

**Information required to be included in section 10 and 11 Complete Proposals to establish a mainstream school outside of a competition.**

**Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

**Contact Details**

1. The name of the proposer or proposers and a contact address.

Chester Diocesan Board of Education, Church House, Lower Lane, Aldford, Chester, CH3 6HP

2. Whether the proposals are being submitted independently or jointly with another proposer or proposers.

Independently.

**Category**

3. The type of school that it is proposed be established (a foundation school and, if so, whether it is to have a foundation, a voluntary school or a community school) and, if required by section 10, a statement that the Secretary of State's consent has been obtained to publication of the proposals.

Church of England Voluntary Controlled. The Secretary of State's consent has been obtained to publish the proposals.

**Consultation**

4. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals have been complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals have been complied with. Public consultations were originally held from January to June 2006, and again most recently from January to March 2009, including a consultation meeting at Millfields Primary School on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009. All statutory consultees were consulted in accordance with the relevant DCSF guidance and statutory requirements.

5. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including —

a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;

b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;

c) the views of the persons consulted; and

d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

The Council has been reviewing Wirral primary school provision on an area by area

basis since Autumn 2004. The review of the Bromborough and Eastham small planning area, in which Millfields Primary School is situated, began in October 2005 with pre-consultation meetings involving headteachers and chairs of governors of all the schools in the area, as well as Diocesan Authorities and ward members. A number of options for change arose, and were approved for formal consultation by Cabinet. Leaflets and comments forms were provided to all parents, and at schools and local libraries. A dedicated website was established, including a feedback form, and the consultation was advertised in the press. Public meetings were held during Spring term 2006 at each of the schools named in the options.

The outcome of this consultation was described in the 16th March 2006 report to Cabinet (Sections 6 and 7). At this time, Cabinet's decision was that an option that arose from the consultation, namely the closure of St Mary's CE Primary School and Millfields Primary School combined with the establishment of a CE Controlled primary school at the Millfields site, should proceed as a statutory proposal.

Following legal advice, it was decided that consultation should be continued to allow consultees to express their opinions about the new option, led by the Diocese of Chester and facilitated by the Authority. Further consultation meetings were held for stakeholders of the two schools. The outcome of the additional consultation period which concluded on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006, was reported to Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006. The Diocesan Board of Education were impressed by various aspects of Millfields Primary School, including the Christian ethos and existing links with local churches and "*would be delighted to have Millfields as a part of its family of Church schools*". However, the Diocesan Board of Education felt unable to support the closure of St Mary's CE Primary School, and therefore rejected the Council's preferred option to close the two schools and open a new Church of England school on the Millfields site. One of the factors the Diocesan Board gave as a reason not to support the amalgamation was that the standards achieved by the two schools were "not significantly different". The Council's preferred option of amalgamating the two schools in order to create a new school could not therefore proceed. At its meeting of 27th July 2006, the Council decided not to press ahead with the proposal to close St Mary's CE Primary School, deciding instead to make an interim measure to reduce surplus places and enhance provision in the area by locating a Children's Centre at Millfields Primary School. A further recommendation was made that the Bromborough and Eastham area should be monitored and reviewed again during the Primary Places Review.

St Mary's CE (Controlled) Primary School was inspected by Ofsted on the 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006, and was placed in the Ofsted category of Special Measures. This was reported to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006. At this meeting, Cabinet's decision was to proceed to statutory notices in respect of the closure of St Mary's CE (Controlled) Primary School. As a further recommendation, Cabinet agreed to give all necessary support to any proposal made by the Church of England Diocese of Chester regarding the closure of a Community Primary School in order to open a new CE Primary school on the same site, subject to the agreement of the relevant Governing Body.

The statutory notices were published on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007, followed by a representation period for comments and objections. The proposal for closure of St Mary's CE Primary School was considered by the School Organisation Committee (SOC; now abolished) on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007. A unanimous decision could not be reached. The proposal was consequently referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator according to guidance

The Adjudicator held an additional consultation on the closure of St Mary's CE Primary School ending on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007, including a further meeting for stakeholders of St Mary's CE Primary School on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007. The Adjudicator's final decision

was to approve the closure of St Mary's CE Primary School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

Cabinet's decision on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 regarding support for the possible establishment of a CE Controlled primary school in the Eastham area remains in place. Discussions on the possibility of Millfields Primary School becoming a CE Controlled Primary School have been ongoing through 2007/2008, including the governing body of Millfields Primary School, the Diocese of Chester and the Local Authority. All three parties agreed that the option had been positively received during the original consultation. As demonstrated above, there has already been extensive consultation on this option in the Eastham area over an extended period of time. However, as it has been more than 12 months since the conclusion of the last consultation in May 2007, guidance states that a fresh consultation should be carried out in order to allow stakeholders who were not consulted in the original consultation an opportunity to express their views.

