

**Statutory Proposal to increase the capacity of Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School from 210 pupils to 420 pupils, relocate to a new school site in Bradwell and change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11 years, from the Spring Term of 2027.**

**1. Local Authority details**

Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH

**2. School details**

<b>Name</b>	Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary Controlled School
<b>Address</b>	Homefield Avenue, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8NS
<b>Age Range</b>	3 – 11 years
<b>Capacity</b>	210 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 May 2024 = 209 (Nursery +42)
<b>Ofsted</b>	Last Ofsted; November 2018 Rating; Good And October 2024- Report not yet published

**3. What changes are proposed?**

It is proposed to;

- Increase the number of pupils at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School, from 210 pupils to 420 pupils
- Move into a new school building – full address yet to be confirmed, but will be located on Chaplin Road
- Change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11.

These changes would come into effect from the Spring Term 2027 (subject to planning permission). The plans were initially intended to begin in September 2026, however the timetable has been revised to Spring 2027.

**4. Why do we want to do this? (evidence of demand)**

Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty to;

- Ensure a sufficient supply of school places in its area for children of school age
- Promote high educational standards, diversity and parental choice
- Ensure fair access to educational opportunity
- Help fulfil every child's educational potential.

Our proposal is in response to the new homes being built in the area. The County Council has a statutory duty (Section 14, Education Act 1996) to plan and secure sufficient school places for their area to meet the needs of its children and families and therefore it is obliged to plan for the expansion of its school capacity.

In the Bradwell area, there are 1944 new homes approved, of which 1139 are still to be built. This increase in new homes and new families, means we are expecting more primary school aged children. The current schools in Bradwell cannot accommodate these extra children.

Norfolk County Council considered the option of expanding the current Bradwell Homefields CE VC Primary School. However the existing site is unsuitable for expansion as its current

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size is well below the minimum DfE guideline for a school with 420 pupils. It is therefore proposed to build a new primary school in Bradwell and relocated Bradwell Homefields to this site, which will provide 60 pupil places per year group, with an overall capacity of 420 places on a single site within Wheatcroft Farm housing development.

Norfolk County Council and the Governors at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School feel these changes would benefit children and young people because;

- The School Sufficiency Plan identifies the need in the area, for additional school places.
- It provides additional places for children and young people in a good school
- It provides additional places at a local school, for local children and young people.

The consultation was delivered, as set out by the DfE statutory guidance 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools', January 2023 (since updated, October 2024). A consultation was held from 11 September to 20 October 2023. A total of 339 consultation documents were sent to governors, staff and parents at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School and key stakeholders. The consultation document is attached at Appendix A.

A consultation event was held on 20 September 2023, in person, supported by the Chair of Governors, Headteacher and School Organisation Manager, Norfolk County Council. 25 people attended.

82 responses were received, 44% agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal. The report on the consultation and request to proceed to the statutory public notice is available at Appendix B.

## **5. Objectives, including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice.**

Norfolk County Council wants to:

- Increase the number of places by a further 210 places, to create a 420 place (2 Form Entry) Primary School
- Ensure there are enough primary school places for local children in the area they live.
- Provide a new school building, with improved standards of accessibility and learning spaces.

Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School was inspected in November 2018 and was rated Good. The school was again inspected in October 2024, for which the report has not been published at the time of writing the Public Notice and Public Information documents.

## **6. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?**

We cannot foresee any impact on any other schools, as this proposal provides additional places at Bradwell Homefield Primary School which removes the pressure of placing local children in other schools, as their local school is over subscribed.

## **7. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.**

The total project cost is estimated at £12m. Norfolk County Council is funding this project from the Capital Programmes Budget, with a small contribution from the CiL

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(Community Infrastructure Levy). Long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to offer primary school places to children locally.

**8. Will the proposed change impact travel and accessibility**

The distance between the current school and the new school site is approximately 1.23 miles. Many parents live near the current school and there will be an added distance to the walk to school. Norfolk County Council's policy is to locate new schools within the new community and this school is part of the Wheatcroft Farm housing development. Pupils attending from this housing development will be able to walk to school.

**9. Implementation date and proposed stages**

If the proposal is agreed by the local decision maker; the Executive Director of Children's Services, Norfolk County Council, it is intended that the significant change will be implemented in the Spring Term of 2027 (subject to planning permission).

**10. Related proposals**

There is no other proposal linked to this proposal.

**11. How can I make my views known?**

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals, within 4 weeks of the publication of the statutory public notice by:

- Sending an email to; [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Writing to: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Children's Services, Lower Ground Floor, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

**12. What happens next?**

The following table sets out the key dates for the consultation and decision making. At any point the proposal may be withdrawn. The dates set out below meet the Department for Education requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals.

<b>School organisation process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public Notice published	18 November 2024
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	18 November 2024 to 16 December 2024
Decision required, no later than	(2 months after end date of Public Notice)
If approved, change starts	Spring Term 2027

## **Consultation on school organisation changes for Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School**

### **Our proposal**

It is proposed to;

- Increase the number of pupils at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School, from 210 pupils to 420 pupils
- Move into a new school building – full address yet to be confirmed, but will be located on Chaplin Road
- Change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11.
- These changes would come into effect from 1 September 2026.

### **Why do we need to expand Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School**

Our proposal is in response to the new homes being built in the area. The County Council has a statutory duty (Section 14, Education Act 1996) to plan and secure sufficient school places for their area to meet the needs of its children and families and therefore it is obliged to plan for the expansion of its school capacity.

In the Bradwell area, it is expected there will be 1000 new homes, of which 360 are still to be built. This increase in new homes and new families, means we are expecting more primary school aged children. The current schools in Bradwell cannot accommodate these extra children.

Norfolk County Council considered the option of expanding the current Bradwell Homefields CE VC Primary School. However the existing site is unsuitable for expansion as its current size is well below the minimum DfE guideline for a school with 420 pupils.

It is therefore proposed to build a new primary school in Bradwell which will provide 60 pupil places per year group, with an overall capacity of 420 places on a single site within Wheatcroft Farm housing development.

### **Why we need to change the age range**

The governors at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School are aware that parents have said that they want to have more flexible early years provision that offers longer hours to assist those parents who work, with childcare provision. Unfortunately, this is not something that the school can currently provide and because of this factor the school continues to have low numbers of Nursery children attending. The school will work with local providers to look at options to support the needs of working parents and will continue to review the situation.

In addition, the site of the new school, will not have enough space to include a nursery at present. This means that we would need to change the age range of the school, as we could no longer provide provision for 3-year-olds.

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### **Why we feel these changes are important**

Norfolk County Council believe that these changes would benefit all children and young people in Bradwell because:

- They will provide sufficient places for the emerging pressure on primary places in the area.
- It will enable the school to plan more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.
- There will be improved learning facilities for pupils now and in the future.

### **Capital Programme**

The new primary school will be funded by Norfolk County Council and will include;

- A new 2-storey building, with 14 classrooms.
- Reception classrooms have their own en-suite toilet provision along with dedicated secure outside areas.
- KS1 classrooms are located on the ground floor, all with direct outside access.
- KS2 classrooms are located on the first floor.
- A food tech/science/DT classroom will be located on the first floor and fitted out to meet the school's curriculum need.
- A main hall with adjoining studio space including store will be provided.
- Administration offices are provided along with a secure entrance lobby.
- The library/heart space is provided on the ground floor.
- A new kitchen will also be provided

### **How can you have your say?**

Norfolk County Council will be holding a drop-in event on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.30pm at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School, where you can come and find out more about this proposal.

If you unable to attend this event but would like to comment on our proposal, you can have your say by:

- Accessing our online survey; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/bradwellhomefield>
- Completing the attached questionnaire and returning it to the School Office, Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School

We need all responses by 12 noon, Friday 20 October 2023.

### **What happens next?**

As the local decision maker for school organisation, the Director for Children's Services will review all the comments made during this consultation and decide whether to proceed to the statutory public notice stage for this proposal.

Date: 11/9/2023

## Report to the Executive Director of Children’s Services for permission to publish a statutory public notice

### The proposal;

- To increase the number of pupils at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School, from 210 pupils to 420 pupils and move into a new school building – full address yet to be confirmed, but will be located on Chaplin Road.
- Change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11.

These changes would come into effect from 1 September 2026.

<p>Reason for the proposed changes</p>	<p><b>Proposal to increase the number of pupils and relocate to a new school site.</b></p> <p>Our proposal is in response to the new homes being built in the area. The County Council has a statutory duty (Section 14, Education Act 1996) to plan and secure sufficient school places for their area to meet the needs of its children and families and therefore it is obliged to plan for the expansion of its school capacity. In the Bradwell area, there are 1000 new homes approved, of which 360 are still to be built. This increase in new homes and new families, means we are expecting more primary school aged children. The current schools in Bradwell cannot accommodate these extra children. Norfolk County Council considered the option of expanding the current Bradwell Homefields CE VC Primary School. However the existing site is unsuitable for expansion as its current size is well below the minimum DfE guideline for a school with 420 pupils. It is therefore proposed to build a new primary school in Bradwell and relocated Bradwell Homefields to this site, which will provide 60 pupil places per year group, with an overall capacity of 420 places on a single site within Wheatcroft Farm housing development.</p> <p><b>Proposal for age range change</b></p> <p>The governors at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School are aware that parents have said that they want to have more flexible early years provision that offers longer hours to assist those parents who work, with childcare provision. Unfortunately, this is not something that the school can currently provide and because of this factor the school continues to have low numbers of Nursery children attending. The school will work with local providers to look at options to support the needs of working parents. In addition, the site of the new school, will not have enough space to include a nursery. This</p>
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	<p>means that we need to change the age range of the school, as they could no longer provide provision for 3 year olds.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council believe that these changes would benefit all children and young people in Bradwell because;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They will provide sufficient places for the emerging pressure on primary places in the area.</li> <li>• It will enable the school to plan more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.</li> <li>• There will be improved learning facilities for pupils now and in the future.</li> </ul> <p>The consultation document is available at Appendix A.</p>
Consultation details	<p>The consultation was delivered, as set out by the DfE statutory guidance 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools', January 2023. A consultation was held from 11 September to 20 October 2023. A total of 339 consultation documents were sent to governors, staff and parents at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School and key stakeholders. A consultation event was held on 20 September 2023, in person, supported by the Chair of Governors, Headteacher and School Organisation Manager, Norfolk County Council. 25 people attended. An online survey was established to collect responses. The consultation was promoted widely, via the school website, local newspaper, social media.</p>
Number of responses	<b>82</b> responses
Summary of views expressed in favour of increase of pupils and relocation 36 responses (44%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools in the area are full and Bradwell needs more places (16 responses)</li> <li>• New school site is a better location, with more opportunities for learning in a new larger school (9 responses)</li> <li>• Current school and grounds is no longer fit for purpose (3 responses)</li> <li>• New location will improve traffic and road safety (3 responses)</li> </ul>
Summary of views expressed against increase in pupils and relocation/ no change 43 responses (51%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like our current school, as small classes and close to our home so can walk to school. Will have to drive to new school site, increasing traffic issues (19 responses)</li> <li>• Leave Homefield as it is, it's a lovely school. Build a new school for the new community. (17 responses)</li> <li>• Concerns that catchment area will change (3 responses)</li> <li>• Build on another part of the Bluebell Estate to avoid traffic issues and find a bigger site (2 responses)</li> </ul>

<p>Summary of views expressed in favour change of age range (17 responses)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursery provision and needs of parents changed over years and other providers offer more options and there is capacity (2 responses)</li> <li>• Hard to compete with other providers (2 responses)</li> <li>• Too young at 3 years (2 responses)</li> </ul>
<p>Summary of views expressed against the change of age range/no opinion (39 responses)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursery should be part of school, as supports children when transition to Reception (11 responses)</li> <li>• There is not enough local childcare provision (7 responses)</li> <li>• The school is losing out if it moves and does not keep the nursery (3 responses)</li> <li>• Helpful to have older and younger siblings at the same school (2 responses)</li> </ul>
<p>Commentary</p>	<p>The consultation has been run in accordance with the DfE guidance. The response rate is 24%, which is higher than other consultation response rates (usually 5%). There was good attendance at the consultation event, with 22 parents attending.</p> <p>The support for the proposals is mixed. However it is noted the responses came in over 2 time periods; 11 – 19<sup>th</sup> September and then between 4 – 9<sup>th</sup> October. The majority of the October submissions were from local residents, which may be linked to a local facebook post about the new school proposal.</p> <p>51% of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree with the proposal to expand the school and move to a new site. The concerns are linked to wanting to keep the school as it is, preferring the smaller classrooms, ability to walk to school and the ethos of the school. At the consultation event, parents were reassured that the governors are looking to grow the ‘good’ school so more children can benefit, plus there were more opportunities at new school site, as the current school site is limited and needing investment.</p> <p>47% of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree with the proposal to change the age range and no longer provide early years provision. The concerns are linked to the importance of having a nursery attached to the school as it provided improved transition into Reception. There was also concern about that there is not enough local childcare provision and that the school would be losing their nursery if school moves to a new site. However governors have said that the school cannot provide the wrap around child care provision and therefore numbers in the nursery have dropped. The new school site does not have enough space to include a nursery.</p>



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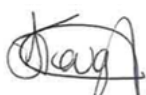
Resource implications	Norfolk County Council's schools' capital programme will be funding this new school building, as part of the growth agenda.
Recommendation	<p>Acknowledging the mixed response to this consultation, the local authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all pupils in its area. This proposal meets the need for additional primary phase places due to growth from housing development in the Bradwell area, locating a school in the new community and changing the age range. The proposals are also supported by governors and staff at the school.</p> <p>Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School was judged 'Good' by Ofsted in November 2018.</p> <p>It is recommended for Norfolk County Council to <b>proceed</b> to the statutory public notice stage of the school organisation process, subject to the planning permission application.</p>

I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposals to;

- Increase the number of pupils at Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary School, from 210 pupils to 420 pupils and move into a new school building – full address yet to be confirmed, but will be located on Chaplin Road.
- Change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11.

These changes would come into effect from 1 September 2026.

Signed:



(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Date: 24 November 2023