



**Cranfield Church of England Academy**

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Headteacher: Joanna Farbon BA (Hons) PGCE

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Mr Parsons,

In support of our attached Business Case for expansion of Cranfield Church of England Academy, I have been asked to respond to the following questions. I have ensured that an answer to each question has been detailed underneath...

- **The original consultation was carried out during May 2013.**  
**The revised consultation started on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and closed on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**
- **How the consultations were carried out and with whom...**  
Both consultations were carried out through a written consultation document. The documents were issued to parents, residents of Cranfield village, local schools, and staff and were placed on our website.
- **No. of responses received**  
We have received **46** responses to the consultations.
- **No. of responses that were from parents, employees, governors, residents, others - ie the split between...**  
5 responses were from staff and 41 responses were from parents/the community.
- **No. of responses that were in support of the proposed expansion**  
45 responses were in support.
- **Please include a few responses that represent the overall tone**  
The main responses were in support of the proposed expansion but with concerns about access to the site. Verbal responses to the consultation (although not written) have supported the proposed expansion but have concerns about the access to the site.
- **No of responses not in support**  
One

The Governing Body of Cranfield Church of England Academy met on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 to discuss the proposed expansion and the results of the two consultation exercises and confirmed that they want to accept the Council's commission to expand and provide 150 new lower school places to serve their local community of Cranfield.

If our Business Case is approved by the Executive, we will be submitting a Business Case to the Education Funding Agency.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Farbon**  
**Headteacher**



## **1. Introduction**

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on Councils to secure sufficient and suitable school places for 5–16 year old children in its area. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives Councils a strategic role as commissioners, but not providers, of school places to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards, the fulfilment of every child's educational potential and fair access to educational opportunity.

## **2. Background**

New lower school places are required in Cranfield as a result of significant housing development in the village of Cranfield; approximately 530 dwellings currently. As a result of these housing developments there will be a need for a further 150 places for lower school aged children within the village. As a result of these housing developments there will be a need for a further 150 places for lower school aged children within the village.

Currently Cranfield's admission numbers per class are:

30 in Reception and Years 1 & 2

32 in Years 3 & 4

Therefore, in due course, a potential shortfall of 150 places in the school as whole. The Council has been working with schools in the area to review places and plan for the impact of demographic changes across the area over the next five years and beyond. The pressure on existing provision and the need for more places in Cranfield is clear.

## **3. Our Proposal**

The Council has invited Cranfield Church of England Academy to expand in response to this rapidly increasing need for places. The Council is working with the school on ways to meet this need across two sites within the village so that lower school aged children in Cranfield can continue to have access to high quality education within the village. The current site will be retained, accommodating 300 children, and a second site accommodating 150 children will be built on the proposed housing development adjacent to Flitt Leys Close. The plan is for the new accommodation to be ready for the 2015/16 school year. The admission arrangements will be finalised and published in time for the school admissions process for children who are due to start lower school in September 2015. These will be published in the Central Bedfordshire 'School Transfer 2015' booklet in September 2014.

As an Academy, the final admissions arrangements will be determined by the Governing Body but the current proposal is that admission to the enlarged school will continue to be based on the current criteria thereby ensuring that it serves the catchment area as currently constituted – ie Cranfield. The proposal to expand capacity at Cranfield Church of England Academy is designed only to address the anticipated needs of that catchment area.

## **4. Why are we consulting with you?**

This proposal constitutes a significant expansion of Cranfield Church of England Academy and, as an academy, Cranfield is required by the Department for Education to submit a business case before it will give permission for such an expansion. The business case must include the outcome of our consultation with partners and stakeholders. This consultation enables all interested parties to express their views on the proposal and thereby influence the decisions and actions made regarding the additional provision of school places. Starting on page 4 of this document you will find a full list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which may help to address some immediate concerns that you may have. There may be other questions you wish to raise and we will be happy to respond to these at the public consultation meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

## 5. The consultation process

At the end of this document you will find a pro forma for having your say. This can be returned to the school, please mark the envelope 'Cranfield Church of England Academy Expansion Consultation'.

*or*

This pro forma is also available electronically on the school website –

[www.cranfieldchurchofenglandacademy.co.uk](http://www.cranfieldchurchofenglandacademy.co.uk).

Go to the 'Letters to Parents' section and then to the document entitled Cranfield Church of England Academy Expansion Consultation. The pro forma gives the e mail address for electronic returns of the consultation form.

Completed forms should be returned by **5.00pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013**.

