

FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School High Street North Dunstable Bedfordshire LU6 1NH
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In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

N/A

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Implementation to take place in September 2015
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- Four stages of implementation
- September 2014 - Year 5 pupils admitted to Ashton Middle School for the last time.
- September 2015 - Year 8 pupils stay on into YR 9 (School now Yrs6-9)
- September 2016 - Year 9 pupils stay on into YR 10 (school now Yrs 7-10)
- September 2017 - Year 10 pupils stay on into Yr 11
(School is now a fully 11 – 16 Secondary School.)

The school will welcome any pupils into any of the existing year groups, providing the school does not exceed their admission number.

The projected numbers on roll stated in this document differ from those quoted in our Consultation and the LA's figures. This is as a result of strong parental support and external professional guidance.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—
 - (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority;
and

- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

(a) 14 April 2014

(b) The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to change the age range of Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School from a 9 – 13 years Middle school to a 11 – 16 years secondary school. We also propose to change the name of the school to The Frances Ashton C of E VA Secondary School.

School capacity

5. (a) Details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The proposal will provide a faith school in the centre of town.

The current capacity of the school is 620 this figure has always been too high for the size of this building.

Our numbers have reduced this year due to the changes in the Dunstable area. At present we have 475 pupils in the school. The proposed capacity will be 450 pupils from years 7-11. The resulting smaller PAN, from 155 to 90, will allow for increase in number of year groups from 4 (Yrs 5-8) to 5 (Yrs 7-11) and the change in provision required for older, larger pupils.

Our PAN, which is smaller than other secondary schools, gives increased choice for the significant number of parents who have raised concerns regarding the impact of the wide age range and the increase numbers in secondary schools compared with primary. Our school will offer a less daunting environment allowing personal support and time to develop the social skills required to work alongside much older pupils.

We will also be able to provide the additional places for a secondary education when Upper Schools are already predicting that *“the new rules regarding the raising participation age also mean that the school would expect a greater proportion of its year 11 students to remain in the sixth form.”* (Manshead Consultation Document 2013) This ultimately could cause serious strain on buildings and facilities, where there is already the need to provide accommodation in temporary buildings. As the size of the sixth form increases and, as a consequence the total number in the school increases, there will be more pressure on the facilities available which could lead to a reduction in their PAN or reduction in number being admitted in Year 7 due to parental choice. Our additional numbers would allow upper schools to increase their already successful provision 16-18 thus improving standards throughout the community. Due to the changes in the Dunstable area there will only be a 5% surplus between years 9 and 11. This was described during the consultation meetings by LA representatives as “tight”. By adding an additional 90 places in the Dunstable area we would be able to increase that surplus, address future concerns as explained above and provide parents with a choice, which may not be available to all

parents with a 'tight' 5% surplus. Future plans for increased housing developments would also put additional strain on secondary numbers.

- (b) Details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current numbers of pupils in year 7 are 110. In September 2015 we would expect to admit our PAN of 90.

From	Action
September 2015	Year 8 pupils remain at Frances Ashton C of E secondary school and move into Year 9. There will be no admission into Year 5 at this point, but current Year 5 pupils would move into, what would be, a final Year 6.
September 2016	Year 9 pupils remain at Frances Ashton C of E secondary school and move into Year 10. Year 6 pupils remain at the school and move into Year 7, to be joined by the first admission into that year group from local Primary Schools.
September 2017	Year 10 pupils at Frances Ashton C of E secondary school move into Year 11.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Numbers on roll

	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019
Year 5	60					
Year 6	100	90				
Year 7	50	90	90	90	90	90
Year 8	100	50+	90	90	90	90
Year 9		80+	60+	90	90	90
Year 10			80+	60+	90	90
Year 11				80+	60+	90
Total	310	310+	320+	410	420+	450

- (2) A statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the

proposals.

There are 475 pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposal. Following discussions with a variety of stakeholders, we aim to achieve three form entry for Year 7 by September 2015, to offer the Frances Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School as an additional secondary provision in Dunstable.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

N/A

Additional Site

7. (1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

N/A

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

Changes in boarding arrangements

8. (1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision—

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

- (2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision—
 - (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

Transfer to new site

- 9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

N/A

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

The objective of our proposal is to provide the parents and students of Dunstable with greater choice. We would offer a faith based secondary education in the centre of the town. Currently Dunstable only has one faith based secondary school, which is Manshead Upper School. As a school that is located in the centre of the town we believe we are a truly viable option for our local community.

The school believes that continuing to offer access to a full curriculum provided by specialist teachers in specialist areas, from the age of 11, will provide our pupils with the skills and subject knowledge to enhance their learning to ensure consistent progress is made.

We have proved (OFSTED 2013) that progress is good for the years our pupils are with us and particularly in Years 7 and 8 in mathematics where it is recognised that progress in Years 7 and 8 is almost as much as that expected nationally across Years 7 to 9. The school sets challenging targets which exceed national expectations, this is resulting in accelerated progress at KS3 in most subjects, this would continue into KS4. The report also recognised the good tracking and effective interventions which are taking place throughout the school. These processes will be rolled out to KS4, this is vital to ensure that all pupils make good or better progress at KS4 and reach their full potential at GCSE.

Our pupils know how to behave, have an excellent learning ethos and high attendance, consistently 94-96%.

In year 8 our pupils are already competing and performing at the highest levels and we have committed staff who will be able to continue to facilitate this achievement up to year 11 and beyond.

Our work with vulnerable pupils has been consistently highly commended by OFSTED and by our local community e.g. Jigsaw and Social Services etc. We believe that the nurturing environment we can provide for these pupils, in a smaller school where we can meet individual needs, will also lead to higher levels of progress and success at KS4. Our small SAS group, an initiative designed to accelerate the progress of pupils who arrive with exceptionally poor language or mathematical skills, has proven to be highly successful at bringing them up to the level where they can effectively access the curriculum. This will be developed and adapted for the needs of slightly older pupils. We will also aim to provide an alternative work based programme for some vulnerable pupils for whom a traditional curriculum is inappropriate.

“Support in lessons for pupils with Special Educational Needs is good and, consequently, they make good progress in their learning.” OFSTED 2013

Progress of our SEN pupils is good. We are proud of our inclusion process and will be further developing the roles of our support staff including our Behaviour Manager and School Counsellor to ensure that every pupil is provided with the best opportunity to achieve the highest standards possible.

Current planning indicates that the school, although smaller, would provide a full curriculum and be financially viable. This is possible as a result of staff restructuring and careful budget planning, to this end we have appointed a new business manager with experience in this area. A full Business Plan to follow.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

(a) A list of the people and organisations that were consulted with are listed below-

- Chairs of Governors for all Central Bedfordshire schools & academies
- Head Teachers of all Central Bedfordshire schools & academies
- Central Bedfordshire Council officers within Children's Services
- Houghton Regis Ward members
- Dunstable Ward members
- All Central Bedfordshire Council ward members
- Ashton Middle School parents/carers
- Ashton Middle School staff
- Ashton Middle School governors
- Houghton Regis Town Council
- Dunstable Town Council
- Local MPs
- Trade unions
- General public

(b) minutes of the public meeting are attached at Appendix A

(c) The view of the persons consulted are summarised / listed at Appendix B

(d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

(e) A copy of the consultation document is attached at Appendix C. This consultation document was made available to all people listed in section (a) and was also publicised via Central

Bedfordshire Council's publication 'Central Essentials' which is emailed weekly to head teachers and chairs of governors within Central Bedfordshire.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

We have planned the curriculum based on statutory requirements, along with the provision for additional courses such as GCSEs in a range of subjects including art, business studies, media, graphic design, textiles and resistant materials, BTEC courses in music and sport and an additional work based programme as described in Section 10. We are also considering an EB based course for more able pupils who would be accelerated to complete this by end of Year 11. We have proven experience of getting pupils to at least GCSE level in maths and French by the end of Year 8, so this would not be difficult to achieve. The staffing requirements to achieve this have been carefully considered, along with a revised staffing structure, and currently we are looking at a teacher level of 33 staff. This structure has been carefully costed and, whilst we recognise that, until we reach full capacity this will be tight, we are confident that it can be achieved. A projected financial statement will be available by 7 April 2014, in our business plan, which will set out more details.

We have no requirement to build or expand. We would like to add certain resources but this will be provided by seeking grants and bids (we are already underway on this.) We have been very successful in recent and past bid applications. NHLF, Beds BIP.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

N/A

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

9 years to 13 years

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

N/A

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of —

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

N/A

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Please see the objectives of our proposal and Appendices B & C . Very high level of parental support – see consultation survey feedback Appendix B

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

As a voluntary aided Middle School we are part of the Ashton Foundation of schools, this would continue as a secondary school. The school works in close partnership with Ashton St Peters Lower School, students come from this and other Church of England lower schools, many of these have now converted to primary schools and we would provide an alternative faith based provision for these pupils into their secondary education.

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

The proposal involves reducing the school's admission number from 155 to 90. This is to provide for additional year groups and to support changes in our local community. We believe this increases parental choice in Dunstable and surrounding areas.

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The school believes that proposals that have been planned by other schools will change the intake in the future. Currently we take from up to 26 feeder schools and we are a popular choice for parents looking for faith provision. There will be spaces available in all year groups in the transition years and there will also be the option to increase our PAN should there be further demand.

**APPENDIX A
THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**

ASHTON C of E MIDDLE SCHOOL

**STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
20 JANUARY 2014**

Present

Mrs L Phillips	Headteacher
Mr R Fox	Chair of Governors
Mr W Mitchell	Staff Governor
Mr C Creasey	DT Teacher
Staff	
Parents	

	<p>Introduction Mr Fox made the introductions and explained the purpose of the meeting.</p> <p>Presentation by School Mrs Phillips, Mr Creasey and Dr Mitchell. Available on the website.</p> <p>Questions/Answers</p> <p><i>Would the school offer 6th form/where would students go after Year 11?</i> There is a wide choice in Dunstable, with a college just around the corner. The school was looking to develop close links with universities and was already consulting with Middlesex, Bedford and Northampton Universities. There were many choices and options available.</p> <p><i>Would the current staff have the ability to teach to GCSE?</i> 75% of the staff were secondary trained and therefore the school did not think this would be an issue. Some staff were already teaching Year 8s to GCSE level.</p> <p><i>Concerns were raised over the suitability of the buildings</i> Smaller PAN would mean opportunities to extend provision where required. The school already have an advanced DT provision with science laboratories capable of teaching to GCSE level. Plans are afoot to improve the facilities in the hall for drama. The school would look to provide language laboratories for MFL and create links with the leisure centre for PE.</p> <p><i>Would the school need to purchase lots of new equipment?</i> There was lots already available for DT and science. The school planned to bid for grants to update the drama facilities and MFL.</p> <p><i>Was the school financially viable?</i> Yes, it would require a staffing restructure and careful budgeting, particularly in</p>	
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	<p>transition years.</p> <p>There were many positive comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location – middle of the town, less distance for 11 year olds from north of town to travel. • Faith provision – closer than Manshead for North and some villages. • Smaller environment – some children preferred a more nurturing environment. • Commitment of staff – there was a high level of dedication and extra-curricular activities were excellent. • Pastoral provision – the school cared well for children with needs and nurtures well. <p><i>Was it possible for Year 8s to stay on?</i> Not this year.</p> <p><i>With regard to the curriculum – would the school offer things such as EBAC?</i> The school would consider all options.</p>	
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Appendix B

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION TO CHANGE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

	Total Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Percentage excluding Neither Agree Nor Disagree comments
In favour	122	84.72%	93.13%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	9.03%	
Disagree	9	6.25%	6.87%
	144		131

“Agree” Comments

Was forced to make an application for an upper school last October but would prefer my child to continue his education at Ashton if this were possible. As such, the projected number for pupils for 9/14 have been manipulated. Also what choice is there when the decision regarding Ashton’s future will be decided until August?

To close Ashton would be a disgrace to Dunstable and Ashton pupils. Ashton needs to become a secondary school. *Parent*

I agree with the proposal to extend the age range of Ashton middle school to a single phase secondary school. As parents with a child in Year 7 we would be very happy for her to continue her education at Ashton until her 16th birthday. *Parent*

At a meeting of the Foundation on Monday 24 February the Trustees considered very carefully and with great interest the School’s Consultation Document on the proposal to change the age range of the school to a Single Phase Secondary provision. The Trustees also discussed alongside this the decision by the Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council to begin a consultation process on closure of Ashton and two other Middle Schools in the town, recognising that the School’s own proposal is now, in effect, being presented to the Local Authority as an alternative to closure.

The Trustees noted the difference between the School’s projected numbers on roll in Year 5 in September 2014 and the numbers projected to the Local Authority and, on the advice of the chairman, understood that this was the result of the School expecting to pick up a number of pupils for whom Ashton was ‘second preference’. The Trustees also noted that the School anticipates retaining more Year 6 pupils into Year 7 than the Local Authority is projecting. Clearly, numbers on roll are a crucial factor in determining the viability of the School.

The Trustees observed that, even on the School’s projected figures from 2014 to 2019, Ashton would be, by secondary standards, a very small school. The School has stated that in its consultation with stakeholders that pupils will be taught through to GCSE by specialist teachers while the consultation document emphasises the aspiration to provide a broad, balanced and cohesive curriculum that

meets the needs of all. The Trustees believe that it will be difficult to deliver both these objectives on such a small pupil number base.

Hence the advice of the Trustees is that the School will need to demonstrate to the Local Authority in its business plan clear evidence not only that the school will have appropriate facilities but, in particular, that the size of the teaching staff reflecting the number of pupils on roll will be able to offer genuine specialist teaching across the full ability range leading to a sufficiently comprehensive choice of academic and more practical or vocational courses. *Ashton Schools Foundation*

Our prestigious and historical school has an important role in the community. It would be suitable as a town centre Secondary School and the new proposal would be very welcomed by staff, parents and pupils.

Dunstable Parochial Church Council, as a stakeholder nominating to the Governing Body, considered the school's consultation document on 24 February 2014. The PCC's specific interest is in seeing that the school's religious status as a Church of England Voluntary Aided School is maintained and is satisfied that the school's current proposals do not compromise that position. *Dunstable PCC*

Apologies for delay in coming back to the consultation document, please take this email as confirmation that my wife and I (parents of xxxx) strongly agree with the below statement.

From September 2015 – Year 8 pupils should remain at Ashton C of E Middle School and move into Year 9 classes and, with subsequent moves, progressing into Year 11 by September 2017. Ashton C of E Middle School will admit its last intake of pupils into Year 5 in September 2014, these pupils progressing into Years 6 and 7 until the school becomes a fully-operating secondary school (ages 11-16) in September 2017.

In terms of additional comment, all I can say is that since Xxxx started to attend Ashton Middle School in September 2013 we have seen her grow and grow in confidence, she is really fulfilling her potential academically, she's increased her drive and determination and she's displaying an ever increasing independence. It is a joy to see and we would like to recognise Xxxx's fellow students and the teachers and staff at Ashton Middle for the massive part they have played in Xxxx's development. From our first contact with Ashton at your open day in 2012 and continually through Xxxx's first term, we have been impressed most of all by your unfailing commitment to putting the education, development, support and safety of the children first. Your commitment to this has been clearly and repeatedly reinforced through consistent and clear communication as well as through any contact we have had directly with any of the staff and teachers at the school - your actions speak louder than words and I have been really encouraged by your honesty, fairness and pragmatism.

In early 2013 I applied to and was successful in becoming a Governor at Queensbury Academy - my motivation was to 1) be involved in education, 2) give something back to the local community and 3) be a positive influence to help Queensbury become a great place for xxx (our daughter) to be taught. I resigned in December 2013, as after xxxx's experience at Ashton both my wife and I want xxxx to continue her education at Ashton for as long as possible and I would like to take this opportunity to offer my time, experience and energy in any way that I can to Ashton Middle, to help it achieve it's goal to become a Secondary School. *Parent*

Having a smaller secondary school based in a very central location would benefit, especially, those students whose needs are best met from being offered more individual strategies, support or challenges that may otherwise be lost in a bigger school. This allows a greater choice for parents, in both location and size of school, and also where faith is important.

