

INFORMATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal to Expand Premises Snaith Primary School

Bourn Mill Balk Road, Snaith, Goole, East Yorkshire, DN14 9RD

Introduction

Where it is proposed to increase a school by more than 25% of the current capacity of the school buildings, the local authority must undertake a statutory process for 'prescribed alterations' as set out in the Department for Education's statutory guidance 'Making significant changes... to maintained schools'¹.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has previously determined that the capacity of Snaith Primary School is 280 pupils from Reception to Year 6, with a corresponding Published Admission Number (PAN) of 40. Additional school places are often required at present, and the school is expected to be in even further demand in future years as a result of housing developments currently being planned or built. These include a signed Section 106 agreement with housing developers to provide funding for the expansion of Snaith Primary School.

It is envisaged that the needs of the school would best be met through a scheme to provide Snaith Primary School with an increase in the number of appropriately sized permanent classrooms to 14, as well as associated facilities including toilets and a larger hall. This would allow the school to admit up to 420 pupils and remove the need to use one temporary classroom that is currently leased by the school and is no longer suitable, as well as two small rooms that are not suitably sized to be used as classrooms.

Together this scheme will be funded by a mix of Section 106 contributions and 'Basic Need' funding, will provide the school with the flexibility to increase its Published Admission Number (PAN) at the appropriate time with the needs of the community and future housing, as well as ensure that all teaching spaces in use are suitable.

This proposal document has been written to accompany the statutory notice as part of a formal consultation process as required by the statutory guidance.

School and local authority details

The proposal is published by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA.

The school to which the proposal relates is a local authority community school, Snaith Primary School, Bourn Mill Balk Road, Snaith, Goole, East Yorkshire, DN14 9RD.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756572/Maintained_schools_prescribed_alterations_guidance.pdf

Objective

The proposal aims to meet the educational needs of current and future resident children. Increasing the number of places relative to the level of rising demand for these places would increase parental choice within the area, and avoid a situation in which the demand for places from children resident in the catchment area outstrips the supply of places at the local 'catchment school'. In terms of current school admissions, Snaith Primary School is now at a point where 40 places have been insufficient to accommodate demand for many years. Given development in the area if no action were taken, it is likely that this negative outcome could occur again. In addition, some of the teaching spaces used in the school, that have been converted from courtyard spaces are not appropriate for the numbers or needs of the classes using them, and so it is proposed that these should be replaced with full sized classrooms so that all classes in the school are located in appropriate accommodation.

Snaith Primary School is a community school that provides for children aged 3 to 11 principally for the residents in and around the villages of Snaith and Gowdall. Snaith Primary School is an 'Outstanding' school as evaluated by Ofsted in March 2017. Educational standards in the area would therefore be met by creating new places in good or outstanding schools, as local authorities are strongly encouraged to do by the Department for Education.

Number of pupils on roll

At the time of publishing this proposal, there were 305 pupils on roll at Snaith Primary School for 280 places, across seven year groups, from Reception to Year 6, with the largest year group being 51 pupils.

School buildings and capacity

The current Net Capacity of the school is 280. Following the proposed expansion, the Net Capacity of the school will be at least 315 and may be as high as 420, given that the proposal increases the numbers of classrooms to 14, which would be enough for 420 pupils.

There is also a related proposal to increase the school's Planned Admission Number from 40 at present to 45 from September 2024. This related proposal is part of the Council's annual determination of admission arrangements, and is under consultation until 14 December 2022.

It is also proposed that the Council review any further increases in PAN beyond 45 only in line with demand as the local pupil population increases, so as to mitigate any negative effects on other local schools.

Background – demand for school places

The school is a popular primary school and regularly experiences high demand for places, both in the Reception year and 'in-year' – that is for Years 1-6 after classes have already been filled.

In terms of current school admissions, Snaith Primary School is now at a point where 40 places are regularly insufficient to accommodate demand. Even year groups of 45 pupils are exceeded, with year groups getting larger as families relocate to the area, often in new housing. One year group is as large as 51 pupils and only two year groups are of 40 pupils or under in size. In some

years children with a sibling in the school have been refused places and the school has had many appeals heard, and subsequently had to admit additional children.

