

Statutory proposals for a prescribed alteration

School and Local Authority details:

School: Allerton Church of England Primary School, Lingfield Approach, Leeds, LS17 7HL
Local Authority: Leeds City Council, The Director of Children and Families, Sufficiency and Participation Team, c/o Leeds Town Hall, PO Box 837, Leeds, LS1 9PZ.

Description of alteration:

The proposal is to permanently increase the capacity of Allerton Church of England Primary School, a voluntary controlled school, from 420 to 630 pupils with effect from 1 September 2018. The current admission number for the school is 60 into Reception each year (aged from four) and the proposed admission number for Reception each year is 90 (aged from four). This permanent increase would apply to Reception classes from September 2018 and it would therefore take several years for the school to reach its full capacity. It should be noted that the school has already admitted additional children into its reception class during three separate years (2014, 2016, 2017) and therefore is already part of the way towards the upper limit of 630 pupils that this proposal recommends.

No new or additional site is required for these changes. The school will expand on its existing site. Some additional building and/or remodelling of existing buildings will be required. This will be phased in agreement with the school, and be subject to the normal planning permission process.

Evidence of demand:

Leeds City Council has permanently increased primary places across the Alwoodley and Roundhay areas over a number of years and more recently bulge cohorts, (where a school admits children above its published admission number as a temporary increase) have been agreed at a number of local schools to address the ongoing demand for places.

A review of births and children aged under 5 based on NHS data, as well as admissions data spanning the last few years, has highlighted the need for additional primary school provision in the Alwoodley area. The number of children living nearest to Allerton Church of England Primary School and Alwoodley Primary School exceeds the number of available places for the foreseeable future, and over the past few years there has been an additional pressure on available places for children living in the east of the area. In addition the Governing Body of Brodetsky Jewish Primary School, as its own admitting authority, recently ran a public consultation to reduce its Published Admission Number from 45 to 30. The Local Authority did not support this change however this will take effect for admissions from September 2018.

This proposal would help to address the longer term need for more school places as outlined above.

Effect on other schools:

Alwoodley has a range of existing types of primary provision including Community, Church of England, Catholic, Jewish and Sikh Ethos. Allerton Church of England Primary School is a voluntary controlled school and therefore does not admit children under a faith priority.

The council has a duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice. Creating 30 additional permanent

places each year at Allerton Church of England Primary School will provide more choice for local families and help ease the ongoing demand for places. Based on the expected demand for school places across Alwoodley and to the east of the area, along with the success of temporary additional places in recent years at Allerton Church of England Primary School, Leeds City Council would anticipate that an increase in places at this school will not have any negative impact on other local schools.

Objectives:

The council has a duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice. Creating 30 additional permanent places each year at Allerton Church of England Primary School will provide more choice for local families and help ease the ongoing demand for places.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of Allerton Church of England School are confident that its dedicated staff team can meet the needs of every child who attends the school. SLT will continue to rigorously monitor the progress of children; ensuring high standards of teaching and learning are consistently delivered as children progress through each phase of school. The school is part of Noctua Teaching School Alliance, and its experienced middle and senior leaders are committed to improving outcomes for children in the school, but also share their skills and knowledge with colleagues in other schools through the Senior Leadership programme. The school welcomes the opportunity to enable more children to benefit from its commitment to developing respect, caring, tolerance, kindness, honesty and openness.

This proposal contributes to the city's aspiration to be the best council, the best city in which to grow up and a child friendly city. The delivery of pupil places through the Learning Places Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a child friendly city. By creating good quality local school places we can support the priority aim of improving educational achievement and closing achievement gaps. In turn, by providing young people with the skills they need for life, these proposals provide underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy by compassionate means. A good quality school place also contributes towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to improve behaviour, attendance and achievement. It is important when bringing any proposal forward that there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on teaching and learning. Allerton Church of England Primary School was rated Good in its January 2017 Ofsted inspection and was judged to be Outstanding in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMs) report in January 2017. The Governing Body believe that it can manage the change whilst maintaining standards.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The proposal is to permanently increase the capacity of Allerton Church of England Primary School, a voluntary controlled school, from 420 to 630 pupils with effect from 1 September 2018. The current admission number for the school is 60 into Reception each year (aged from four) and the proposed admission number for Reception each year is 90 (aged from four). No new or additional site is required for these changes. The school would expand on its existing site. Some additional building and/or remodelling of existing buildings would be required. This would be phased in agreement with the school, and be subject to the normal planning permission process.

Project costs:

Cautious indicative budgets, based on high-level calculations, are estimated at £3.9m for the proposed expansion of Allerton Church of England Primary School. The proposed scheme would be subject to planning permission. Once the feasibility stage was complete and schemes proceeded to the detailed design phase, budgets would be realigned to reflect that all parties have agreed the final design and cost estimates, which would take account of site investigations and survey information, in accordance with standard project and risk management principles. Schemes would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation. This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme through Basic Need allocations.

The proposal to increase primary provision in the Alwoodley area has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2018. A decision not to proceed at this stage may result in a fresh consultation on new proposals, and places may not be delivered in time. It may also result in further bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools which may be more costly in the longer term. The Local Authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may be at risk if this proposal did not go ahead.

A new school is not proposed because options are available to increase existing school provision at an existing 'Good' school, which is more cost effective. The level of additional need required in the Alwoodley area does not justify the consideration of a new school at this time.

Support, objections and comments:

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 4pm on 5 February 2018 any person may submit comments, support or objections on the proposal to Leeds City Council, Sufficiency and Participation Team, c/o Leeds Town Hall, PO Box 837, Leeds, LS1 9PZ, or by email to educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk