

Business Case for proposed school expansion for September 2017 implementation.

St Andrews C of E VC Lower School, Biggleswade

Please insert how the proposed expansion of your school meets each of Central Bedfordshire Council's 9 policy principles for pupil place planning - below . As a guide, please consider and delete the explanatory grey text provided in each section before inserting your text

1	<p>The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.</p> <p>St. Andrew's Lower School opened its East Site in September 2015. Parents are very pleased with the new school provision, but CBC's revised forecasts show that more is needed to accommodate the new families in Kings Reach. CBC have some extra land near the school so our site can accommodate the extra building. This means families in the local area can send their young children to the local lower school, which is near enough to walk to safely.</p>
2	<p>The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable.</p> <p>This expansion would mean that St. Andrew's would have two sites, each with three forms of entry and a capacity of 450. This fits with CBC's principle on school sizes. The financial viability of the school has been confirmed by Central Bedfordshire Council Finance Department.</p>
3	<p>The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools.</p> <p>St. Andrew's VC Lower School was judged to be good in its last three Ofsted Inspections. Children leave the school at higher than expected levels and make good progress from their starting points. Current improvement targets are focused on the improvement of phonics and spelling, raising expectation in line with new curriculum requirements and ensuring consistency of assessment across new and established staff. The recent Ofsted letter (May 2016) states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pupils in KS1 and 2 achieve well. b) Extra programmes are taught to all disadvantaged pupils and evaluated to ensure they are making a difference, achieving value for money and are narrowing gaps in progress and attainment.
4	<p>The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities</p> <p>St. Andrew's is part of the Biggleswade Community Union of Schools (BCUS). This includes all the Biggleswade schools and the schools in the outlying villages. BCUS collaborates well at Head Teacher, teacher and governor level, working to ensure continuity and for all our children. The schools support each other on individual development priorities, and work together on joint priorities that are reviewed each year. St. Andrew's is also part of the Pilgrim Partnership School Centred Initial Teacher Training Scheme, helping to recruit and train good quality primary and early years teachers. Through our proposed expansion more children will be able to benefit from the result of these partnerships.</p>
5	<p>The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0 -19 and reduce school transfer points</p> <p>Through its work in BCUS St. Andrew's works particularly well with Edward Peake Middle School and Biggleswade Academy to ensure a smooth transition for pupils between years four and five. The teachers in Years Four and Five work</p>

	collaboratively on developing accurate assessment to ensure high expectations are made of children as they change schools. St. Andrew's also works closely with Rainbow Pre-school and other Early Years Providers locally to ensure a smooth and effective transition between Early Years and Reception. St. Andrew's also has an agreement with rainbow pre-school to provide before and After School Care and Holiday Care for our children.
6	The need to support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA).
	N/A
7	To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use.
	St. Andrew's staff and governors have been consulted on the design of the possible alterations and expansion, and the provisional plans complement the current building well. St. Andrew's has already had community use of its hall, e.g. a cheerleaders group, and there are plans to use the site in the summer for sports sessions. Expanding the building will provide more opportunities for community use.
8	To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice
	More families will be able to choose St. Andrew's when we are larger. We were over-subscribed for Sept. 2016, so some families were disappointed. St. Andrew's is a good church school, with a strong ethos and sense of mission. It contributes to the development of the profession through its work in initial teacher training. It supports the local authorities SEND provision with a Language Provision based at the school.
9	To support vulnerable learners in Area Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools
	The school houses one of the local authorities Language Provisions and provides well for these children and children with other SEND. The school works with Ivel Valley Special School where appropriate.