25, and Key Stage 2 will increase incrementally each year as each new Reception cohort is admitted. The new accommodation provided would allow adequate space for these pupils to move through the junior phase. Meadowcroft Infant School would be operating as a full 1FE primary school from September 2027/28 onwards, as shown below.

Meadowcroft Infant School	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2023/24	30	30	30					90
2024/25	30	30	30	30				120
2025/26	30	30	30	30	30			150
2026/27	30	30	30	30	30	30		180
2027/28	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

Changing the age range at Meadowcroft Infant School:

- Will allow pupils to transition through the school from Reception year, without the need to apply elsewhere giving them and their families the reassurance of a continuity of educational provision
- Will seek to enhance pupils' experiences, enabling higher standards of education to be provided
- The school can deliver the curriculum in a continuous and coherent way, putting them in a stronger position to plan for both continuity and progression in learning
- Provides the opportunity to build partnerships with pupils, parents and families over a longer period of time
- Will enable siblings to remain together during their primary education, rather than parents having to travel to two different schools
- Will create a sustainable school to serve the local community

## **School Building Requirements**

22. A programme of building works at the school will improve the general fabric of the school buildings and enhance the learning experience for pupils, parents and staff. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, further work will be required to the existing site to make it suitable for the additional 120 pupils. This would involve the demolition of the caretaker's property and the creation of 4 new classrooms. Any further works would be subject to the requirements for planning permission and building control.
  
23. Due to the small school site sufficient playing field space for junior-aged pupils to access for physical education has been sourced off site at St Paul's CofE Primary School, Addlestone.

## **Consultations, approvals and overall timescales**

24. Where possible, Surrey County Council's strategy is to expand high quality provision that meets parental demand, whilst also ensuring that there is also a diverse pattern of provision to provide families with some element of choice. This proposal seeks to reorganise places between Meadowcroft Infant School and St Ann's Heath Junior School supporting both schools in their future sustainability.
25. The proposed changes require a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning if the proposal is to proceed.
26. The first stage of consultation will be informal and will commence in June 2022. During this period Surrey County Council will share its proposals with schools including head teachers and chairs of governors; with unions; parent representatives; partner agencies; local residents; and with the staff and parents of Meadowcroft Infant School. (Further details of stakeholders can be found on a separate document).
27. A pre-planning meeting to support the feasibility of the project will be held in parallel with the first stage of consultation.
28. Following the informal consultation period it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a four week period. The publication of Notices is when the Local Authority formally states the changes that it proposes to make. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken.
29. Following the consultation periods, officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning.
30. A decision is proposed for Autumn 2022.

## Have Your Say

Surrey County Council and Meadowcroft Infant School would like to know what the community think about the proposal. The consultation opens on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. We are specifically looking for your views on the educational aspects of this proposal.

You can respond by:

- a) Using the online survey. You can access the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website by searching for "Meadowcroft Infant School" or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.
- b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document and emailing it to [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk) with the subject "FAO Meadowcroft Infant School - change of age range"
- c) Printing and completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document and sending it back to the address below:

Education Place Planning Team  
35 Quadrant Court  
Guildford Road  
Woking GU22 7QQ

**All responses must be received by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

## What happens next?

We are going to hold a public consultation drop-in session at Meadowcroft School where you can express your views, obtain more information and have your questions answered. The details of the meeting are as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meadowcroft School</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July between 2:30pm and 6pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please come and share your views</b></p>
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At the end of the Consultation, Surrey County Council will consider the responses and decide whether to proceed with the proposal.

## Where can I get more information?

You can find out more by contacting:

Education Place Planning



Quadrant Court  
35 Guildford Road  
Woking  
Surrey  
GU22 7QQ

email: [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

web: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk)

### **Can I write to you with my views?**

Surrey County Council would like to know what the community thinks about this proposal. The consultation will open on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

You can respond by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk) and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.

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

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Email [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk) with the subject heading: FAO Meadowcroft Infant School change of age range

**All responses must be received by noon on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>  
September 2022.**

# Consultation Response Form

## Proposal to change the age range of Meadowcroft Infant School

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

1. Do you agree with the proposal to change the age range at Meadowcroft Infant School from September 2024?

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

Comments:

Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

A parent/carer of a child at the school

A parent/carer of a child in an Early Years setting

A parent/carer of a child who may in future attend the school

A parent/carer of a child at another school

Someone who works at the school

A Governor of the school

Some other link to the school

Someone else with an interest – please give details

It would also be helpful if you could give your postcode

Please return to:  
Education Place Planning  
Quadrant Court  
35 Guildford Road  
Woking  
Surrey  
GU22 7QQ  
email: [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

Please tick if you have written comments on the other side

