



Consultation Document

**Proposal to introduce
Primary school places at
St Peter's Voluntary Academy
Trust
(Iford site)**

Chair of Governors Mrs Jan Wyatt

Head Teacher Mr David Todd, M.A. B.Ed, NPQH
April 2013

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Summary

The Governors and Head Teacher of St Peter's Voluntary Academy Trust are proposing a change in the numbers of children who will enter the school from September 2014

This document explains the proposals and asks for your views.

If you require this document in a different language please contact:
Samuel Richardson, School Organisation Team,
Bournemouth Borough Council, CSS THE3, Bourne Avenue,
Bournemouth BH2 6DY
01202 454904

St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy Trust

April 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

You may already be aware of the proposal to expand St Peter's Academy Trust (St Peter's) by introducing a Primary provision at the school's Iford site, starting September 2014. As you will see from the information in this pack there is a growing demand for school places locally and as we are the only Catholic secondary school in the area governors feel it is appropriate that we work with the Local Authority in meeting this increase in demand for Catholic primary school places.

What will this mean for our school?

- A new building developed specifically to cater for primary aged pupils.
- Some potential upgrades to existing facilities to allow the shared use across the whole school.
- An adapted management and governance structure to reflect the new 'all through' nature of the school, including some primary specialists.
- Two main admission points of entry, 60 places at reception year and a further 180 places at year 7.

What will this mean for our community?

- More Catholic primary school places to offer to local children in our Catholic community who would otherwise be unable to access a Catholic primary education.

We appreciate the complexity of the building process and school expansion, and as governors we are already working to anticipate and address any adverse affects that may occur. We will work closely with the Local Authority and contractors to minimise any disruption to the children's education and ensure high levels of safety throughout the building programme. The effects of an increase in traffic flow to the extended school are currently being assessed by the Local Authority, who will then seek to minimise any potential problems, including looking at potential alternative access to the school site.

We have sought the approval of the De La Salle order, who are joint trustees of the Academy, and they are happy to support the proposal. As governors we welcome the expansion proposal because we believe that the new facilities will support the school in its fundamental purpose of raising standards for all our pupils whilst allowing us to maintain our strong Catholic ethos and further our Lasallian tradition.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Wyatt
Chair of Governors

David Todd
Headteacher

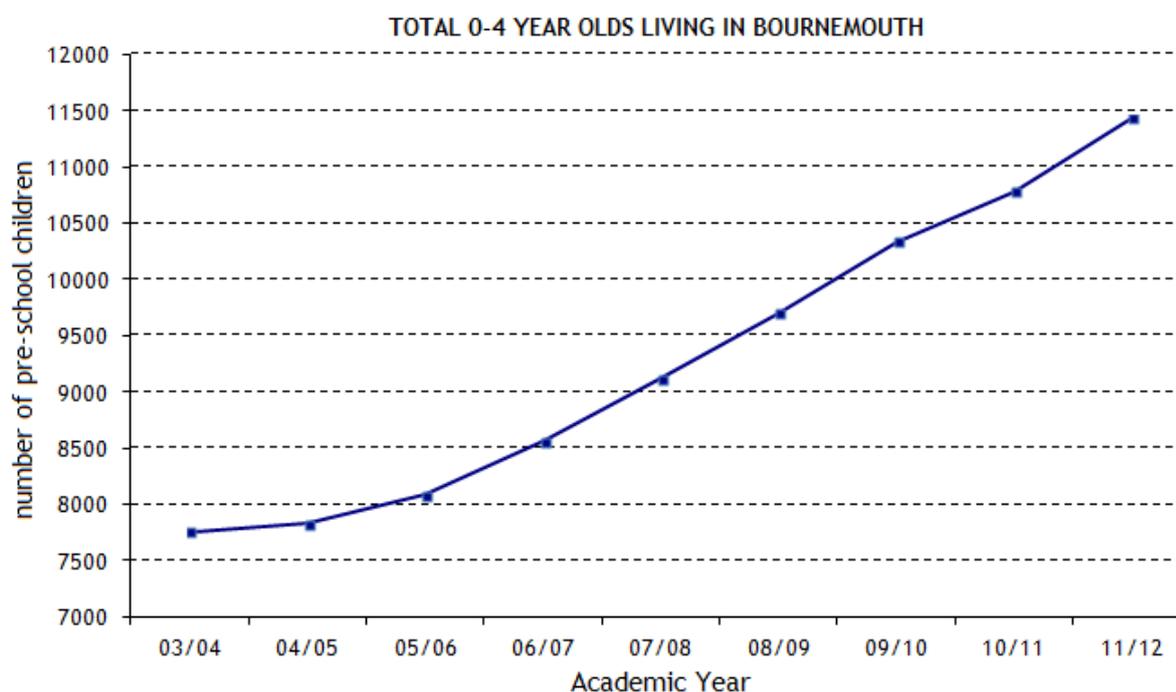
2. PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ST PETER'S ACADEMY TRUST