Accordingly, a further consultation was held during February and March 2009.

A consultation leaflet was drawn up jointly by the Diocese of Chester and the Local Authority and distributed to staff and parents/carers of pupils at Millfields Primary School and other Eastham primary schools. The document was also made available via a dedicated website and at local libraries and community centres and one stop shops. All statutory consultees were consulted. The consultation leaflet is attached as [Appendix A](#).

A consultation meeting for interested stakeholders was held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at Millfields Primary School, chaired by Mr Jeff Turnbull, Diocesan Director of Education from the Diocese of Chester. The date for the meeting was in the parents' leaflets and on the specific web-site and a general notice was published in the local press. Opportunities were provided for various means of written response via post and e-mail

The consultation closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009. During this period, 7 responses from individuals and one petition were received. Three responses were from current parents, one from a former parent and one from a member of staff. The remaining two responses, and the petition, were from other concerned persons. The anonymised responses are attached as [Appendix B](#).

The consultation meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 was attended by 35 persons, including two ward councillors, 9 parents, 17 staff members and 7 governors (some also parents or staff). The minutes of the meeting are attached as [Appendix B](#).

The points raised by consultees are summarized as follows:

- Impact of Church of England status on the school
- Importance of retention of a primary school at the Millfields site
- Financial implications
- Concerns about future of staff, especially headteacher
- Concerns about future of existing governors
- Questions about nature of collective worship and involvement with local churches
- Uniforms and name of new school
- St Mary's closure process and diversity of choice
- Concerns about competition process

## Objectives

6. The objectives of the proposal.

To establish a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary school.

## Extended Services

7. Information on the extended services which it is envisaged will be provided on the site of the school.

The predecessor school is the site of Eastham Children's Centre, opened May 2008, which will be maintained in the new school.

The centre acts as the hub for service delivery for support for children under 5 and their families. Children's Centres form part of the Government's agenda to improve access to health, education and social care for families thereby improving the life chances of young children.

## Pupil numbers and admissions

8. Information on —

- a) the number of pupil places the school should provide;
- b) the upper and lower age limits of the school;
- c) where it is intended that it should provide sixth form education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
- d) where it is intended that it should provide nursery education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
- e) where it is intended that the school should provide for boarding pupils, the number of pupils for whom it is intended such facilities should be provided;
- f) the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will be implemented or, where it is intended that the proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the proposed school in each stage that the proposals will be implemented;
- g) whether it is proposed that the school should admit pupils of both sexes or boys or girls only and, in the case of a single sex school where it is intended to provide sixth form education, whether both sexes or boys or girls only are to be admitted to the sixth form.

- a) capacity is 168 pupils
- b) 3 to 11
- c) not applicable
- d) 52 pupils (26 FTE)
- e) not applicable
- f) 24
- g) both sexes

## **Ethos/Religious Character**

9. A short statement suitable for publication setting out the proposed ethos of the school, including details of any educational philosophy, which it is proposed that the school will adhere to.

By building upon its current supportive and caring ethos and with the aid of the Diocesan Board of Education, the school will through Christian values continue to:

- Respect the value, dignity and equality of every individual
- Celebrate human diversity, nurturing qualities of tolerance, forgiveness, generosity, compassion, enthusiasm, self discipline, honesty and cooperation
- Maintain and further develop a learning environment that nurtures and develops children of every background in order for them to meet the Every Child Matters outcomes
- Challenge and support everyone to achieve their personal best
- Promote an understanding of local, national and global citizenship and the responsibilities we all have to one another and to the world we inhabit
- Develop an emphasis on developing the whole person, their values, principles, spiritual and moral health and wellbeing, as well as the development of knowledge, skills and understanding.

