

School Organisation Proposal

to expand

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

A Prescribed Alteration

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Children's Services and Skills,
Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB

School	Address	Type of School
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	Whitefields Road Solihull B91 3NZ	Voluntary Aided

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1st September 2020

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on any part or all of the proposal by emailing the School Place Planning Team at researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk or by writing to the School Place Planning Team, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB.

The last date for comments is **noon on 23 December 2019**. Full details on the proposal, including copies of the public notice can be found at www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

This proposal seeks an expansion of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School by enlargement. The school currently has a capacity of 210 places (30 places per year) and is currently operating at full capacity within each year group.

This proposal is to expand the school permanently to 420 places, 60 places per year, over a 7 year period. The school will increase their intake to 60 pupils per year with effect from 1 September 2020, becoming a full two-form entry school by September 2026.

Expansion to the school building is proposed.

School capacity

5.(a) Details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

School	Current Net Capacity	Proposed Net Capacity
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	210	420

In addition the school has capacity for up to 26 part-time nursery pupils.

(b) Details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

	Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	Pupils on roll at October 2019	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210
	Proposed Places September 2020	60	30	30	30	30	30	30	240
	Proposed Places September 2026	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420

The growth of the school will be gradual with an additional class being admitted at Reception each year until the school reaches its capacity.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

This proposal is for permanent expansion at the school by 30 pupils per year, admitted at Reception, from 1 September 2020.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not Applicable

- (e) A statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

At the time of publication, the total number of pupils on roll was:
211 plus **23** part-time nursery pupils.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

This proposal relates to a voluntary aided school and is to be implemented by the Council, in partnership with the Governing Body. The Council is managing and procuring the expansion of the school building. The Governing Body of the School will implement the increase in pupil numbers through an increase in admissions to the school.

7. Additional Site

No additional site is required for the proposal.

8. Changes in boarding arrangements

The proposal does not make any changes to boarding arrangements.

9. Transfer to new site

This proposal does not require the school to transfer to a new site.

10. Objectives

The objectives of these proposals are:

We are proposing to expand St Augustine's Catholic Primary School so that the school will be able to admit 60 pupils each year across Reception to Year 6 and remain with 26 part-time nursery places in September 2020. The growth of the school will be gradual.

An increase in primary Catholic school places will ensure that parental preference for primary Catholic school places can be met, both now and in the future, as approved housing developments in the wider area are completed. It is expected that the School will be able to admit those Catholic families living outside of the Parish but where St Augustine's Catholic School is their closest Catholic School. This 'shuffle' of school places will create spaces in other primary Catholic Schools for those families moving into the new development therefore maximising parental preference.

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School was rated as 'Good' with outstanding Leadership by Ofsted in March 2019, and will enhance the number of places offered in good and outstanding schools in Solihull.

11.Consultation

All requirements in relation to the proposal to consult have been complied with. All interested parties have been consulted and their views considered by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills before this statutory proposal was published. The full report outlining the pre statutory consultation process that has been undertaken can be found on the website at www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation

The main concerns raised through the consultation process were around traffic congestion, parking and air pollution. The Council has commissioned an independent travel assessment as part of this process. This will be submitted as part of the planning application so that traffic and parking can be given full consideration by Planning Committee when considering whether to allow expansion of the school building on the school site. The planning application will be determined, in part, by the mitigation offered to support this proposal.

12.Project costs

A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The established budgetary provision for the progression of this proposal is contained within the Children's Services Capital Programme and funded by basic need grant paid to Solihull Council by the Government. An expansion of an existing school is the most cost effective way of creating the additional 210 places required.

The provisional budget based upon the feasibility scheme for the school is:

Children's Services Capital Programme	Total Funding
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	£2,100,000

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and 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).

All costs outlined in **12** above will be met by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Councils Children's Services Capital Programme.

14. Age Range

No change is proposed to the age range of the school as part of this proposal.

15. Early Years Provision

No change is proposed to the lower age limit of the school.

16. Changes to Sixth Form Provision

This school is a primary school so no change is proposed to sixth form provision.

17. Special educational needs

No change is proposed to provision for special educational needs.

18. Sex of Pupils

No change is proposed.

19. Extended Services

This proposal does not change the extended services currently being offered by the school.

20. Need or demand for additional places

If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

This proposal is based on there being a clear business case to meet an increasing demand for primary Catholic school places, including additional Catholic demand from the housing development at Blythe Valley, Tidbury Green and Shirley.

Following initial site feasibility work carried out by the Catholic Diocese, St Augustine's is identified as their preferred primary school to expand to meet the demand for Catholic places. The Diocese confirmed their support for this expansion through the consultation process.

Current school admissions data and forecast pupil demand indicates that there is a need to provide additional Catholic primary school places, in order to ensure both sufficiency of school places in Solihull and to meet current and future parental preference for a Catholic primary school place.

The Council is committed to maintaining proportionality of church school places in Solihull and works in partnership with both the Catholic and Church of England Diocese. The diversity of school places in a relevant area is part of the Department for Education statutory guidance to decision makers when considering proposals such as this one.