I believe that this is the proposal the school should have made last year, it is a far better option than looking at primary status, I only hope it is not too late. *Parent*

This school plays a central part in the town. The building itself is fabulous and to close the school would be saying goodbye to hundreds of years of history. To give it a fighting chance at succeeding and having the future it deserves I wholeheartedly support this proposal to change the age range. *Teacher*

I support this so that there is a bigger choice for my children when they reach secondary school age. *Parent*

The school has been around for well over 100 years. It has always been accessible to children in the community whether they walk, cycle or are driven to school.

With the addition of 7000 new homes in Houghton Regis Ashton Middle School will be needed as the only faith school in this part of the town. Expecting families to travel to Manshead will be too much.

I went to Ashton. I have applied for my son to go there from September 2014. If Ashton were to change to a secondary school, then I wouldn't have to move him again. He could just stay there for the rest of his schooling which would be perfect. *Parent of a child at another school*

This is where I would like my child to go, so please become a secondary school. *Parent*

I loved being there as a pupil myself. Some of my old teachers are still there and I'm really hoping that my 3 children will all get the chance to go to this incredible school when it's their turn. . *Ex-pupil and parent that wants her children to go here in a few years time.*

470 children on roll shows that parents do want their children at this school. Projected numbers are false! *Parent*

We strongly welcome this change as we have been extremely happy with Ashton for the past four years and would have loved our daughter to continue there. Ashton has offered a good education in a loving Christian environment. Please do not close this school. *Parent*

I feel the quality of the teaching staff and the enthusiasm of the school management team will make this proposal a success. My only concern relates to the building and facilities and if there is the scope to adapt the existing site to meet the needs of older pupils.

Think this is the best way forward for Ashton and Dunstable. *Parent*

I don't want these people to close the school. *Parent*

We believe that Dunstable needs a choice of upper schools and think Ashton would be a fantastic place for our daughter to stay until age 16.

A fantastic idea. Ashton will be a great secondary school. *Parent*

This school should remain open however I would love it to be taking Year 5 still until 2016 so my daughter could come here after Year 4 – definitely a secondary – full support. *Parent and professional who works alongside the school.*

I strongly agree that Ashton should become a secondary school and remain open. It is an excellent school. *Parent*

A school with a long standing history and a list of character. This along with dedicated teachers is what is needed in a school. *Parent*

This is a brilliant school which needs to stay open. I am even moving my other daughter to this school into year 7 so she can stay at one school until 16. *Parent*

My son enjoys coming to this school. For him to move now would mean him taking time to settle again. *Parent*

The school should be allowed to become a secondary school as it had contributed so much in the past and has a lot more to offer the children in the area. The school has taken steps to be at the forefront with digital technology support in the area and the children of the school will be at a strategically advantage over others having both hands-on experience on-site and expertise at their fingertips, this is the way of the future. The children deserve the opportunity to move to the next level of the education with a leading edge school, Ashton Middle School. *Parent*

Ashton Middle School has proven itself to be a proactive school and listening to the needs of the parents in the community and this has been shown by the drive to change to a secondary school. The school has been part of the live in Dunstable and the surrounding towns since 1887. In my opinion, the school should continue to educate our children to year 11. Some of the past pupils have become world famous while others have become outstanding individuals having had a firm grounding at Ashton Middle School. It would be a great dis-service to the children of Dunstable and environs and to future children if the school was not allowed to change to a secondary school. *Local resident*

Ashton Middle School reinforces the Christian ethos of the Ashton Foundation and continues to build on this following on from Ashton St Peters (also in the Ashton Foundation). The school also strongly supports the students academically and socially, contributing to building a productive and responsible citizens of Dunstable and the country where the students may go in the future. *Local resident*

Fantastic provision, caring environment, passionate teaching staff, happy children. Important to the community – will make a fantastic secondary school. *Parent and ex-pupil.*

We need another secondary school in Dunstable as the choice is very limited. *Year 5 Parent*

My daughter has settled very well since starting Year 5 in September. After all the disruption with school changes before we started we made the right choice for her to come to Ashton. *Parent*

Agree would be even better until 18 years. *Parent*

Keep middle schools in Dunstable. *Parent*

I fully support this proposal. The betrayal of the schools, its staff and parents, by the local authority is absolutely disgraceful. *Parent*

Ashton Middle should remain open as a school, it is part of the heritage of the town and it would be sacrilege for it to be knocked down or used for any other purpose. It would be short sighted to close 3 schools in the town because there will surely be a need for places as the children are not suddenly going to disappear and Ashton should remain open to accommodate that. *Parent*

We strongly believe that Ashton should become a secondary school. We feel that this move is vital and that the school must remain open. It is a wonderful school. *Parent*

Ofsted quotes this school as “middle deemed secondary”. Ashton Middle School is well known for having a caring, safe and supportive environment. This school was built as a Grammar school in 1887 and although there have been many changes it has a huge amount of history and tradition which would be a great shame to lose. The intended specialist areas of Science and DT alongside Creative and Performing Arts is excellent because Ashton Middle School already has fantastic music and drama departments who regularly produce outstanding concerts and performances. We also already have suitable and safe science labs with innovative teachers. *Member of non-teaching staff*

As the structure of Ashton C of E school is a listed building and formerly a Grammar school, I strongly believe that the school should continue to provide educational needs as per the above proposal.

This is an exciting opportunity for children within the school and fully support it.