Meetings will be held with the staff and governors of Cranfield Church of England Academy.

There will also be a **public meeting** which will be open to all interested parties. This meeting will be held at **Holywell School** on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013** at **6.30 pm**.

Action	Timescale/Deadline
Consultation period begins	Wednesday 22nd May
Public meeting	Tuesday 18th June at 6.30pm
Staff and Governors meeting	Wednesday 19th June at 3.45pm
Consultation closes, final date for submission of written responses	Wednesday 17th July
Governors make decision on proposal for additional school place provision	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September
Final decision to be made by Central Bedfordshire Council's Executive Committee	December 2013

If a decision is made to permanently expand Cranfield Church of England Academy, formal implementation of the expansion on the second site will commence during 2014.

For more information about this proposal please email [cranfield@cbc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:cranfield@cbc.beds.sch.uk)

## 6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

### **Q1 – When will the dual school site open?**

A - Subject to obtaining all the necessary consents it is proposed that the new school site will be operational from September 2015.

### **Q2 – What impact will the building programme have on current pupils and their use of the Court Road school site?**

A – As the one form entry dual site is to be built on land that is not adjoining our current Court Road site, there will be no notable disruption to normal delivery of the curriculum and provision of playground space.

### **Q3 – Are there sufficient funds to develop the dual site appropriately for this significant increase in pupils and staff?**

A – The school is working with the Local Authority on feasibility studies to ensure that it is possible to make provision for an enlarged school population on two sites to at least the same standard of facilities and recreational space as current pupils experience. The Local Authority has funding streams from central government in respect of recognised increased 'basic need' and also from S106 monies paid by the housing developers to the Local Authority for this purpose.

### **Q4 – How will admissions to the expanded school site be managed?**

A – The Local Authority and Cranfield Church of England Academy will work very closely together to plan for specific numbers and year groups in more detail as and when admission numbers and parental wishes are known. This will enable the school to plan for an orderly and carefully managed move from a school with around 300 pupils to a dual site school that is filling up to its new capacity of 450 pupils.

### **Q5 - Will the catchment area for Cranfield Church of England Academy stay the same?**

A - Yes the catchment area of Cranfield will remain the same. The building programme is only designed to address the pressure on places within this catchment area and does not create capacity for any extension of that area – ie Cranfield.

### **Q6 – How will the aims, ethos and values of the school be maintained within a dual site school?**

A – With strong aims and ethos already embedded within Cranfield Academy, the transition to a dual site school will be smooth. The committed vision of Governors, the Leadership team and staff already at Cranfield will ensure that this move is a success for both current and future children and families. The Leadership team and staff will begin thorough planning for this move within good time and information will be shared with all stakeholders.

### **Q7 – Has the Council considered any alternative solutions other than the expansion of Cranfield Church of England Academy?**

A – Not at the current time. This proposal fits very well into the Local Authority's stated principles and priorities when responding to the need to increase school places. Of the nine principles the Local Authority agreed earlier in the year, the following are notably applicable to this proposed expansion:

**Principle 1** - The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.

**Principle 2** - The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable.

**Principle 3** - The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools.

**Principle 4** - The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities.

**Principle 7** – To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use.

**Q8 – How will the increase in numbers of pupils and staff impact on the school’s immediate neighbours?**

A – Traffic management plans will be a key element in the process of obtaining permission for the building programme from the planning authorities. A variety of options regarding access to the second site on the development adjacent to Flitt Leys Close are currently being considered by the Council.

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED  
EXPANSION OF  
CRANFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**

**Q1** Are you a: (please tick one)

Parent of a child/children at Cranfield Academy

School employee of Cranfield

Governor of Cranfield

Resident of Cranfield

Other

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2** **Do you support the proposal to expand the pupil capacity of Cranfield Church of England Academy, in order to provide the additional places required as a result of the housing developments in Cranfield.**

(Please tick one)

Support

Do not support

**Q3** Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

*Please turn over* ➡

## About you

The following information will help us see how far we have been successful in getting the views of different parts of our local community. The answers will not be used to identify individual respondents. Our data protection statement is given at the foot of this form.

