

Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled School

Statutory Proposal to Enlarge the Premises

Full Proposal Document

1. LA details

Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2BX

Suffolk County Council is the Proposer.

2. School details

Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School
Colethorpe Lane
Barrow
Bury St Edmunds
IP29 5AU

Voluntary Controlled School

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Enlarge the Premises: Enlarge the physical capacity of the school from 150 places to 210 places. No alteration is proposed to the Admission Number, currently 30.

The Governing Body also intends to increase the age range of the school from 4 – 9 to 4 – 11, which is not subject to a statutory process.

As a result, the primary school will need to be able to accommodate pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 who would previously have progressed to middle school or a 4 – 11 primary school at age 9.

Two new classbases are required in order to accommodate the additional 60 pupils.

4. Objectives and reasons

The Governing Body formally decided to start the process to move to a two-tier system of education at the Governing Body meeting on 8th November 2019. The move to a 4 – 11 age range brings Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School in line with other primary schools in the Bury St Edmunds and wider area. Tollgate Primary School will become the only school in Suffolk with a 4 – 9 age range.

As most Suffolk schools moved to a two-tier education system during the period 2011 – 2016 Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School entered into a partnership with the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Trust in order to remain in a three-tier education system. One reason to leave the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Trust was due to Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School being a church school within a trust of non-church schools. As the structure and strategic direction of the trust have evolved over time the Governing Body at Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School feel the working partner relationship doesn't give the school sufficient meaningful influence within the wider organisation and take the view the opportunities available for the school to grow and develop within the wider regional educational landscape outside the trust are greater than the benefit of remaining within the partnership.

The move to a 4 – 11 age range at Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School increases parental choice in the area for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils including providing

additional church places in Year 5 and Year 6 at an Ofsted rated Outstanding school.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The majority of pupils from Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School currently transfer to Westley Middle School or Horringer Court Middle School in Year 5 and subsequently transfer within the trust to County Upper School. These schools may see a reduction in their roll as a result, although parents of pupils at Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School will still be able to apply for places in Year 5 at the middle schools if they wish to continue to follow the current three-tier structure of education. Under a two-tier structure the catchment area secondary school for pupils from the Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School catchment area is King Edward VI CEVC Upper School, who may therefore see an increase in applications for places in Year 7.

6. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met

The estimated cost of the project is £810,000. Funding is included in Suffolk County Council's 2019-20 Capital Programme, subject to approval of the statutory proposal to extend the accommodation.

7. Implementation date

1 September 2020.

The Governing Body's alteration to the age range will be implemented in stages, 4 – 10 from 1 September 2020 and 4 – 11 from 1 September 2021.

The potential building project to extend the physical capacity of Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School to accommodate 210 pupils will be completed by September 2020.

8. Consultation

Prior to the decision to withdraw from the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Trust the Governing Body at Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School undertook a comprehensive review of the strategic direction of the school and met with many groups including members of the Trust Board, officers from the Local Authority and the Diocese as well as gaining views from key stakeholders, namely parents/carers and staff.

The Chair of Governors and the Headteacher informed parents/carers of pupils at Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School by letter on 17 September 2018 of their decision to withdraw from the working partnership with the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Trust.

An update giving details of the school expansion to include Year 5 and Year 6 from September 2020 was posted on the Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School website in November 2018.

9. Related proposals

The alteration proposed at Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School is related to the Governing Body's Non-Statutory proposal to alter the age range of the school from 4 – 9 to 4 – 11 from 01 September 2020.

10. Procedure for making representations (support, objections and comments)

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by writing to Barrow CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School Consultation, Schools Infrastructure Team, Children and Young People's Service, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, email schools@suffolk.gov.uk, within 4 weeks of the publication of these proposals (by 5th April 2019).