Another secondary age range school in the area would be an excellent idea, providing parents with more choice and helping to keep future numbers at other Dunstable schools more manageable. *Parent*

Ashton is a caring school which caters for their pupils individual needs. By becoming a secondary school I feel this will provide security for the children and will have a huge impact on future exam results and their futures. *Parent*

I wish Ashton every success with future developments. I’m very grateful for the standard of education and support my child has been given.

This is what Ashton should have originally been striving for instead of the primary route. It needs to be put into place as enough time has already been lost, to safeguard our children’s education. *Parent*

I strongly agree that this is the way forward for Ashton school. *Employee*

As Ashton Middle School is a listed building. The school has been here for 100 years it being a grammar school. My children came to the school and did very well like many other children. I would like to think it will continue on. *Employee*

I have been delighted with the quality of education given to both of my girls at Ashton Middle School. Sadly, this consultation will not be completed in time for my child in Year 8 but I will be taking up this opportunity for my daughter who is in year 5. *Parent*

A unique school offering unique opportunities. *Staff*

I am in full support of this proposal. Ashton Middle is a brilliant school and it will offer a great education for 11-16 year olds. My daughter is really looking forward to coming to Ashton and I'm looking forward to it too! *Parent and governor*

I feel strongly that Ashton should remain open. It has (and continues to) provide my children with an excellent year 5 to 8 education. I fear the move to a 11-16 school may make demands on the physical structure of the school that it may struggle to meet but I also feel that this change is far better than the school closing. It provides a unique education environment in term of its ethics, morals and pastoral care that is not matched by other local schools and my family hope that can continue. *Parent*

I think this is a great idea and my son will continue at Ashton. *Parent*

Strongly agree. *Parent of a current year 7 pupil at Ashton and would be the first proposed year 9 class in Sept 2015*

Feel very strongly school should stay open. *Parent*

A great school that should be kept open! *Parent*

Great school – fantastically located in the heart of Dunstable. Great staff with strong focus on the children's learning and development. *Parent*

I have been more than happy with my children's progress whilst at Ashton, it would be very beneficial if they could continue their schooling there. *Parent*

I am more than happy with the progress my children have made, I would find it beneficial to become an upper where they can continue their education. *Parent*

Our son is currently in year 7 and has expressed a great interest in continuing his education at Ashton Middle on the basis of the said proposal. The school has our full support in this matter. *Parent*

My daughter doesn't want to leave until she is 16. *Parent*

I feel this would be brilliant and I would be very happy for my daughter to remain in this school. It meets all the needs of my child and she is happy at this school. *Parent*

It would be a shame for Dunstable heritage to close in the form of this school. My children have received an amazing education and all round support from all at Ashton over the last decade. *Parent*

My daughter who is in Year 7 is very happy at Ashton and we are really pleased with her progress and the support and encouragement she receives from all her teachers. *Parent*

I would like to see the school not only take pupils until 16 but to look at having a 6 form and giving pupils the option of staying on until they are 18. *Parent*

Transitions are hard for most students to deal with. I as a parent of a child with additional needs feel very strongly that Ashton should increase its age range. Change is hard for the children to have to cope with at a young age, and will have an impact on their learning it takes a long time for my child to settle and trust a school, like many with additional needs. If the school was able to increase its age range children will have longer to settle before having to take their most important exams to date (GCSE) rather than just 1 year to settle before they need to choose their GCSE subjects. Ashton is a great school, whom have supported both me and my son for the last couple of years. I know I'm not alone in my feelings after speaking to other parents. *Parent*

I strongly agree that Ashton should remain open and extend the age range if this were to happen I would keep my daughter at Ashton. *Parent*

I believe pupils should have this option if they wish to remain in a pastoral environment which will support their education through to year 11. Some pupils may wish to be on a school offering A levels too, but for many a 11-16 option is the best. *Parent*

This this sounds like a great idea. *Parent*

Think this sounds a great idea. Very happy with my daughter in year 7 at the school at present and look forward hopefully to her sister starting in Sept 2014. *Parent*

I think it is a good idea becoming a secondary school will help many pupils. *Parent*

The school was very late in making a decision in the light of other moving to two tier. By the time the proposal was made many parents had already made alternative plans and been through much confusion. An earlier decision would have been better. *Parent*

I am happy with the school now and look forward to the changes. *Parent*

My daughter has flourished since starting at Ashton. She is now in year 6. I would really like her to complete her school career at Ashton as I believe they really do see each child as an individual and cater to their individual needs. *Parent*

Ashton is a good viable school. Please give it a chance to continue to build on its reputation. *Parent*

To keep up the intake and I feel it is so important to preserve this as a school as it traditionally has been for so long. *Employee*

I strongly agree the school should progress to an upper school as it has the facilities to do this and the superb staff to maintain the good education of the pupils. *Employee*

“Disagree” Comments

I have applied for secondary school for my child, as Ashton was changing to primary. If I had known Ashton was going to change its mind and go to secondary I would have possibly had a re-think. *Parent*

I am not happy at the proposal, if affects the whole schooling arrangements as I have a year 4 child and a year 5. This causes a lot of confusion about the future. *Parent*

“Neither Agree nor Disagree” Comments

Just feel that this proposal may be too late for my child. As I am aware that many pupils may have already decided to leave. If the majority of year were staying I would consider remaining at Ashton! *Parent*

As a parent of a year 6 pupil, we are in an extremely difficult situation, finding it hard to make decisions on the “unknown”. If the proposal had already been in place there is no doubt I would have kept my child at Ashton. *Parent*

As our child’s sibling is already at Manshead we plan for our daughter to transfer to Manshead for Year 9. *Parent*

I would have considered my daughter staying at Ashton if they were offering 6th form but due to this she will be leaving at the end of year 8. *Parent*

Appendix C
Consultation Document

Ashton C of E VA Middle School

Consultation on our Proposal to

Change the Age Range of

Ashton C of E VA Middle School to a

Single Phase Secondary Provision for

2015-2016

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF ASHTON C of E VA MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE, BEDS, LU6 1NH TO A SINGLE PHASE SECONDARY PROVISION FOR 2015/2016

The Purpose of the Consultation Document

The purpose of this document is to provide information on a proposal to change age range of Ashton C of E VA Middle from 9-13 years to 11-16 years from September 2015, to create a full secondary provision. As part of this consultation we would also like to propose that Ashton Middle School becomes the Frances Ashton Church of England Secondary School.

