

Final determination report to the Director of Children's Services

The Proposal: To change the age range, expand the capacity and relocate Gayton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

In 2010, reorganisation of primary schools in the Grimston Custer included the provision for Gayton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School to change age range to become a 5 – 11 primary school from September 2011. To enable this to happen, temporary accommodation was provided at the school and a commitment was made by NCC to provide permanent accommodation.

This proposal changes the age range to 4 -11 and meets the commitment by expanding the capacity and by relocating to a new site in the village.

In coming to a decision on proposals to make prescribed alterations to schools, the decision maker is asked to address the following factors:

- Consideration of consultations and representation period
- Education standards and the diversity of provision
- Demand v. need
- School size
- Proposed admission arrangements
- National Curriculum
- Equal opportunity issues
- Community cohesion
- Travel and accessibility
- Funding
- School premises and playing fields

This report, to be read in conjunction with the prescribed information already published, and the report prepared for the Director of Children's Services requesting permission to proceed to Public Notice, will address each factor in turn.

1. Consideration of consultation and representation period

Informal exhibition events were held at the school in November 2015 and January 2016 which gave an opportunity for interested people to meet with representatives from NCC, NPS and the school to answer questions about the proposed relocation and design of the new school. The proposal was discussed at an open meeting of Gayton Parish Council on 23 May 2016.

Following publication of the Public Notice on 10 June 2016, the full proposal was published on the Norfolk County Council website. The four week period for representations ended on 8 July 2016. Two representations, one from Gayton Parish Council and one from a local resident, were received during the four week period (see Appendix 1). Both express concerns about the proposed size of the new school. (see item 5 for the NCC response).

2. Education standards and the diversity of provision

Norfolk County Council set out in the initial consultation document the reasons why all-through primary schools are its preferred model of organisation. This proposal relates to the expansion to 210 places and the relocation of the school to a new site within the village of Gayton.

3. A school-led system with every school an academy

The school was inspected by Ofsted in 2012 when it was judged 'Good'. There are no plans at this stage for it to convert to academy status.

4. Demand v. need

Gayton Primary School will accommodate 1 form of entry, 210 places. This number of places has been calculated using the following information:

- Gayton village does have fluctuating numbers of children in their catchment cohorts between 13 and 23 over the past 10 years. The intake of pupils at the school over the past 7 years have been:

2010 – 11
2011 – 22
2012 – 19
2013 – 21
2014 – 20
2015 – 22
2016 – 25 (18 in area children)

- Intakes of children are higher than their catchment cohort numbers because the school is popular - their PAN is higher than their catchment number so they are able to admit out of area children who express a preference for Gayton CE VC Primary School.
- HOUSING - NCC are aware of up to 183 new homes in Gayton although Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council have indicated 102 in their housing trajectory for the next 10 years. These are: 3 applications for approval of 93 dwellings in total plus 2 undetermined applications for 90 dwellings. Working with the possible figure of 183 dwellings the calculation of additional primary age children is follows:

$183 \times 26.1/100$ (number of children per 100 dwellings) = 48 new primary age children, 7 per year group.

- PUPIL FORECASTS - Pupil number cohorts in Gayton do fluctuate considerably. For example over the last few years they have ranged from 13 to 23 but the average figure is 13. Using this average plus the 7 children from housing gives a likely cohort of around 20 children for the future.

- **CONCLUSION** - Using figures above, Gayton village can expect an average of around 20 children per cohort for the future. A school with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 allows for flexibility both in the fluctuation of cohort numbers and the opportunity to admit out of area children to a Good school with a denominational status and ethos.

NCC plans school places based on known information and works closely with District and Borough Councils to ensure projections are as accurate as possible. NCC would not wish to build a school too small for its catchment numbers neither would we wish to build a school too large. There are no guarantees on pupil numbers for the future in any area and we have no control of housing coming forward outside of the Local Plan process.

Our overall conclusion is that there is no evidence that a 210 place school will be too small for the local community needs. If anything, the number of 210 (30 per year group) rounds numbers to the optimum school organisation model (ie one class per year group) and allows some flexibility for preference for this Good, denominational school from families out of the designated area.

5. School Size

The current capacity of the school is 125 and this proposal is to create a one form entry (210 places) primary school. The current admission number (PAN) for the school is 18 and the proposed admission number is 30.

6. Proposed admission arrangements

The implementation date is 1 September 2018.

7. National Curriculum

As a maintained school it must follow the National Curriculum.

8. Equal Opportunity Issues

There are no equal opportunity issues.

9. Community Cohesion

Schools have a part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn with, from and about each other. The proposed changes will not have an impact on the good work already carried out by the school but will provide them with a wider range of facilities, inside and outside the new building.

10. Travel and Accessibility

The original proposal contributed to the Local Authority duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school. Under the previous organisational pattern, parents with several children in the primary system had to travel to more than one school. By removing the need to transfer at Year 3, parents made fewer journeys

and are more likely to walk or cycle. The new site is within walking distance of the existing site.

The new site will be designed to provide better pedestrian access and adequate off-road parking for all staff and visitors, which the existing site is unable to do. See Appendix 2.

11. Capital

The cost of a new school building is estimated at £5.5 million and was approved by Children's Services Committee in May 2016.

12. School Premises and Playing Fields

Suitable outdoor space will be available at the new school site.

The Decision

In considering proposals for a new school, the Decision Maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposals
- Approve the proposal
- Approve the proposal with a modification
- Approve the proposal subject to it meeting a specific condition

Conclusion and recommendation

- **That the decision maker approves the proposal to change the age range to 4 -11, expand to 210 places and relocate Gayton CE VC Primary School to the identified new site in Gayton Village.**

The Proposal:

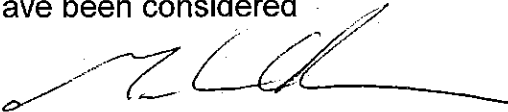
Determination

I hereby **approve** this proposal to change the age range, expand the school to 210 places and relocate Gayton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School to the identified site in Gayton Village with effect from 1 September 2018.

The reasons for this decision are that:

- The statutory procedural requirements under section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 have been met
- The proposal meets the criteria laid down in statutory guidance in relation to the likely impact of the proposal on standards and school improvement, local choice and diversity, surplus places, community cohesion and race equality
- The views of all interested parties, including those most likely to be affected, have been considered

Signed:



Date: 22.7.16 2016

Michael Rosen, Executive Director of Children's Services, Norfolk County Council