**Q4 Are you (please tick one)**  Male  Female

**Q5 Are you (please tick one)**

Under 16 yrs  20-29 yrs  40 -49 yrs  60 -70 yrs  
 16-19 yrs  30 – 39 yrs  50 – 59 yrs  70 yrs +

**Q6 Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (please tick one)**

Yes  No

**Q7 To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (please tick one)**

Asian or Asian British  Chinese  White British  
 Black or Black British  Mixed  Other ethnic group

If 'other ethnic group' please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Q8 What is your postcode?** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your views

Please return your form to the school:

Cranfield Church of England Academy, Court Road, Bedfordshire MK43 0DR

*or*

e mail an electronic version of the form to [cranfield@cbc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:cranfield@cbc.beds.sch.uk)

**to arrive no later than 4.00pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

### Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Cranfield Academy for the purpose of analysing feedback to the consultation on the proposed expansion to Cranfield Academy. The information collected may be disclosed to governors of the school and its' partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Information classification: Protected when complete

# Business Case for proposed School and Academy Expansion for September 2016 Implementation.

## Cranfield Church of England Academy



### Central Bedfordshire Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning

1	<p><b>The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel...</b></p>
	<p>Cranfield Church of England Academy is proud to be the choice of school for children within Cranfield village and for children who live on Cranfield University campus. We are currently a two form entry lower school with capacity for 300 children. During the application process for places in our Early Years Foundation Stage (2014 – 2015) our applications numbered 79 for a 60 place Foundation Unit. We currently have 17 children who remain on this waiting list. This demand for places could not be met within our current site. This demand was without the further development within the village.</p> <p>There are two large housing developments that are planned for Cranfield village. Indeed, one development has already begun building. It is anticipated that the homes that will be built will yield numbers of children sufficient for a further one class of children per year group. This would be in addition to the current two classes Cranfield has per year group. Our current class numbers show that we have seven places across the school. Accommodating extra children from within Cranfield village would not be possible on our current site.</p> <p>Our Academy supports Section 76 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which places a duty on local education authorities to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel to meet the school travel needs of their area. Ensuring the sufficiency of provision local to the areas of demographic demand supports this duty by reducing the need for car journeys and also limits potential growth in the cost of providing school transport on distance criteria to qualifying pupils to meet the Council's statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>Section 38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 also places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools in England to promote community cohesion. Whilst we are an Academy, we still hold this principle at the heart of all we do at Cranfield. Expansion of our current school will continue to foster the excellent links we already have with the local community. Promoting expansion of local schools enables children living in the same local community to attend the same school fostering a coherent community identity and enabling community ownership to build around a range of extracurricular activities.</p>
2	<p><b>The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable...</b></p>
	<p>Currently the standard number for each EYFS intake at Cranfield Church of England Academy is 30, with the intake in lower Key Stage 2 set at 32 per class. Currently the numbers of children we have in school make our school financially viable. It is expected that CBC will submit plans for a dual site for Cranfield Church of England Academy as part of the housing development off Flitt Leys Close. This would be for a 150 place lower school. To ensure that an expanded school would be financially viable, an extensive Financial Due Diligence exercise was completed. The main aim of the Due Diligence exercise was to establish that expanding our current school would not place financial burden upon the current 300 place school. The outcome of the exercise confirmed that a 450 place lower school over two sites would be financially viable. The Due Diligence exercise was supported by a reputable accountancy firm.</p> <p>At Cranfield Church of England Academy we strive to provide children with an excellent education.</p>