Background

Ashton C of E VA Middle School provides pupils with an extensive curriculum taught by specialist staff. Our school is underpinned by Christian values. We are an inclusive school, valuing and respecting everyone equally. We teach our pupils to set high expectations of themselves and to show compassion towards others. As such our pupils leave our school as enthusiastic and independent learners and fully prepared for the next phase of education.

At present pupils start Ashton Middle School at age 9 in the middle of their Key Stage 2 primary schooling. If the pupils were to start at Frances Ashton C of E Secondary School aged 11 then we would be fully responsible for the education of our pupils for the whole of Key Stages 3 and 4, and as such fully prepare our learners with specialist teaching in all curriculum areas.

We believe that our children would benefit from the stability of a secondary school setting that is organised to meet the specific learning needs of a child progressing through Key Stages 3 and 4. Our strength is the quality of provision in all curriculum areas and the knowledge of where children need to be to compete in the rigorous world of academic achievement in their GCSEs. Our aim would be to offer the firm foundations in a full range of subjects on which the pupils can build in preparation for their choice of secondary education.

Ashton C of E VA Middle School's Governing Body is therefore going out to consultation prior to asking Central Bedfordshire Council to consider a request to change the school's age range to enable it to provide secondary schooling for pupils from the age of 11 up to age 16.

Contextual position

Much change has occurred within the area of Houghton Regis and Dunstable, with a significant number of schools now being Academies and a general move towards a two-tier system of education from September 2014. The following points demonstrate these particular trends:

- All Lower Schools in Houghton Regis were granted permission by the Local Authority to operate as 4-11 Primary Schools from September 2013.

- Hadrian Academy and St Christopher's Academy, from where children eventually tend to feed into Queensbury Academy, were granted Primary (4-11) status from October 2012 and have retained their Year 5 pupils from September 2013.
- Barnfield Vale Academy (formerly Mill Vale Middle School) is admitted children into Years R to 5 from September 2013.
- All Saints Academy, formerly a 13-18 Upper School, is operating as an 11-18 Academy and admitted the first cohort of students into Year 7 from September 2013.
- Houghton Regis Academy is also making the transition from being a Middle School to an 11-18 secondary school from September 2013.
- During the summer months of 2013, the Department for Education and Central Bedfordshire Council agreed to a significant number of other changes that will come into effect from September 2014. These are:

Lark Rise, Ardley Hill and St Augustine's Academies to operate as complete Primary Schools, retaining Year 5 pupils from September 2014;

Lancot, Kensworth and Ashton St Peter's Lower Schools to operate as complete Primary Schools, retaining Year 5 pupils from September 2014;

Queensbury Academy to operate as a complete Secondary School, admitting pupils into both Year 7 and Year 9 in September 2014;

Manshead Upper School to operate as a complete Secondary School, admitting pupils into both Year 7 and Year 9 in September 2014;

Priory Academy to operate as a 9-16 Secondary School, retaining pupils into Year 9 from September 2014.

A few Lower Schools (Dunstable Icknield, Studham, Watling and Totternhoe) have decided to remain as Lower Schools. The remaining two Middle Schools (Brewers Hill and Streetfield) have not formally announced what plans they might have, but the majority of Dunstable and Houghton Regis will be operating as a two-tier system from September 2014

Beecroft Lower School has recently become an Academy and is consulting on becoming a Primary school in September 2015.

The proposal to make a change to the age-range for Ashton C of E VA Middle School will be subject to the outcome of this informal consultation process by the governors. If, as a result of the consultation, governors then decide to proceed to the next stage for the proposed changes, statutory notices will be issued for a period of 6 weeks. At the close of this period, governors will again assess the responses they have received and if they decide to proceed, will then submit a

report on the outcome of the consultation, together with a business case, to Central Bedfordshire Council, which will make a determination on the proposal.

Proposal

We believe that our children would benefit from a secondary school setting that is designed to meet the desired learning needs of the Key Stages 3 and 4 students.

The change proposed would provide stability and a continuity of learning and more significantly the changing face of schooling in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Luton and the immediate locality.

To summarize our objectives are:

- To provide for continuation of the curriculum, whereby each phase of education (Primary and Secondary) teaches two full Key Stages and are mutually able to support progress by reducing the number of transition points.
- To engage in determined collaborative working between and among phases with a view to enhancing the sharing of specialist provision.
- To provide and sustain the highest standards of education whilst maintaining the nurturing and well-being of all children. To ensure sustained progress in all areas by offering both consistency and expertise.
- To ensure that all of the schools involved in the proposal work positively as partners to ensure a high quality and localised educational provision.
- To ensure that all of the schools involved in the proposal offer children and young people a broad, balanced and cohesive curriculum that meets the needs of all.
- To offer all children and young people an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets a full range of diverse needs and supports every child / young person to achieve their full potential.
- To inform parental choice with regard to the variety of options and opportunities that are being offered.
- To forge innovative links with excellent post 16 provision ensuring smooth transition *for future educational provision*.

