

Report to Executive Director of Children's Services for final decision on a proposal to change the catchment areas in Pickenham and Swaffham

The Proposal

Norfolk County Council is looking to join the catchment areas of Pickenham and Swaffham, from 1st September 2018. This means that, if agreed, all children aged 4 – 7 years, from the Pickenham area will be in catchment for Swaffham CE VC Infant School.

Norfolk County Council works collaboratively with the Diocese of Norwich in relation to all its Church of England Schools and both organisations are committed to improving the quality of educational provision to raise standards for all learners.

This proposal is linked to the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) consultation on the proposed closure of St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy, North Pickenham from 31st August 2018. DNEAT's proposal has an impact on the catchment area for children from the Pickenham area. DNEAT is proposing a change of catchment area for children aged 7 – 11 years, to Swaffham Church of England Junior Academy.

As a result of the DNEAT proposal, Norfolk County Council and the Diocese of Norwich need to consult on proposed changes to the catchment areas of Pickenham and Swaffham.

The Consultation

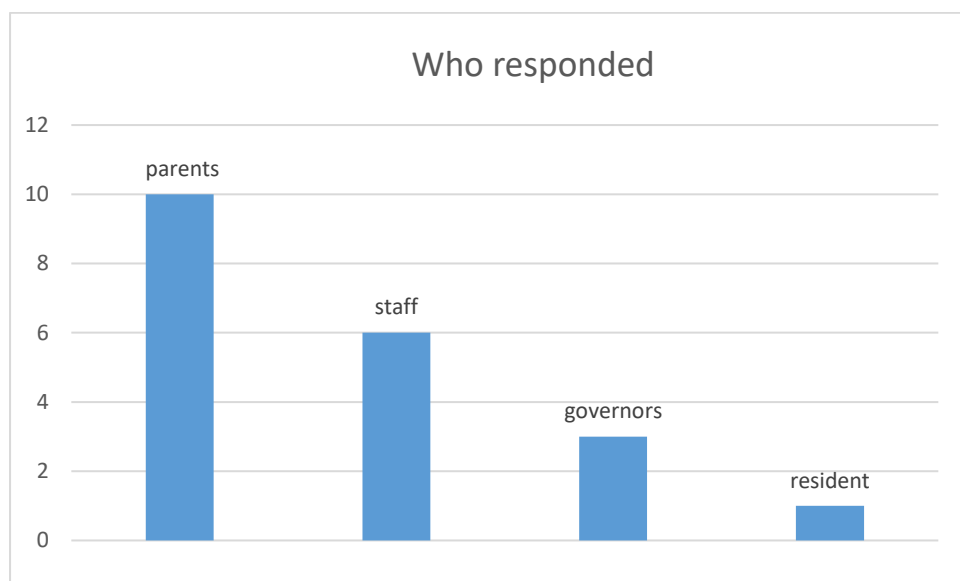
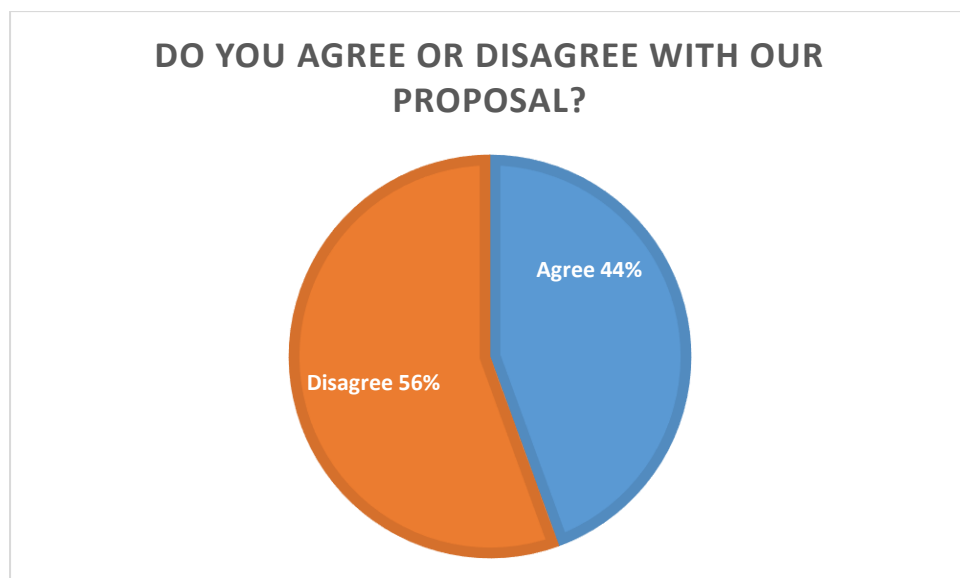
The consultation ran from 18th April – 6th June 2018. A copy of the consultation document is available in Appendix A.

The consultation document was sent to;

- Parents and pupils at the St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy and Swaffham CE VC Infant School.
- The Governors and staff at the St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy and Swaffham CE VC Infant School.
- Schools in the Swaffham school cluster group
- Diocesan Boards of Education
- Trade Unions who represent staff at the schools
- Elizabeth Truss, MP
- Local County Councillors, District Councillors and Parish Councillors

Analysis

There were 18 responses in the consultation. 8 people agreed (44%) and 10 people disagreed (56%) with the proposal.



*Please note, some people may have ticked more than one box i.e. member of staff and governor.

There were several comments or suggestions made on the proposal, including;

- Swaffham Infant School is a small school, with few spaces available, therefore would it cope with additional pupils and extra traffic.
- The catchment area in Swaffham is already oversubscribed. Concerns about the impact on children's learning, is class sizes have to increase and costs of additional staff needed.
- Concerns about the potential growth of Swaffham with the new houses being built and a likely increase in the number of children requiring places at their local school.

- Prefer children to go to Necton Primary which is another village school, rather than a bigger school in a town.
- North Pickenham is very rural and therefore transport would be needed to be available.
- Concerns that parents/carers may not be able to drive and therefore not attend school meetings and events.
- Support for the change of catchment area to Swaffham Infant School.

Conclusion

The main area of concern raised during the consultation relates to the capacity within Swaffham Infant School for additional pupils.

Norfolk County Council has a duty to ensure sufficient school places. This is achieved through the Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan (SLGIP) for pupil place provision 4-16, which sets out the strategic direction of pupil place supply for those areas of the County where pupil numbers are expected to increase in the next 5-10 years. This plan was agreed by the Children's Services Committee in January 2018.

The SLGIP identifies that Swaffham is a "growth area with implications for existing schools". Discussions are ongoing with the Diocese of Norwich regarding the future of Swaffham schools and how growth and re-organisation can factor into ensuring sufficient primary school places in the future.

Transport will be provided free of charge by Norfolk County Council for those pupils who transfer to their nearest or catchment school, where this is beyond the qualifying distance (over 2 miles for under 8's and over 3 miles for older children), as set out in our School Transport Policy.

This proposal is linked to the DNEAT proposal to close St. Andrews Church of England Primary School Academy. The final decision on closure has been with the Minister of State for Education. The Minister approved the decision to close St. Andrews Church of England Primary School Academy on 5th November 2018. As a result the implementation date has moved from September 2018 to December 2018.

Recommendation

The Executive Director of Children's Services reassured that Norfolk County Council is planning for growth in Swaffham, agrees that from 1st December 2018, all children aged 4 – 7 years, from the Pickenham area will be in catchment for Swaffham CE VC Infant School.

Changes to Catchment areas in Pickenham and Swaffham.

I agree to the change of catchment area for children aged 4 – 7 years, from the Pickenham area, to be in catchment for Swaffham CE VC Infant School, from 1st December 2018.

Signed _____
(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Dated _____

Consultation to change the catchment areas in Pickenham and Swaffham

Our proposal

Norfolk County Council is looking to join the catchment areas of Pickenham and Swaffham, from 1st September 2018. This means that, if agreed, all children aged 4 – 7 years, from the Pickenham area will be in catchment for Swaffham CE VC Infant School.