There is also significant pressure on the school in terms of late applications, changes of address and circumstance and the admission of children with Education, Health and Care Plans that is placing additional pressure on places.

It is evident that there is already sufficient local demand to warrant an expansion of the school. Had there been 45 available places in the past several years, these would have been filled, and the school commonly would still have refused some families and placed those children on a waiting list.

Background – new housing

There have been 137 dwellings completed in this area in recent years, and a significant number of new houses that are being built or are planned to be built in the catchment area of Snaith Primary School. In total by 2039, it is planned that there will be at least a further 225 new dwellings within this catchment area.

When planning permission was granted for the latest development, a Section 106 agreement was signed detailing a contribution of £1,625 per dwelling that would provide for new primary school places through the expansion of Snaith Primary School.

New schools require development of a certain magnitude that is not the case with the amount of housing being currently proposed for Snaith at 225 additional dwellings. Previously up to 535 dwellings have been proposed for one site to the south of the village and it is possible further such proposals may come forward in the future. By providing for an expansion of teaching spaces to accommodate up to 14 classes, and up to 420 pupils in total, such space would then be available should it be required for new residents in future years, alongside addressing concerns around the suitability and longevity of teaching spaces as at present. Growing existing schools alongside areas of new housing is advantageous in that growth can be planned and managed over a number of years, rather than a sudden increase in the availability of new school places if a new school first approach was pursued. In other areas of the East Riding, the provision of new schools before housing has led to undersubscription at other schools and in other examples across the country, new schools are often delivered after the need for school places from new residents has arisen.

Overtime, we would expect that 225 new dwellings would create the need for an additional 36 primary aged pupils, or around 5 per year group. As these figures are calculated on the basis of the permanent needs of a development, that is over the lifetime of an average East Riding residence, and as recent experience with other new housing developments in the East Riding has shown, there will likely be more than this number of primary aged pupils requiring school places in the early years of a development being built and inhabited. As such, whilst there may be a need for around 36 primary places, this could be greater in the short to medium terms if the houses sold in these developments are sold disproportionately to families with young children as recent experience in other areas has shown.

There is therefore significant pressure on school places from approved local housing schemes being built to warrant an expansion of the school.

Background – existing school buildings

Officers have had regular communication with governors and the head teacher of Snaith Primary School over a number of years, and have each year monitored the number of pupils resident, alongside the demand for the school.

A 280 place primary school requires the mixing of classes across several year groups, but as there has been more than 280 children on roll at the school and the suitability of several spaces that have then had to be used for teaching, have not allowed for classes of a standard size, the school has had to organise its classes differently. This has involved splitting 40-45 pupils across two uneven classes as the number of pupils in that year group could only be accommodated in one full size teaching space, and one smaller space that could adequately provide for a maximum of 17 pupils in younger year groups. This has impacted on the costs per pupil the school has incurred.

School leaders have expressed an aspiration to grow the school to accommodate local pupils, which is the very essence of being a community school. Currently the school have not been able to admit all pupils requesting a place in many year groups, where the school's classes are already full.

The site of Snaith Primary School neighbours an adjoining piece of land that the Council plans to purchase/re-designate for education use. Officers are in negotiations to develop a scheme for a build, to increase the size of Snaith Primary School with 5 classrooms and toilets. This would allow the admission of 45 pupils on a sustainable basis and the possibility to expand further if there was the local demand for places.

Alteration proposal

It is proposed to increase the size of Snaith Primary School from the current capacity of 280 to around 420, which would at first enable the admission of 45 pupils on a sustainable basis in permanent and suitable accommodation. It would also in turn raise the number of available places that could be utilised in future from 45 per year to 60 per year, for example should the future housing that is planned for Snaith and the surrounding area, increase the number of pupils requiring school places. The final 'net capacity' of the school building could vary around 420 according to the size of the exact spaces provided.