You are invited to meetings as part of this consultation – please see the attached schedule for consultation.

1. Details of the Proposed Arrangements for 2015-2016

The Governing Body of Ashton C of E VA Middle School will apply to Central Bedfordshire Council, subject to the outcome of the consultation process, to change the age range of pupils from the current arrangement from 9 years to 13 years to 11 years to 16 years from 1st September 2015.

2. Implementing age phase changes 2015-16 onwards

We are seeking to offer continuity of learning throughout the secondary stage of schooling and in particular to maintain our levels of provision through the entire National Curriculum phases known as Key Stages 3 & 4. The stage encompasses years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Currently pupils in this locality have to change school mid-way through this vital Key Stage. Our proposal to admit pupils into the school at age 11, would bring us in line with the national system of primary and secondary and reflect what many of the local secondary schools are proposing. Parental choice will shape the future of all schools across Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Luton and surrounding area and these proposed changes will assist parental choice.

3. Proposal

From	Action
September 2015	Year 8 pupils remain at Frances Ashton C of E secondary school and move into Year 9. There will be no admission into Year 5 at this point, but current Year 5 pupils would move into, what would be, a final Year 6.
September 2016	Year 9 pupils remain at Frances Ashton C of E secondary school and move into Year 10. Year 6 pupils remain at the school and move into Year 7, to be joined by the first admission into that year group from local Primary Schools.
September 2017	Year 10 pupils at Frances Ashton C of E secondary school move into Year 11. The school would then be a complete Secondary school with Year groups 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Numbers on Roll – changes from September 2014 onwards

	September 2014	September 2015	September 2016	September 2017	September 2018	September 2019
Year 5	60					
Year 6	100	60				
Year 7	50	100*	90**	90	90	90
Year 8	100	50	100	90	90	90
Year 9		100*	50	100	90	90
Year 10			100	50	100	90
Year 11				100	50	100
Totals	310	310	340	430	410	460

* 2015 Parents will have the choice of upper school in year 7, we expect that some pupils would leave, however, some would transfer in from primary schools. There may also be in year admissions into years 6 and 8 which could easily be accommodated and increase the number of students in total.

** 2016 First intake year. Assuming 60 would transfer into year 7 from year 6 there would 30 places available for new intake bringing the numbers up to the expected PAN of 90.

Frances Ashton C of E VA secondary school is a well-resourced school with excellent accommodation. The school will continue to ensure that all pupils have the highest standard of educational environment possible.

The School and its facilities:

The present school is already the designated digital support centre for the South East of England. This is run by DevelopEBP and is supported by DATA (Design and Technology Association.)

Ashton is proud to announce that they have taken stock of a new state of the art 3D printer industrial rapid prototype machine, heat presses, and dye sublimation equipment, laser cutter logic blocks and much more. The liaison with DevelopEBP will see our School become the digital support centre for many schools and back to work /skills based training and development organisations. This support is recognised and promoted through the Design and Technology Association. The main focus will be teaching many processes in state of the art 3D CAD CAM (Computer Aided Design / Computer Aided Manufacture) modelling and design. We aim to provide a centre of excellence in digital technology.

Our buildings and facilities allow us to provide a wide range of subjects and our PAN (Pupils Admission Number) will ensure that pupils are fully supported to achieve at the highest levels in their GCSE's.

Our PAN of 90 will, by 2019, provide a total school number of approximately 450. This, based on current funding system, allows the school to function as a small secondary, providing all the opportunities expected for core subjects, languages and humanities to be taught to GCSE level whilst providing additional and exciting opportunities within the areas of performing arts, DT and science.

Currently there are no specialist science and DT schools in Dunstable, we would aim to provide a quality provision which would allow pupils to pursue careers in science and/or DT.

In the initial years the numbers are lower, however, due to the phased nature of the changes we will be able to provide a quality education at each stage, without any additional outlay or expenditure. In years 2014 – 2015 the KS3 curriculum will be well covered by existing facilities and staff, allowing for development of new subjects and expansion of existing courses in subsequent years when funding will be greater due to the increase in numbers and ages of the students.

We have already submitted a bid for Local Authority Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) funding to upgrade and refurbish our hall and drama facilities which will include improved staging, lighting and a light and sound booth.

Our vision extends to a five year plan to include firm links with Universities such as Middlesex University, The University of Northampton and The University of Bedfordshire, providing a potential source of additional support and possible sponsorship, whilst giving students clear options and paths for their onward education.

We aim to seek additional funding through grants and sponsorship as well as funding from our Digital Technology courses to provide additional resources such as:

- Upgrading certain elements of our Science Laboratories to build on to our already successful Science Department and to ensure full access to Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- To further extend our ICT capacity with a particular reference to mobile technology by increasing the wireless provision across the school to support innovative use of ICT.
- Creation of a flexible learning space to support innovative and interchangeable usage supporting a wide variety of specialist teaching, supporting our academic programme.
- Usage of extended ICT to support new Language Laboratory facilities as part of the ICT improvement to plan for Language Laboratory facilities.

Our intended specialist areas are Science and DT alongside Creative and Performing Arts.