CURRENT POSITION

Bournemouth Borough Council is responsible for the educational provision in the Borough. This includes the planning and provision of educational services, including the establishment of new schools.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for children resident in Bournemouth, of statutory school age. To achieve this, the council has to keep the number of school places under review and to take the appropriate steps to manage the position where necessary. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also requires local authorities to adopt a strategic role, with a duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access to school provision.

The number of 0 year olds in the Borough has increased for the 7th consecutive year (47% since 2005), which has led to an increase in the number of Reception age children needing a school place and this is forecast to continue. However this increase is unlikely to be distributed evenly across the Borough.

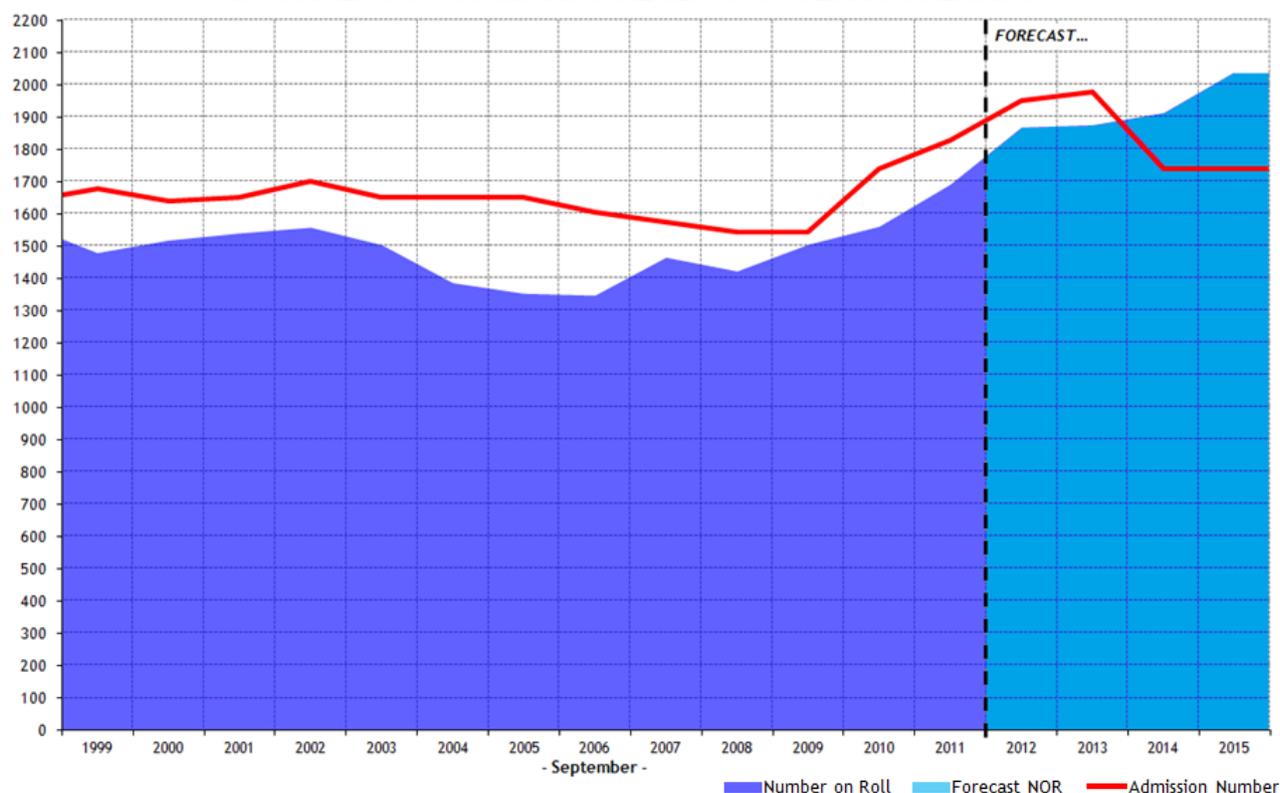


There are currently 1680 permanent Primary Reception spaces in Bournemouth provided through 23 primary schools, categorised as follows:

- 7 Catchment Community Schools - 540 spaces (32%)
- 10 Voluntary Aided Schools - 630 spaces (38%)
- 1 Voluntary Controlled School - 90 spaces (5%)
- 1 Foundation - 60 spaces (4%)
- 4 Academy - 360 spaces (21%)

The Jewell Academy is also set to open in Sept 2013, offering 60 places. The latest Reception Year school pupil forecasts for Bournemouth (graph below) show that the overall number of pupils in the Borough continues to rise.

BOURNEMOUTH PRIMARY RECEPTION YEAR FORECAST



In September 2012 the total number of Reception primary spaces in Bournemouth is 1950. These additional school places have been provided either by permanent expansions, or on a temporary basis. Since 2010, 65% of primary schools in Bournemouth have/are in process of being involved in providing additional places.

There has been an increased demand for Catholic primary places as part of the general increase in population. The admission number of Christ the King RC Primary School and St Walburgas' RC Primary School were both increased temporarily to cope with this increased demand. Despite this, there were still Catholic applicants unable to secure a place in a Catholic primary school. It is proposed that the increase at Christ the King RC Primary School, in the far north west of the Borough will be made permanent, but the school buildings and site at St Walburga's RC Primary School are too small to allow any further expansion.