The Council as the admission authority for the school, along with school leaders, are committing in this proposal to only increase beyond 45 pupils per year on a permanent basis should this demand arise. In these circumstances the Council would include this proposal in its annual consultation and determination of admission arrangements, rather than increase without further consultation.

This proposal would enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient primary school places in the Snaith Primary School catchment area, given the challenges of some currently unsuitable teaching spaces as well as rising demand and new housing in the area.

The catchment area is not proposed to change as a result of this proposal.

It is proposed that 'Basic Need' funding that is provided directly by the Department for Education is utilised for the majority of this project, alongside funding from signed 'Section 106' agreements

with housing developers. This funding has already been agreed with housing developers for building 160 dwellings on the site to the south of Snaith identified as 'SNA-A' in the East Riding Local Plan.

The footprint of the new building has been identified as being on land to the south of the existing school site. This land is in public ownership and the Council will have the use of this land from early in 2023. The scheme planned to be taken forward is to provide additional accommodation for the maintenance of an eleven to fourteen class structure to support a Published Admission Number of 45, and later 60 pupils, including classrooms and associated facilities.

It is envisaged that this will be a block containing five classrooms and toilets for older children, separate from the main school building. There will also be some additional reconfiguration of spaces in the existing school buildings alongside the new building to increase the size of the hall, removing one temporary classroom that has reached the end of its usable life, and converting two small spaces within the school (that are both currently having to be used for classes), into other ad hoc teaching, small group and intervention spaces including to support children with sensory needs. In total, this will create a school building with appropriate teaching spaces for up to 420 pupils.

By staging the creation of new school places for an expansion from 40 to 45 pupils a year at Snaith Primary School, live housing and population data can be monitored to maximise the timing and therefore benefit of any future required change alongside a variety of other factors, including not creating a supply of school places in excess of demand that could potentially negatively impact other schools. It is likely that any future change in the PAN would be alongside the inhabitation of new dwellings. To date this close monitoring of live data has led to the effect on other local schools being minimal, and this staged approach supports this central aim.

Project costs

The build of additional classrooms and facilities to increase the net capacity to around 420 pupils is expected to be around £1,350,000, subject to detailed quotes and evaluation. All these capital costs associated with the expansion are being met either from Basic Need monies already held by the Council or from Section 106 contributions and represent good value for money from these contributions.

As revenue funding for school is pupil led, the budgets of the school for staffing will be met from the admission of additional pupils as reported each year in the school census. Once more pupils are on roll at the school there will be increased value for money in terms of fixed costs for which 315 pupils funding will be more financially advantageous than 280 pupils funding these fixed costs.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The proposed expansion of the school, if approved, could take effect from the start of the new school year in September 2023 should the level of demand be as predicted given the numbers of local residents as detailed above.

It is envisaged that the school should grow 'from the bottom up' in terms of admitting larger Reception cohorts joining the school and smaller Year 6s leaving the school over the next seven years. Should the demand increase for places in other year groups, it is possible that this could be accelerated should school resources and demand allow, for example over fewer years.

Given the development in Snaith, it is likely that additional places, either permanently, or for a number of years will be required for the needs of new residents of local developments. Some future funding through Section 106 agreements has also been secured, and as such, it is planned that this build would allow for sufficient classrooms and support spaces to be built now to allow the school in time to move from 45 pupils a year, to up to 60 pupils a year if required. Officers recommend that as in recent years, pupil numbers and demand for places are monitored and all options remain available.

Published Proposal - objections and comments

The Public Notice will be issued on 10 November 2022 in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The period for representations and objections will run from 10 November 2022 to 8 December 2022. After the closing date for representations and objections, the proposal, along with all comments received, will be submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council for determination.

Objections or comments should be sent by email to schoolorganisation@eastriding.gov.uk or by post to the School Organisation Officer, School Admissions and School Organisation Team, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA.

This document has been distributed to key stakeholders including parents, staff, neighbouring schools, local elected members, and the local MP.