Norfolk County Council works collaboratively with the Diocese of Norwich in relation to all its Church of England Schools and both organisations are committed to improving the quality of educational provision to raise standards for all learners.

The consultation will run from 18th April 2018 until 6th June 2018.

Why are we consulting on a change of catchment area?

This proposal is linked to the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) consultation on the proposed closure of St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy, North Pickenham from 31st August 2018. DNEAT's proposal has an impact on the catchment area for children from the Pickenham area. DNEAT is proposing a change of catchment area for children aged 7 – 11 years, to Swaffham Church of England Junior Academy.

As a result of the DNEAT proposal, Norfolk County Council and the Diocese of Norwich need to consult on proposed changes to the catchment areas of Pickenham and Swaffham.

What is a catchment area?

A catchment area is a defined geographical area that serves a particular school. The area is used to provide priority for admission to a particular school. In planning the layout of a catchment area, the Admissions Authority, in this case, Norfolk County Council, should try to ensure that the parent would have reasonable expectation for priority to that school.

Norfolk County Council's admission arrangements allow parents to state up to 3 preferences and parents are encouraged to include their catchment school as one of these preferences as most schools prioritise catchment children. As required by law, there can be no guarantee that a place will be offered at the catchment school.

What is the guidance from the Department of Education about catchments and when to consult?

Norfolk County Council is the admissions authority. The statutory guidance from the Department of Education for admissions authorities can be found in the Admissions Code, 2014 which states;

Catchment areas

1.14 Catchment areas must be designed so that they are reasonable and clearly defined. Catchment areas do not prevent parents who live outside the catchment of a particular school from expressing a preference for the school.

There is a formal period of consultation which Norfolk County Council as the Admissions Authority, has to follow. This relates to the usual September admission round and must be for a period of 6 weeks between October and January.

Due to the timescale of the proposal by DNEAT for St. Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy, Norfolk County Council is undertaking this proposal outside of the usual admissions consultation.

School Transport eligibility

Transport will be provided free of charge by Norfolk County Council for those pupils who transfer to their nearest or catchment school, where this is beyond the qualifying distance (over 2 miles for under 8's and over 3 miles for older children).

Who will be consulted?

This document will be provided to people and organisations that may have an interest in this proposal including:

- Parents of pupils at the Pickenham and Swaffham schools
- The Governing Body of Pickenham and Swaffham schools
- All staff at the Pickenham and Swaffham schools
- Schools in the Swaffham school cluster
- Diocesan Boards of Education
- Trades unions who represent staff at the school
- Local Councillors and MPs
- Each Local Authority which maintains an Education Health and Care Plan (ECHP).

Who will make the final decision and when would the change happen?

The Executive Director of Children's Services at Norfolk County Council will make a decision about changing the catchment area, taking into account all views expressed during the consultation period.

How can I have my say?

- access our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/pickenham-swaffham>
- write to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 29), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL
- email schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

The closing date for all comments is 6th June 2018.

Consultation to change the catchment areas in Pickenham and Swaffham

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Do you agree or disagree that all children aged 4 – 7 years from the Pickenham area, will be in catchment for Swaffham CE VC Infant School, from 1st September 2018.

Agree

Disagree

Please add any further comments on this proposal.

Please tell us who you are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): _____

At which school? _____

What is your name? _____

What is your postcode? _____

Your views will help us decide to whether to make the change to the catchment area.

This consultation ends on 6th June 2018

The Executive Director of Children's Services at Norfolk County Council will decide whether to agree this proposal.

You can tell us your views:

Online: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/pickenham-swaffham>

Post: by using this form which can be returned via your local school or post to:
Catchment Area Consultation, FREEPOST, IH2076, County Hall (Floor 8 / Bay 29), Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. **You don't need a stamp.**

Email: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

We will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act, which means that we will not give your personal data to any third parties.

Your comments will be anonymous - your name or anything that could identify you will not be included in any report. However, we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.