10. If the school is to have a religious character, confirmation of the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets religious education will, or may be required to be provided at the school; and a statement that the proposers intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

The school will be a Church of England school and the Secretary of State will be asked to designate the school as such.

## **Area or community that school serves**

11. The area or particular community or communities which the new school is expected to serve.

The catchment area formerly served by Millfields Primary School which includes the following streets:

Airdrie Close, Archers Green, Argyll Avenue, Ashton Close, Clifton Avenue, Delamere Avenue, Delamere Close (Eastham), Eastham Rake 118 to 292 and 135 to 181, Elton Close, Ennerdale Avenue, Hatton Avenue, Helsby Avenue, Ince Avenue, Kelsall Avenue, Kelsall Close (Bromborough), Kingsley Avenue, Lowfields Avenue, Lowfields Close, Marston Close (Bromborough), Mill Park Drive 56 and above, and 81 and above, Norley Avenue, Picton Close (Bromborough), Plymyard Avenue 174 to 202, Rothesay Drive, Stanney Close, Stoke Close, Stretton Close (Bromborough), Sutherland Drive, Sutton Close, Tarvin Road, Thornleigh Avenue 12 and above and Willington Avenue.

## **Admission Arrangements**

12. An indication of the proposed admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria for the new school including, where the school is proposed to be a foundation or voluntary school or Academy which is to have a religious character —

a) the extent to which priority for places is proposed to be given to

children of the school's religion or religious denomination; and

b) the extent, if any, to which priority is to be given to children of other religions or religious denominations or to children having no religion or religious denomination.

The admission criteria will be those set out in the Local Authority's admission booklet for parents, which are:

Applications submitted "on time" will be considered first and places allocated up to the admission number of the school and in accordance with the following criteria.

- Children in the care of a Local Authority.
- Parents of the children who live 'in zone' and already have older brothers or sisters at the school at the time of the start date.
- Parents of pupils who live 'in zone' and have a valid medical reason.
- Parents of pupils who live 'in zone' and nearest to the school. We measure distances from home to the school gate nearest to the child's home using the shortest road route, unless it is possible to use a footpath which we consider to be a safe walking route.

If children do not live in the school's catchment area and if places remain available, places will be allocated in accordance with the following criteria;

- to children who already have older brother or sisters at the school when they are due to start.

If there are more children with older brothers or sisters at the school than there are places available, we will give priority to children with the youngest brothers or sisters at the school

- to children who have valid medical reasons for going to the school. You must give details on the preference form.
- to pupils who live nearest to the school. We measure distances from home to the school gate nearest to the child's home using the shortest road route, unless it is possible to use a footpath which we consider to be a safe walking route.

- a) No priority will be given for children of the school's religious denomination
- b) Children's religion, religious denomination, or no religion or religious denomination will not be used to give priority for admissions.

### **Grammar schools**

13. Where the school is to be established in substitution for one or more discontinued grammar schools, a statement to this effect and a statement that the school may be designated as a grammar school for the purpose of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of SSFA 1998.

Not applicable

### **Schools with a religious character or particular educational philosophy – parental demand**

14. Where the school is —

- a) proposed to have a religious character, evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion; or
- b) proposed to adhere to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand

for education in accordance with the philosophy in question that is not already met in other maintained schools or Academies in the area.

- a) Until recently, there was a Church of England voluntary controlled school in Eastham. Following Ofsted judging the school to require Special Measures, the school was closed. This followed a long period of consultation which demonstrated strong support for a Church of England school in the town. The consultation raised the possibility of Millfields Primary School becoming a church school and this received the support of the governing body and the parent body.
- b) Parents who wish their children to attend a Church of England school currently need to travel out of Eastham along a major and busy road (A41) into Cheshire West and Chester or over 4 miles to Bebington.

### **Sixth Form Education**

15. Where it is proposed that the school will provide sixth form education, how the proposals will —

- a) improve the educational or training achievements;
- b) increase participation in education or training; and
- c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities, for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

### **Early Years Provision**

16. Where the proposals are to include provision for pupils aged between 2 and 5, the following information must be provided —

- a) details of how the early years provision will be organised, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number of places, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;
- b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services, and how the proposals for the establishment of the school are consistent with the integration of early years provision with childcare;
- c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;
- d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and
- e) the reasons why schools and settings outside the maintained school sector who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school and who have spare capacity, cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the numbers of such children.

a) The school will continue to operate a 52 place (26 FTE) LA maintained F1 class. The school is fully DDA compliant.