Year	No. of Catholic Primary Reception places	No. of Catholic applicants refused a place at a Catholic primary school
2009	150	6
2010	180	21
2011	180	67
2012	210	11

If no action is taken to provide additional Catholic primary school places the number of Reception Year places in Catholic primary schools will fall to 180 and there will be a significant number of Catholic applicants from Bournemouth unable to secure a place at a Catholic primary school.

The current Year 7 admission number for St Peter’s school is 240 and the proposed admission number at Reception would be 60. There would therefore be 180 places available at Year 7 to children not already attending the school.

The school is located on two sites, with Years 7 and 8 currently occupying the site in Holdenhurst Avenue (the ‘Iford’ site) and Years 9, 10, 11 and the sixth form currently occupying the site on St Catherine’s Road (the ‘Southbourne’ site). The proposal would be to provide the primary aged places at the Iford site in Holdenhurst Avenue.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the school will additionally offer 60 places each year for children aged 4 - 11 (Reception Year - Year 6), starting from September 2014. The school will initially offer Reception places only, and then increase in size year on year, so that the capacity of the primary element of the school grows to 420 by September 2020.

The proposed increase is on a permanent basis and the additional accommodation will be provided both to accommodate the additional pupils and to provide a primary based curriculum.

St Peter’s Admission Number Table:

	- Academic Year -						
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Year R	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Year 1	-	60	60	60	60	60	60
Year 2	-	-	60	60	60	60	60
Year 3	-	-	-	60	60	60	60
Year 4	-	-	-	-	60	60	60
Year 5	-	-	-	-	-	60	60
Year 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Total	60	120	180	240	300	360	420

The School would remain operational throughout the adaptation of the school and construction of the extension.

The current admission number for the school at Year 7 is 240 and the proposed admission number at Reception would be 60. There would therefore be 180 places available at Year 7 to children not already attending the school from September 2021 onwards.

3. THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION

FIRST STAGE

The Governors and Head of St Peter's wish to consult parents, staff of the school concerned, the broader community and neighbouring education authorities along with other interested parties about this proposal.

A drop in information session will be held at St Peter's Catholic School, Holdenhurst Avenue, Iford, Bournemouth BH7 6RG on 14th May 2013 at 4 - 6:30pm.

The response form can be obtained from: St Peter's School, Holdenhurst Avenue, Bournemouth, BH7 6RG, 01202 427291, www.st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk or School Organisation, Bournemouth Borough Council, Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth BH2 6DY 01202 451321. www.bournemouth.gov.uk/schoolplaceplanning.

Parents are asked to complete one form only; irrespective of how many children they might have attending the school. Forms must be returned by 7 June 2013 at the latest to:

**School Organisation Team
Bournemouth Borough Council
THE3, Bourne Avenue,
Bournemouth BH2 6DY
Tel: 01202 454904
Email: admissions.consultation@bournemouth.gov.uk**

All views expressed will be taken into account, but it should be emphasised that the Response Forms do **not** represent a ballot.

THE NEXT STAGE

If the Academy decides to go ahead with the proposal, a business case will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education requesting approval for the Academy to change its age range to 4-18, with effect from September 2014. If approved by the Secretary of State, the Academy will then begin to implement the changes needed to allow suitable accommodation and educate primary age children.

4. THE OPTIONS

The following options are under consideration:

Option 1	<p>Introduce a primary provision at the Academy's Iford site for 60 places from September 2014 for age 4 and 5 year olds, ultimately accommodating ages 4 to 11 by 2020.</p> <p>This means the overall capacity of the Academy across the two sites will increase from 1680 to 1740 in 2014, and will increase by 60 each year until 2020. The Academy will then consist of 2100 places as permanent arrangement.</p>
Option 2	<p>Move years 7 and 8 secondary provision to the Academy's Southbourne site and either refurbish or replace the existing building at the Iford site to make it suitable for primary provision.</p> <p>The overall capacity of the Academy would be as Option 1.</p>
Option 3	<p>No change</p> <p>This means that St Peter's will remain a secondary Academy without a Primary provision.</p>
Option 4	<p>Any new option which may arise during the course of the consultation</p>

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION IF THE PROPOSAL TO PURSUE OPTION 1 WERE ADOPTED

STAFFING AND CURRICULUM IMPLICATIONS

The school's staffing will be increased to meet the needs of delivering the curriculum within the school's budget. The school's budget will be increased to reflect the increased number of pupils and increased size of the school. There will also need to be primary specialist leaders and teachers employed to ensure primary aged children receive a suitable education.

BUILDING IMPLICATIONS

The accommodation for St Peter's will need to be extended and adapted to accommodate 420 primary age children. There are 3 options currently under investigation by Architects.

1. Move Years 7 & 8 from Iford site to Southbourne Site, providing a new building at Southbourne to accommodate this, refurbish building on Iford site to make suitable for primary school.
2. Build new purpose built primary school at Iford site and refurbish existing Years 7 & 8 building at Iford site to enable shared use of the facilities.
3. Move Years 7 & 8 from Iford site to Southbourne Site, providing a new building at Southbourne to accommodate this, and demolish old building on Iford site and replace with purpose built primary school.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The capital costs of expanding the school will be funded from the basic need capital allocation made to Bournemouth Borough Council for the purpose of providing additional school places.

DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT DURING BUILDING

The pressures on a school that can come from any building works, will be managed with care by the school, Local Authority and site contractor who will be appointed with the consideration of the school carrying on as normal during build work.

Children's safety during building is our main aim and we endeavour to reduce the disruption caused by any work. Other schools have benefited from incorporating the building works into the curriculum.

CONCLUSION

The proposal to expand St Peter's Voluntary Academy Trust will assist in meeting the need for additional places in the Borough of Bournemouth, including the particular increased demand for additional Catholic primary places. It will also allow us to provide education with our well established and respected ethos to our younger members of the community. The new starters will particularly benefit from the changes proposed because of the continuity when transferring from primary to secondary education.