	<p>Our recent OFSTED inspection confirmed that we provide a good education to children, with a broad and balanced curriculum. The behaviour and safety of our children was judged to be Outstanding. Our Church School Inspection (September 2010) awarded Cranfield Outstanding Church School Status. Our expanded school would become a natural part of Cranfield Church of England Academy life and led in the same manner as our current site.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools...</b></p>
	<p>In line with the council's vision of providing a good or outstanding school in every community, Cranfield Church of England Academy is fully committed to striving to provide outstanding education for all children in Cranfield village. The vision of our Governing Body, Leadership Team and staff is that the expansion of our successful school will enable us to provide quality education for the children and families who have made Cranfield village their home.</p> <p>As shared above, our most recent OFSTED inspection judged our school to be good overall, with behaviour and safety being judged as outstanding. We have also been awarded a Silver Quality Mark for the teaching of Religious Education. These are significant reasons as to why children who lived within the village but whose parents had chose a school outside the village, have now returned to be educated at Cranfield. We are extremely proud of this fact. We also have a number of children who attend Cranfield and live out of catchment.</p> <p>Our current whole school objectives are firmly focussed on striving for an outstanding education for our children and families. This focus will continue as our school moves through expansion.</p> <p>Our results show that good standards are maintained, even with significant in year mobility. For the year 2013 – 2014 this was 31% in year mobility. Our school leadership and teaching team are used to fluctuations within a school year and are able to manage this exceptionally well. This skill will be employed to manage the expansion in a meticulous way to ensure its success. We will ensure that teachers and staff that are recruited to the Cranfield team are of a similar calibre to those teachers who are currently at Cranfield. We will use the opportunity of designing the new site and use this knowledge to develop our current site to support the education of our current children.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities...</b></p>
	<p>Collaboration has supported our whole school development. Our Headteacher is currently a mentor for a new Headteacher within Central Bedfordshire. She is supporting the planning and opening of a new Church Academy in Watford at the invitation of St Albans Diocese. Our Deputy Headteacher is also SENCO. Within her SENCO role, she is supporting the development of SEN provision within other schools through the APT Go Audit. This was at the invitation of the Central Bedfordshire Teaching School Partnership. She is also running the SEN Professional Study Group for all SENCOs within the CBTSP. We are about to embark upon discussions regarding an English as an Additional Language Professional Study Group.</p> <p>We have previously developed and hosted training linked to EAL, hosted INSET for developing teaching and learning for progress for other schools in our Learning Community.</p> <p>We are also an active part of our Learning Community and fully endorse the importance of these local partnerships. We are supporting the development of Assessment without Levels for both the Learning Community and for other schools who have been interested in our in-school development of 'Stepping Stones' assessment. This interest has been sparked by staff attending courses and professional study groups.</p> <p>Strong links with the University of Central Bedfordshire have been made to ensure we impact on teachers of the future. Members of our Senior Leadership Team have presented lectures on Assessment and Safeguarding to students at the University. We also host students across the school year to develop not only confident and competent teachers but also to develop our practice at Cranfield.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0 -19 and reduce school transfer points...</b></p>

	<p>There is evidence that learning can be lost at points of transfer between schools and also transition within schools from one phase or key stage to another. As a result the WHAM Pyramid aims to promote collaboration amongst all of the schools which feed into Wootton Upper School. Cranfield Church of England Academy is one of these schools. Our collaboration aims to provide for all children in this community continuity of pedagogy and curriculum, and shared expectations of progress, behaviour and ethos.</p> <p>Cranfield Church of England Academy has excellent transition activities for children from pre-school who are admitted into Reception and from Year 4 to Holywell Middle School. At present, Pre-School is managed by a charity. However, Central Bedfordshire are planning to build a pre-school unit on the new Flitt Leys school site. We have just started a Financial and Leadership Due Diligence exercise to consider leading the pre-school provision for Cranfield village.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>The need to support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA)...</b>
	<p>Effective lower school education is the first step to delivering the Coalition Government policy of ensuring that all young people are in either education, training or work related education / training full time up to the age of 18. Fundamental to ensuring that young people have the skills and desire to tackle further education or training they need to have key skills in reading, writing and mathematics and a desire for lifelong learning. Fundamental to the vision of Cranfield Church of England Academy is the desire to inspire all of our pupils to Enjoy, Achieve and Learn. We are also committed to providing intervention and support to pupils with additional needs to overcome their difficulties and develop a resilient and determined approach to learning. Our aim is to ensure our children are 'middle school ready' by the time they leave us and that they already have aspirations, self- belief and a desire to Enjoy, Achieve and Learn at this exciting stage in their lives.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use...</b>
	<p>The school will be designed to provide an inspirational environment which will promote a Christian, Values based education and will promote sustainability and outdoor learning. The facilities will be designed by the local authority but the school will be fully engaged in contributing towards the design choices. The key aim of the design will be to provide premises that are fit for purpose. The design will take into account the school's church foundation and the need to provide sufficient space for worship, sport and free school meals for all infants. The school will work closely with the parish council and local stakeholders to maximise the use of the school facilities for community use.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice...</b>
	<p>Cranfield Church of England Academy is a Lower School within the Central Bedfordshire comprehensive system. It is a co-educational school which provides for children between the ages of 4 – 9 years old.</p> <p>The school has a strong Christian and Values based ethos and is extremely proud of this. We work in close partnership with our local parish and St Albans Diocese.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>To support vulnerable learners in Area Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools...</b>
	<p>Cranfield Church of England Academy has a strong and successful record promoting inclusion in our mainstream school.</p>

<p>Our school currently has 5 statemented children, 4 of whom require one to one support throughout the school day. Over the past five years we have worked in close partnership with Ivel Valley Special School and work extremely hard to ensure our provision meets the needs of these very vulnerable children. The parents of these children are extremely appreciative of this.</p>
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