

School Organisation Consultation

**Expansion of Pyncroft Grange
Primary School**

**December
2020**



Bourne
Education
Trust



**Pyncroft
Grange**
Primary School



SURREY

The proposal

Surrey County Council, in co-operation with the Governing Body of Pycroft Grange Primary School and Bourne Education Trust, is proposing to:

- Expand Pycroft Grange Primary School from one form of entry (1FE) at Year R to two forms of entry (2FE) at Year R, to provide 420 places overall in Year R to Year 6.
- Build additional permanent classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.

The enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2022. The school will expand incrementally - that is, older year groups would remain unchanged as they move through the school, but each mainstream Reception intake would be 60 pupils from 2022 onwards.

The current position

- Pycroft Grange Primary School has permanent accommodation for 210 pupils in Years R to 6
- The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30
- The school has a SEND specialist centre, with places being separately offered

Why are we proposing to expand Pycroft Grange Primary School?

Runnymede is experiencing an increase in the demand for school places. Although there has been a general decline and plateau in Surrey's birth rate since 2013, Runnymede borough has seen peaks and troughs with a considerable increase in 2018. However, given the general trend of decline, it is likely that additional pupil demand will be generated by housing and migration rather than underlying demographic trends.

In Chertsey and the surrounding area, demand for primary school places has significantly increased. A one-form entry expansion at Pycroft Grange will help to bridge the projected gap between the supply of and demand for primary school places in the area.

The school is on an attractive site centrally located in relation to pupil demand. It is a popular, oversubscribed school and received 76 1st preference applications for Reception places in September 2020, which is 46 more applications than places available. For the last three years, the school has only been able to offer places to pupils who live very close to the school, with the average home to school distance of the last place offered being only 0.6km by straight line distance. Therefore, expanding this school will not only cater for a greater number of local children, but also promote parental preference by allowing the school to admit more applicants who name the school as a preferred option.

Furthermore, 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.

We also feel that there are specific education benefits of the school increasing in size, including:

- Increased staff numbers, with a greater diversity of experience, leading to educational development and progress;
- Greater opportunities for staff development/recruitment;
- Greater flexibility with a larger budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively; and
- Greater opportunities for curriculum development and school clubs.

The need for additional primary places in Runnymede

Within Runnymede as a whole, there is currently provision for 840 places per year in Year Reception. Schools are divided into planning areas, which do not have geographical boundaries, but instead are groups of schools that reflect the local geography, reasonable travel distances and existing pupil movement patterns.

The schools located in the planning area of Chertsey and its neighbouring planning area of Addlestone & Ottershaw are set out below:

School name	Year R PAN	Planning area
Pycroft Grange Primary School	30	Chertsey
Stepgates Primary School	30	
St Anne's Catholic Primary School	60	
Meadowcroft Infant School	30	Addlestone & Ottershaw
Darley Dene Primary School	30	
St Paul's CofE Primary School	60	
Sayes Court Primary School	30	
Ongar Place Primary School	30	
Ottershaw Christ Church CofE Infant School	60	
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	30	

Demand for primary school places in the Chertsey and Addlestone & Ottershaw planning areas is projected to rise over the coming years, in line with the general increase in demand across the whole of the borough. Projections of future demand for school places are presented in the below tables:

Chertsey			
Academic year	Total PAN for planning area	Year R forecast	Deficit
2021-22	120	133	-13
2022-23	120	130	-10
2023-24	120	137	-17
2024-25	120	137	-17
2025-26	120	139	-19
2026-27	120	137	-17
2027-28	120	134	-14
2028-29	120	133	-13
2029-30	120	131	-11

Addlestone & Ottershaw			
Academic year	Total PAN for planning area	Year R forecast	Deficit
2021-22	270	288	-18
2022-23	270	281	-11
2023-24	270	287	-17
2024-25	270	288	-18
2025-26	270	289	-19
2026-27	270	285	-15
2027-28	270	282	-12
2028-29	270	282	-12
2029-30	270	280	-10

In addition to the above and taking into account recent organisational changes that have been made in adjacent planning areas, there is a sustained need for additional school places in the area. A core component of the strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of Pycroft Grange Primary School by one form of entry, which (if approved) would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 30 places.

School building requirements

The school has capacity to expand in its existing location. A building programme will be required to provide the permanent facilities to allow for this increase. The planning application process will provide an opportunity to raise issues relating to the proposed building and implications including traffic, school facilities, energy and the impact on the

local community and access. Responses to the education consultation should focus on the educational implications of the proposed change.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

The proposal is that Pycroft Grange Primary School permanently expands to 2FE from 1 September 2022. The proposed changes require a period of consultation and a business case to be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for approval.

The first stage of the process is the consultation which opens on Tuesday 1 December 2020. During this period the proposals will be shared with schools including head teachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies, local residents, Bourne Education Trust and with the staff, parents and pupils of Pycroft Grange Primary School.

Following the consultation period, all responses will be collated, and the proposed expansion will be subject to the relevant decision making processes of the council, the academy trust and the RSC.

Have Your Say

We would like to know what the community thinks about our proposal. There is a Consultation Response Form enclosed with this leaflet.

You can respond by:

- a) Using the online survey. You can access the consultation online on the '[Surrey Says' website](#) by searching for "Pycroft Grange Primary 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 with the subject "FAO Pycroft Grange Primary School Expansion"
- c) Printing and completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document and sending it back to the address below:

Lauren Comer (c/o Admissions and Transport team)
Pycroft Grange Primary School expansion
Quadrant Court
35 Guildford Road
Woking
Surrey
GU22 7QQ

The consultation will be open until 5pm on **Tuesday 12 January 2021**.

What happens next?

We will hold an online public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend, please email school.org@surreycc.gov.uk to register your interest and you will be sent a link to the online event.

The online event will be held on **Tuesday 15 December at 7:30pm**. There will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers.

Please join to share your views and ask questions. You do not have to have a child at the school to join the meeting.

Consultation Response Form

Proposal to expand Pycroft Grange Primary School to two forms of entry from September 2022

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 expand Pycroft Grange Primary School from September 2022?

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:
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email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

Please tick if you have written comments on the other side

