Consultation document for a proposal to permanently expand Stapeley Broad Lane Church of England Primary School

Consultation Period Thursday 26th April – Thursday 24th May 2018.

This consultation document sets out:

- Information about Stapeley Broad Lane Church of England Primary School
- Why we need more school places in the Nantwich area
- Why we are proposing that Stapeley Broad Lane C of E Primary expands
- The expansion proposal
- How you can give your views
- What happens after the consultation
- The consultation timetable

Stapeley Broad Lane Church of England Primary School

Stapeley Broad Lane CE Primary School is situated in a semi – rural location on the outskirts of Nantwich. The original school building dates back to 1854, although much modernisation and building work has taken place over the years which has resulted in all classes now being housed in the same building. The school currently comprises seven classrooms, staff room, office, hall, kitchen and separate out of school club rooms. Governors have previously gained planning permission for a three classroom extension to address suitability issues.

Since September 2015 parents, staff and visitors have been able to use a designated car park at the side of the school improving the safe access onto the school site.

The school serves the catchment area of Stapeley, Hatherton, Batherton and parts of London Road and Audlem Road. As a church school it has very close links with St Chad’s Parish Church in Wybunbury and the Chester Diocesan Board of Education.
Why do we need more primary school places in Nantwich?

The council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient pupil places to meet the current and future demand for pupils living in the area. The need for pupil places is determined in planning areas; Nantwich and the surrounding villages are divided into 3 areas. Stapeley Broad Lane is part of the planning area that centres on the town’s schools and immediate surrounding area.

Like several areas in Cheshire East, Nantwich has been facing a growth in the demand for places driven by housing developments. Currently there are 26 approved housing developments of 11 houses or more in the Nantwich area including the large Kingsley Fields development with an anticipated 1100 houses. The latest forecasts include a total of 192 anticipated pupils from these developments but there are a further 160 anticipated beyond this forecasting period until 2030. Table 1 shows the additional forecasted shortfall of places in the Nantwich Town Planning Area.

In addition, the 2% level of operational surplus is intended to facilitate admission mid year, some degree of parental choice and reasonable journey times to school.

Table 1 – Primary Forecasts for Nantwich Planning Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nantwich Town Planning Area – Pupil Forecasts Shortfall (-) or Surplus Places (+)</th>
<th>Nantwich Town Planning Area – Pupil Forecasts Including 2% operational surplus(27 places)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why are we proposing that Stapeley Broad Lane C of E Primary School expands?

There are several criteria looked at when deciding to expand a school.

- Size of school site
- Parental preference
- Standards (OFSTED rating)
- Proximity to the housing developments

The school has regularly received more applications for places than the 30 PAN over the past five years and has recently admitted more pupils into its Key Stage 2 classes due to the demand for places across the local area.

Stapeley Broad Lane is currently rated as ‘Outstanding’ by OFSTED.

Two of the largest housing developments are within the school’s catchment area.

The expansion proposal

Currently the school admits 30 children into the reception class in September of each year making the overall capacity 210 places overall, 1 form of entry, for years reception to year 6.
The proposal is to permanently expand the school from one form of entry, 210 places, to one and half form of entry, 315 places. This will mean that the school would increase its Published Admission Number from 30 to 45 children per year and if the proposal goes ahead 45 places will be offered to children applying for reception places from September 2020. However, if the demand for places is there the governing body have the right to admit over the Current PAN of 30 prior to this date.

Construction will have to take place to enlarge/adapt the school ready for September 2020. This construction will create more teaching space and add new/improved facilities, including a new main entrance to the school. The school will receive additional funding for the increase in pupils to allow for extra teachers and the resources and equipment needed to accommodate extra children. The school would continue to add extra pupils in the following years - Key Stage 1 in September 2020 and Key Stage 2 in 2021, by which time it will have 45 children per year group equating to 315 children from Reception to Year 6.

In considering this proposal, a feasibility study has been commissioned including different options for the site and the possibilities for the construction project including all associated costs. The details of these options will be negotiated with the school’s representatives and their architects in partnership with Cheshire East to ensure minimum disruption to existing pupils in the creation of high quality learning spaces and facilities to meet the needs of the local community.

**How can you give your views?**

We will be holding a drop-in session at the school on the 3 May from 4 - 5.30 p.m. At this meeting the school and a representative of the local authority will be available to talk about the proposal and seek views. You can also:

- Complete the attached paper questionnaire and hand it into the school office, post or email it to the school.
- Complete the Electronic Survey on line at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

**What happens after the consultation?**

All the feedback will be collated and reported back to the governing body of Stapeley Broad Lane C of E Primary School. They will make a decision on whether to go ahead with the expansion based upon the feedback and the pressure of primary places in the area. In addition, the Local Authority will consider the feedback received in order to approve the funding of the proposal.

If a decision to expand is taken, then the school will notify the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) which will include the responses to the consultation and the schools response to that. The Secretary of State will then consider the proposed expansion, and the ESFA will notify the school of the Secretary of State’s decision regarding the proposal.

**Process**

1. The school carries out a 4 week consultation with stakeholders including parents/carers and local residents
2. Consultation meeting at the school
3. Responses collated
4. Analysis of responses
5. Outcomes report produced
6. Secretary of State approval requested
7. Approval or rejection for the Secretary of State
8. ESFA notifies the school of the decision and takes necessary action
9. The school implements proposed change (if approved)

**Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Start of consultation</td>
<td>26th April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Public consultation meeting</td>
<td>3 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Deadline for feedback and comments</td>
<td>24th May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Analysis of responses</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Consultation outcomes report produced</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Approval from Secretary of State sought</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Secretary of State considers proposal</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 ESFA notifies school of decision</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Implementation of proposal</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>