

Alderman Swindell (Community) Primary School Statutory Proposal to close the school

1. LA details

Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 2DL

2. School details

Alderman Swindell Primary
School
Beresford Road
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR30 4AB

3. Implementation

The proposal is to close Alderman Swindell (Community) Primary School on 31 August 2018.

4. Reason for closure

In 2015 all schools in Great Yarmouth were reorganised to become all-through primary schools. County Councillors asked us to undertake a second stage of organisational review in North Yarmouth to ensure the County Council is making better use of existing buildings and to consider replacing them where this is more cost-effective.

The funding allocated for the improvements to both school buildings could be pooled to build a new primary school building on the North Denes site. The County Council believes this will provide a modern school fit for 21st century learning, for local primary age children.

Of the two sites, Alderman Swindell is constrained and could not accommodate a 420 place primary school, which would be capable of further expansion to provide sufficient pupil places for the future.

Of the two schools, Alderman Swindell has been judged as 'Requiring Improvement' in both of its most recent Ofsted inspections. We are supporting both schools to further improve but believe that a 21st century school will support our ambition to ensure that children locally receive the very best education.

It is therefore proposed that Alderman Swindell Primary School is closed and that North Denes expands. This proposal is linked to the proposal to change the age range of North Denes (Community) Primary School on 1 September 2018.

5. Pupil numbers and admissions

If the proposal is implemented, the new school will initially a capacity of 420 and an admission number of 60. There would be two classes in each year group, with 30 pupils in each class. There will be sufficient places at North Denes Primary School to ensure that everyone has a place at a local school

on 1st September 2018. All parents of children at Alderman Swindell Primary School will be invited to express their preference. There are two other primary schools within a 10 minute walk of the area, so parents will continue to have a choice.

6. Displaced pupils

No pupils will be displaced, see 5. Above.

7. Impact on the community

It is clear from the informal consultation that Alderman Swindell and North Denes are both much-loved schools in the local community and we know that there will always be sadness when we propose the closure of a school. Our priority is to make a decision that is best for the children's education both now and in the future.

If the proposal proceeds, the County Council will look at how we might be able to increase the number of places locally, by possible reuse of the Alderman Swindell site, for children with special and additional educational needs because we want to give more children from Great Yarmouth the chance to be taught in their local community.

8. Rural primary schools

Alderman Swindell Primary School is not designated by the Department for Education as a rural school.

9. Balance of denominational provision

This proposal has no effect on the balance of denominational provision in Great Yarmouth.

10. Travel

Alderman Swindell and North Denes are half a mile apart, so we do not anticipate a significant increase in traffic as a result of the change proposed. However we will be looking at transport and access as part of any proposals for a new building. When further exploring the options for specialist provision at the vacated Alderman Swindell site, we will again consider traffic and access issues.

11. Procedure for making representations

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by responding to the survey at <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/north-yarmouth/> by emailing us at schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk, or by writing to us at:

North Yarmouth Consultation, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Floor 8, Bay 29, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.