

School Organisation Consultation



Expansion at Pyncroft Grange Primary School



March 2016

The Proposal

Pyncroft Grange Primary School (Pyncroft Grange), in conjunction with the Bourne Education Trust (BET) and Surrey County Council (SCC), is seeking the views of parents, staff, residents and other local stakeholders on a proposal to permanently expand the school.

This document is part of a consultation process which opens on Monday 29 February 2016 and closes on Sunday 27 March 2016. At the end of the consultation period a decision can then be taken by the Governing Body and the academy trust as to whether to make the changes described below.

This consultation relates only to the educational and organisational debate about providing more school places locally. Only if a positive decision is made to expand the school will a formal planning application be submitted; this will have a separate consultation that will take into account comments about the building proposals, traffic and parking issues around the school site.

Details of the proposed changes to the school

Pyncroft Grange is currently a one form entry (1FE) primary school. The current capacity of the mainstream school is 210, which is 30 places in each year group, with places in the Specialist Centre being separately offered. It is proposed that Pyncroft Grange becomes a two form entry primary school (2FE) from September 2017 with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60. The school's overall mainstream capacity would increase to 420 (60 in each year group).

If this proposal were to go ahead it would mean that from September 2017, Pyncroft Grange would admit two classes into its Reception year group on a permanent basis. 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 2017 onwards.

Consequently the school would reach its maximum capacity of 420 pupils (2FE in every year group) by September 2023. This capacity may be achieved a year earlier if the school agrees to admit a temporary bulge class into Reception for September 2016. The decision as to whether to do this will be made separately by the Governing Body.

If this expansion proposal were to go ahead, SCC may also consider changes to the Specialist Centre at the school, which currently has 18 places. The details of any changes are yet to be determined and, if proposed, would be subject to a separate consultation process in due course.

The expansion proposal also includes some new building and internal remodelling of the school's accommodation to provide sufficient rooms to enable it to operate as a 2FE primary school. The details of what is required, including staff parking and school travel plan, are still being developed with the governors. A building programme will be the subject of a separate planning consultation once the principle of whether the school will be expanded has been agreed. It should be noted that the school expansion building programme would be funded by SCC as this is considered to be a project aimed to meet the basic need for more primary places in the area.

Why are we making these proposals?

Providing Sufficient School Places

The 1996 Education Act places a duty on Local Authorities to ensure that there are sufficient school places within their jurisdiction. The Audit Commission recommends that there should be approximately a 5% surplus of places in an area to allow flexibility in responding to parental preference and to account for unexpected changes in pupil numbers (i.e. such as pupils moving into the area). Surrey has had an unprecedented increase in demand for primary school places over the last ten years and Runnymede Borough has reflected this trend. SCC's pupil forecast data indicates that there is still a need for more primary school places across the more urban east of the borough. A number of primary school expansions have already been completed and the residual demand is now for one more form of entry in this locality.

Year	Number of places (Yr R)	Pupils	Surplus/deficit	% surplus/deficit
2013/14	880	880	0	0%
2014/15	880	827	53	6%
2015/16	880	840	40	4.5%
2016/17	880	902	-22	-2.5%
2017/18	880	859	21	2%
2018/19	880	865	15	2%
2019/20	880	877	3	0.5%
2020/21	880	884	-4	-0.5%
2021/22	880	885	-5	-0.5%
2022/23	880	893	-13	-1.5%

The chart above represents the situation in the borough of Runnymede **if we do nothing more**. This shows that there will be additional school places required in 2016, and in the longer term, and that the current situation does not meet the 5% surplus of places recommended by the Audit Commission to allow for in-year migration. Although the surplus of places between 2017 and 2019 may seem to indicate capacity, this masks particular pockets of demand from the urban towns. The chart below shows the currently forecast situation specifically for the Chertsey planning area and its adjacent areas:

Academic year	Forecast deficit - Chertsey area	Deficit of places forecast in adjacent planning areas	TOTAL forecast deficit
2016-17	-17	-12	-29
2017-18	-10	-6	-16
2018-19	-11	-4	-15
2019-20	-14	-9	-23
2020-21	-15	-13	-28
2021-22	-16	-14	-30

Nb. Forecasts do not offer guarantees as they are subject to changes in births, pupil movement trends and housing data.

Why are we proposing that Pyrcroft Grange becomes 2FE?

