

S77 Disposal of Site of Former Blofield Primary School North Street, Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 4RH

Norfolk County Council wishes to dispose of the soon to be former site of Blofield Primary School, North Street, Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 4RH, which is anticipated to close in Spring 2025. The school is to be relocated to a newly constructed building on Blofield Primary School, Plantation Road, Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 4PL to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers due to new homes being built in the area. The site will become vacant once the move is completed in Spring 2025.

To dispose of this soon to be former school site, it will be necessary for Norfolk County Council to apply for written consent from the Secretary of State for Education, under the provisions of Section 77 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998. It is only at that point the Council will be able to proceed with the sale of a freehold and dispose/change use of the land.

The school site proposed for the disposal is outlined in red on the below plan. The northern part of the school site not included in the red line boundary has already received Secretary of State consent for its disposal and is due to be transferred to Blofield Parish Council in 2025. This consultation only covers the playing field elements within the red line boundary of the remaining site as shown on the below plan. There is a separate process to dispose of the school buildings with the Secretary of State, which is not part of this consultation.

The remaining part of the school site has an overall area of some 0.82 acres of which approx. 0.37 acres is classed as playing field land. Playing field land is defined in the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 and this is categorised into five types, three of which have been identified on this site and seen in the below plan as being:

- Hard informal and social (yellow)
- Soft Informal and Social (blue)
- Hard Outdoor PE (orange).

What will happen once the school is relocated and the site is vacant?

Norfolk County Council's policy for the re-use of its school estate first involves establishing whether there is any educational need which can be met through use or adaptation of the premises. Where this is not identified as a requirement, the next stage is to consider any non-education use initially at Departmental level and following that across the County Council for potential use.

Following a review of the potential reuse of the site, no such options for alternative use of the school have been identified at this time.

Our Proposal

On 8 August 2022 Norfolk County Council's Cabinet declared the property surplus to Council requirements and instructed the Director of Property to dispose of the property through an open market sale.

Any development proposal would be subject to a full planning submission via Broadland District Council, which would involve consultation with the public.

How can I have my say?

We would like to hear your views on our disposal proposals. The closing date is **Friday 13 December 2024**. You can have your say by;



- completing the online questionnaire via this link; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/blofield-s77> or scanning the QR code
- Sending an email to; schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- Writing to: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST 1H 2076, Children's Services, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

What happens next?

We will collate all responses received in response to this consultation. If we need any further information from you, we will contact you via your email address.

Following the consultation process, all comments will be forwarded along with the application under S77 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act to the Secretary of State for Education, who will consider these and will make a decision on the proposal to dispose of the building and land at the former Blofield Primary School, North Street, Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk. NR13 4RH.