The associated Children's Centre provides two crèche sessions for parents attending courses at the centre – Tuesday 1-3pm and Thursday 1-3pm.

- b) The Children's Centre is fully integrated into the school's building and will be maintained in the new CE school.
- c), d) and e) Not applicable. The provision replicates the existing childcare and nursery arrangements provided by the predecessor school, and does not create any additional provision.

### **Specialisms**

17. Whether the school will have any specialisms on implementation and whether the promoter intends to apply to the Secretary of State for the school to be a specialist school from implementation.

No

### **Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement**

18. Information and supporting evidence on:

a) how the school will contribute to enhancing the diversity and quality of education in the area; and

b) how the school will help to raise the standard of education in the area and contribute to school improvement.

a) Diversity of education will be enhanced as parents in Eastham will have again the opportunity to choose to send their children to a Church of England school. They currently have (and will continue to have) the choice of community and Catholic schools.

b) Millfields is a good school and by becoming a church school as well as continuing to receive the excellent support of the Local Authority, the school will benefit from the support of Diocesan support which has recently been enhanced.

19. Information and supporting evidence on how the proposals will contribute to enabling children and young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to the community and society, and achieve economic well-being.

The school will benefit from the particular insights which church schools bring to the "Every Child Matters" outcomes. Our school advisers will bring additional support.

### **Community Cohesion**

20. The following information relating to the proposals —

a) how the school will promote and contribute to community cohesion;

b) how the school will increase inclusion and equality of access for all social groups; and

c) how the school will collaborate with other schools, and in relation to secondary school proposals how the new school will collaborate with colleges and training providers.

a) The DCSF in 'Faith in the System' say that 'providers of all schools, including faith schools should encourage collaboration both within and outside their faith communities as a way of promoting community cohesion and integration.'

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/FaithInTheSystem.pdf>

The Church of England seeks to serve communities and individuals and by working in the community and with other organisations this will add to the promotion of community cohesion.

b) The admission policy of the school will be that of the Local Authority. The school will admit pupils applying from its immediate community regardless of faith, social or other background.

c) As well as continuing to work with the Local Authority, the school will become part of and collaborate with the wider network of Church schools across the ten authorities within the Diocese.

### **Single sex or co-educational school**

21. Where the school is to admit pupils of a single sex —

a) evidence of local demand for single sex education and how this will be met if the proposals are approved; and

b) A statement giving details of the likely effect the alteration will have on the balance of provision of single sex education in the area.

Not applicable

### **Location**

22. A statement about —

a) the location of the site (including, where appropriate, the postal address or addresses if the school is to occupy a split site);

b) whether the school will occupy a single or split site;

c) the accessibility of the site (or if the school is to occupy a split site the accessibility of the accommodation);

d) the current ownership and tenure (freehold or leasehold) of the site and the proposed use of any buildings already on the site;

e) details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease including details of any provisions which could obstruct the governing body or the head teacher in the exercise of any of their functions under any of the Education Acts or place indirect pressures upon funding bodies;

f) whether the site is currently used for the purposes of another school which will no longer be required for the purposes of that school. If so, provide details as to why the site will no longer be required for the purposes of that school; and

g) the estimated costs of providing the site and a statement about how the costs will be met.

a) Willington Avenue, Eastham, Wirral, CH62 9EB

b) Single site

c) Site is fully accessible

- d) Site is owned by Wirral Council.
- e) The site will be conveyed to the Diocesan Board of Education without charge, but should the school ever close, the site would revert to the Local Authority without payment.
- f) Predecessor school is Millfields Primary School. Closure of that school is entirely linked to the establishment of a Church of England Controlled school since religious status cannot be gained any other way.
- g) No costs involved. Changes in signage will be met by the Local Authority.

### **Implementation**

23. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

24. Where the proposals are to establish a voluntary controlled or foundation school, a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the LA or by the proposers, and if the proposals are to be implemented by both,

a) a statement as to the extent that they are to be implemented by each body, and

b) a statement as to the extent to which the capital costs of implementation are to be met by each body.

a) The closure of the current school will be implemented by the LA and the opening of the new school by the DBE.

b) There will be no capital costs as the current buildings will continue to be used.