These have been carefully selected to reflect the strengths of the school, we would also consider applying for science specialist status, this does not currently exist within Dunstable. Should our LCVAP bid be successful we will be well on the way to providing good facilities for drama, science labs are already well stocked with equipment which will allow for GCSE level science and the DT department has advanced, cutting edge facilities. We are also well placed with excellent, secondary trained teachers in all these areas.

Post 16 we will establish clear routes and options into further education, these will be mapped out and fully supported by the school and will include opportunities for A level studies at local school sixth forms, UTC or further education colleges, apprenticeships and other work related options will also be offered where this is appropriate for the student. We have established good liaison processes with our current feeder and ongoing schools, we will use this expertise to ensure that pupils have a path which suits their needs and requirements post 16. Our links with universities will also provide for progression beyond 18.

We are asking you to comment upon this proposal.

Admission criteria

If the school becomes a Secondary School from September 2015 the intake of new pupils to the school in Year 7 will be 30 in addition to the Year 6 children who would automatically be entitled to move to Year 7 from Year 6.

In 2016 and subsequent years the PAN will be 90.

The admission criteria for pupils coming into Frances Ashton C of E secondary school from September 2015 is detailed below, this is unchanged from the current criteria.

	CURRENT CRITERIA
1	All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after'
2	Children who have a parent or guardian, who at the time of application is a practising member of the Church of England.
3	Those children who, at the time of application, attend Ashton St. Peter's Lower School.
4	Sibling of children who are already attending Ashton C. of E. Middle School VA at the time of admission.
5	Those children with a parent or guardian, who, at the time of application is a practising* member of another Christian Denomination**.
6	Those children with a parent or guardian, who, at the time of application is a practising* member of another faith or religion.
7	Children with very exceptional medical reasons
8	Any other children.

* A 'practising' member of the religion is a person who, for a period of 12 months prior to the time of application, has attended public worship at the Church or religious meeting place at least one in each calendar month.

**** Another Christian Church is one which belongs to or is eligible for membership of Churches Together in Great Britain and Ireland, the Evangelical Alliance, or the Dunstable Fellowship of Evangelical Churches.**

Applications in categories 2, 5 and 6 are required to provide confirmation of the attendance at their place of worship from the parish priest, clergyman, minister or faith leader in writing on the Local Authority confirmation of religious affiliation form.

Process of Consultation

In order to engage in meaningful and informed consultation, we will be holding a number of consultation events to engage with all stakeholders, as well as providing the opportunity for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals. All of this evidence will be collated into a Consultation Report that the governors will consider prior to deciding whether to make a submission to Central Bedfordshire Council. What follows is the full timetable, but processes after January 2014 will only be actioned if the governors decide to proceed.

Date	Action
13 th January 2014	Informal Consultation begins
20 th January 2014 3.30 pm at the school	Meeting with Ashton Middle School staff
20 th January 2014 6.30pm at the school	Meeting with parents, community and other stakeholders
3 rd March 2014	Consultation ends
5 th March 2014	Governing Body meet to consider results of consultation and to decide whether to proceed to the publication of statutory notices
12 th March 2014	Publication of statutory notices (Formal publication of the proposal)
13 th March 2014	Representation (Opportunities for interested parties to make their views known)
1 st May 2014	Representation ends

The Ashton Foundation and Diocese of St Albans will consider the proposals at meetings to be held during the consultation process, and will feed the outcome of their discussions into the overall process.



Ashton Church of England Middle School
High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. LU6 1NH
Tel: 01582 663511 Fax: 01582 666412
Email: office@ashtonmiddleschool.co.uk
Website: www.ashtonmiddleschool.co.uk

January 2014

Dear Parent/Staff/Member of the local community

Ashton C of E Middle School – Meetings for parents, carers, members of the community and neighbouring schools

20th January 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

The Governing Body of Ashton C of E Middle has decided that it should further investigate and consult on the proposal to change the age range to a single phase Secondary provision for 2015-16. You are invited to attend a meeting, in school, as detailed above.

We will be considering and inviting comments on the proposed age phase changes for Ashton C of E Middle School from 2015/2016.

If you have any questions or would like to express your views, I would be grateful if you could submit these in writing by Friday 17th January 2014 so that they can be addressed at the meeting.

The final decision on any proposed changes are made by Central Bedfordshire Council.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Roger Fox
Chairperson of the Governing Body
Ashton C of E Middle School

Inspire all to flourish...



Our school is inspired by Christian values. We aim to work with parents, church and community to help each child flourish in all aspects of their lifelong development. We are an inclusive school valuing and respecting everyone equally and unconditionally. We teach pupils to set high expectations of themselves and show compassion towards others.

A member of the ten school partnership

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE TO A SINGLE PHASE SECONDARY PROVISION 2014-2015

Please take the time to read our Consultation outline and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us. Please send completed questionnaires by post to:

Mr Roger Fox, Chairperson of Ashton C of E Middle School, High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1NH

Or enter your feedback on line at:
office@ashtonmiddleschool.co.uk

All responses must be received by 3.30 pm Monday 3rd March 2014.

Proposal

- That Ashton C of E Middle School becomes Frances Ashton Church of England Secondary School, from September 2015
- This would involve Year 8 pupils remaining at Ashton C of E Middle School and moving into Year 9 classes and, with subsequent moves, progressing into Year 11 by September 2017. Ashton C of E Middle School will admit its last intake of pupils into Year 5 in September 2014, these pupils progressing into Years 6 and 7 until the school becomes a fully-operating secondary school (ages 11-16) in September 2017.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

Comment

Please advise us of whom you represent if you so wish (eg, parent, local resident, school governor, etc)