The forecast demand demonstrates a basic need for one more form of entry in this area in the longer term. The Local Authority has considered all the local schools as options for expansion but has concluded, for a number of reasons, that Pyrcroft Grange would be the most appropriate school. This is why Surrey County Council has approached the Governing Body of Pyrcroft Grange and BET and asked them to consider the possibility of 'growing' the school to 2FE over a period of time.

Ensuring a good quality education

When bringing forward proposals to provide more school places, Local Authorities and academy trusts are required to consider expanding existing popular and successful schools. That is to say, schools that have a proven track record for providing a good quality of education and are over-subscribed. Pyrcroft Grange has undergone a period of rapid improvement, and is now regularly oversubscribed. For September 2016, there are 35 first preference applications for the school's 30 mainstream reception places, and overall the school has received 83 preference applications.

Reducing journeys between schools

In addition the proposal potentially reduces the need for car journeys by parents as the intention is to provide school places in the urban environment where people can feasibly walk their children to school. Mapping has shown that typically around 60% of Pyrcroft Grange's school population live within one mile of the school.

How will this proposal be implemented?

If the school were to permanently expand to 2FE throughout it would need additional classroom accommodation. This project would fund building work to ensure that there was sufficient provision to accommodate the additional 210 pupils that would eventually join the school. The project would be carefully planned to allow for pupil safety, minimum disruption to teaching and learning and ensure that every class had an appropriate teaching space during the construction.

Have Your Say

We would like to know what parents, staff and residents think about this proposal. There is a consultation response form at the end of this leaflet which can be completed or you can visit www.surreysays.org.uk and complete an online survey response. The consultation opens on **Monday 29 February 2016** and runs for four weeks. There will be two public meetings held at the school for parents, staff and other stakeholders to come and express their views on this proposal, obtain more information and have questions answered as far as possible.

Public meetings will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 2.30pm and 7pm at Pycroft Grange Primary School. All welcome, you do not need to register your attendance or have a child at the school.

Please note, this consultation is specifically regarding the educational rationale of the expansion proposal. No information on the design of the building or traffic mitigations will be available at the meetings at this stage; questions of this nature will be best addressed in the subsequent planning consultation.

Statutory Notice

If this proposal is agreed by the Governing Body, then the relevant Statutory Notice relating to a school expansion will be issued. This will be published in the local press, on the school's website and on the school gate.

Respond to this consultation

Please complete and return your consultation response by **Sunday 27 March 2016**.

You can do this in one of the following ways:

- By using the Surrey County Council consultation website www.surreysays.co.uk
- By completing the form attached to this document and emailing it to schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
- By completing the form attached to this document and handing it in at the school.

Next Steps

School Expansion Consultation

Surrey County Council's School Commissioning Team will analyse the consultation responses and a summary of them will be included in a report to governors.

The Pycroft Grange Governing Body will then determine whether or not to go ahead with the school expansion proposal. If the decision is to proceed with the expansion, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) will be formally asked to confirm the expansion. There is no right of appeal once the decision has been ratified by the RSC.

Then the Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement will be asked to approve the budget in terms of the council's financial commitment to a specific building scheme.

NB This consultation process is separate to any subsequent planning application. A planning application will be submitted if the Governing Body determines to go ahead with the expansion. The planning notices will include information on building design and traffic considerations. This separate consultation process will be advertised and interested parties will have another opportunity to respond with comments.

Pycroft Grange Primary Consultation Response Form

Proposal to expand Pycroft Grange Primary School (an academy) to two forms of entry from September 2017

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

Do you agree with the proposal to expand Pycroft Grange to two forms of entry from Sept 2017?

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 resident living close/adjacent to the school	
A parent/carer of a child who may in future attend Pycroft Grange Primary	
A parent/carer of a child already attending Pycroft Grange Primary	
A parent/carer of a child attending another local school	
Staff member at Pycroft Grange Primary School	
A Governor of Pycroft Grange Primary School	
Some other link to Pycroft Grange Primary School	
Someone else with an interest – please give (optional) post code here:	

SCC has a duty to monitor the impact of its policies under The Equalities Act. The law defines the following 'protected characteristics' and seeks to prevent discrimination on these grounds: age, sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership.

If you are in a protected group and believe that these proposals may have an adverse impact on you or your child, please indicate this on the response form overleaf.

Please tick if you have written overleaf