### **Project Costs**

25. A statement of the estimated capital cost of the proposals and the extent to which the costs are to be met by the proposers and/or the LA.

There will be no capital costs as the current buildings will continue to be used.

26. A copy of a confirmation from the Secretary of State or LA or the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not applicable

27. Details of how it is proposed to fund the proposer's share of the capital costs of implementing the proposals (if any).

Not applicable

### **Travel**

28. The proposed arrangements for travel of pupils to the school.

Pupils currently attending Millfields Primary School are expected to continue to attend the

new Church of England Primary School, using whichever means of transport they are currently using.

Applications for free transport to an alternative primary school will be considered under the guidance issued in the Authority's information booklets for parents.

### **Federation**

29. Details of any proposals for the school to be federated with one or more schools (by virtue of section 24 of EA 2002 and section 12).

No such proposals exist.

### **Curriculum**

30. Confirmation that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002 and an outline of any provision that will be in addition to the basic curriculum required by section 80 of EA 2002, in particular any 14-19 vocational education.

The school will meet the general requirements in relation to curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002.

### **Voluntary aided schools**

31. In addition, where the school is to be a voluntary aided school —

a) details of the Trust on which the site is to be held; and

b) confirmation that governing body will be able and willing to carry out their obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.

Not applicable

### **Staff**

32. Not applicable – removed by amending Regulations.

### **Foundation Schools**

33. Where the school is to be a foundation school, confirmation as to whether the new school —

a) will have a foundation established otherwise than under SSFA 1998 and, if so, the identity of that foundation;

b) will belong to a group of schools for which a foundation body acts under section 21 of SSFA 1998; or

c) will not fall within sub-paragraph (a) or (b).

Not applicable

34. Where the school is to be a foundation school which has a foundation:

a) the name of the foundation where known;

b) the rationale for the foundation and the particular ethos that it will bring to the school;

c) the details of membership of the foundation, including the names of the members;

d) the entitlement to appoint charity trustees and the number of trustees

to be appointed;

- e) the proposed constitution of the governing body;
- f) details of the foundation's charitable objects;
- g) where the majority of governors are to be foundation governors, a statement that a parent council will be established in accordance with section 23A of EA 2002;
- h) a statement that the requirements set out in the School Organisation (Requirements as to Foundations) (England ) Regulations will be met;
- i) a statement of how the foundation will contribute to the advancement of education at the school and how it is envisaged it will help to raise standards; and
- j) a statement of how the foundation will contribute to the advancement of community cohesion and the impact the foundation will have on the diversity of school provision in the area.

Not applicable
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### **Special educational needs**

35. Information as to whether the school will have provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs and, if so, the nature of such provision and the proposed number of pupils for whom such provision is to be made.

The school will not have a special needs unit or base.
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36. Details of the proposed policy of the school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs.

The school will have a special needs co-ordinator (SENCO) who helps children with SEN, sometimes by helping the child's own class or subject teachers to plan and prepare work and sometimes by providing or arranging additional teaching, perhaps individually or in a small group.
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The school will follow the SEN processes and procedures set out in the Authority's Special Needs Handbook. These processes and procedures are governed by the 1996 Education Act (as amended by the SEN and Disability Act, 2001) and regulations made under that Act, notably the Education (Special Educational Needs) Regulations; and the 2001 SEN Code of Practice and the Disability Code of Practice.
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37. Where the school will replace existing educational provision that would be recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs:

a) a statement on how the proposer believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for these children;

b) details of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of —

i) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the LA's Accessibility Strategy;

ii) improved access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support and/or outreach services;

- iii) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- iv) improved supply of suitable places.

Not applicable

**Relevant experience of proposers**

38. Evidence of any relevant experience in education held by the proposer, or proposers (other than a local authority) including details of any involvement in the improvement of standards in education.

The proposer has over 100 schools and has been involved in education for centuries.

**Planning permission**

39. Where the establishment of the new school involves development for the purpose of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a statement as to whether planning permission has been obtained and, if it has not been obtained, details of when it is anticipated that it will be obtained.

Not applicable

**Independent schools entering the maintained sector**

40. A statement that the requirements of section 11 (3) are met.

Not applicable

41. A statement as to whether the premises will meet the requirements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and, if not:

a) details of how the premises are deficient; and

b) details of how it is intended to remedy the deficiency.

Not applicable