

## APPENDIX A

### Section 10 Application Form

**APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONSENT TO THE PUBLICATION OF PROPOSALS FOR A NEW MAINTAINED MAINSTREAM OR SPECIAL SCHOOL UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006, AS AMENDED BY THE EDUCATION ACT 2011.**

**Please complete all relevant sections and submit to the School Organisation Team mailbox at: [schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gov.uk)**

<b>1. Details of proposer and proposed school including:</b>	
<b>Title of proposing body</b>	Church End Lower School Governing Body and the Diocese of St Albans Board of Education
<b>Local authority area:</b>	Central Bedfordshire
<b>Site details</b> (e.g. single/split site, freehold/leasehold tenure):	Split Site
<b>Postal address:</b>	Site 1 Church End Lower School Church Walk Marston Moretaine Bedford MK 43 0NE  Site 2 Forest End Great Linns Marston Moretaine Bedford MK 43 0DD
<b>Age range:</b>	3 – 9
<b>Number of pupils to be provided for, including details of any nursery (full-time equivalent places), SEN, boarding or sixth form provision:</b>	Total Capacity 600 pupils (Year R to Year 4)  + 96 FTE Nursery places
<b>Category</b> (Community/Community Special/Foundation/Foundation Special/Voluntary Controlled):	Current – Foundation  Proposed – Voluntary Controlled
<b>Proposed opening date:</b>	01 January 2019
<b>Proposer other than the LA</b>	Church End Lower School Governing Body and the Diocese of St Albans
<b>Proposed religious category (if any):</b>	

	Church of England Voluntary Controlled School
<b>Ethos:</b>	Anglican VC Community School
<b>2. Please give the reason(s) why you feel an Academy cannot meet the need for the new provision:</b>	
<p>Church End Lower School is a successful and expanding school located in the Central Bedfordshire village of Marston Moretaine. At the end of Year 4 pupils move on to their respective middle school; the majority attending Marston Vale Academy and a significant minority, Holywell Church of England Academy.</p> <p>The Central Bedfordshire educational landscape is based on a three tier structure. Over the past few years this has started to fragment as a number of schools have chosen to expand their age range, preferring a two tier primary/secondary structure. Included in this are a number of Multi-Academy Trusts as well as stand-alone academies. In our particular nine school pyramid, four schools are academies, either independent or part of a MAT, one school is hard federated with a school located in another pyramid with the remainder all community or foundation schools. This, combined with four of our pyramid schools located within the Borough of Bedford, makes our local context complicated.</p> <p>School Governors have spent considerable time since 2011 considering the best future direction for the school; this has included becoming an Academy. School Governors do not consider that there is any significant demand for the school to seek Academy status from any stakeholder group. Having met with Academy Headteachers and Governors, it was concluded that becoming an Academy was not right for the school at this stage.</p> <p>During the Autumn 2017, the Governing Body took the decision to propose, and consult on becoming a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School.</p>	
<b>3. Would you consider converting the school to an Academy in the future if it satisfied the relevant criteria?</b>	
<p>Of the five Central Bedfordshire Schools within our pyramid, the two largest are stand-alone Church of England Academies. It is anticipated that housing growth in this area will be considerable; potentially resulting in capacity issues at nearly all schools. It is anticipated that this growth will result in the expansion of existing schools, possibly onto second school sites, following the model that has so successfully been applied to Church End. Therefore, Governors have a strong desire to be part of the solution to on-going structural problems which ultimately impact on standards and the life chances of the pupils in our care.</p> <p>Church End is committed to developing local solutions and believes that this is best achieved through close partnership with other schools. To achieve this aim Governors have not ruled out the possibility of working with other schools, which share our vision, in creating a MAT primarily supporting our local community. It is our firm belief that being</p>	

part of a bigger educational family enables our pupils, their families and school staff access to advice, support and resources which will add to the educational experience we are able to provide. By joining the Church of England family of schools we will be working with other local schools which share our educational vision and promote our values.

**4. (Local Authority only) Statement on any consultation carried out to ascertain interest by an Academy provider, or justification for not carrying out such consultation:**

In November 2017 the Governing Body of Church End Lower School and The Diocese of St Albans Board of Education began a six week consultation process.

Stakeholders included ... parents and carers; all employees; all Central Bedfordshire Schools; all pyramid schools and the wider local community.

This process included four public meetings providing opportunity to all concerned to ask questions, seek clarification and express their views.

**5. Evidence of levels of parental demand for this category of school as opposed to an Academy:**

The response to our proposal was overwhelmingly positive...

91% of respondents supported the proposal

2% of respondents opposed the proposal

7% of respondents neither supported nor objected to the proposal

**6. Brief details of main reason for the proposed new school (e.g. new housing development, population growth, amalgamation/reorganisation, falling roles/surplus places, head teacher(s) retiring) including any particular local circumstances appropriate to the application and local authority support:**

The past few years has seen considerable housing growth within, and around the village. It is anticipated that this will continue for the foreseeable future.

The 'new' school would have a ...

Total Capacity 600 pupils  
(Year R to Year 4)

+ 96 FTE Nursery places

**7. Will the school replace an existing school or schools? If so, provide details of the closing school(s) (e.g. Postal address; Number of Pupils; Age range; Category) and proposed date for closure:**

Yes.

The closing school will be Church End Lower School (Foundation)

Site 1 Church End Lower School  
Church Walk  
Marston Moretaine  
Bedford MK 43 0NE

Site 2 Forest End  
Great Linns  
Marston Moretaine  
Bedford MK 43 0DD

It currently has a total capacity of 450 pupils (Year R to Year 4)  
+ 72 FTE Nursery Places

**The proposed date of closure is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

The proposed name of the new school is **Marston Moretaine Voluntary Controlled Church of England School**. It would continue to operate as a split site school occupying the same site mentioned previously.

It is proposed to open on 01<sup>st</sup> January 2019

**8. Statement on how the school will contribute to raising standards, including how it is proposed it will network with other schools in the area:**

The new school would primarily continue to serve the village of Marston Moretaine and the immediate surrounding area. It would replace Church End Lower which would close on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

By joining the Church of England family of schools we will be working with other local schools which share our educational vision and promote our values. In so doing, it is our belief that this will provide our pupils with the best opportunity to thrive, aspire to the very highest possible standards and go on to successfully contribute to their local and wider community.

Our existing school was inspected by Ofsted in November 2016. The report recognises that our leadership team 'plan for continuous improvement and are outward-looking and visionary'. The report recognises that attainment is above average.

The school already works closely with our pyramid of schools; encouraging and developing innovative approaches to liaison and assessment moderation. The school has an 'open door' policy in all aspects ranging from supporting Governance and Headteacher Mentoring to Initial Teacher Training. The school is actively involved in working with The University of Bedfordshire and both the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher are part of the Central Bedfordshire LSCB.

The school is looking forward to developing a strong and successful partnership from within the Diocesan family of schools.

**10. Views of local community - evidence of informal or statutory consultation, copies of any consultation documents, notes of meetings and feedback received (please list any documents attached):**

The consultation process ran for six weeks between November and December 2017. Consultation documents were sent to all existing families, all staff and the immediate and wider community. The school received 86 responses of which ...

91% of respondents supported the proposal;  
2% of respondents opposed the proposal;  
7% of respondents neither supported nor objected to the proposal.

In addition the school hosted four public meetings which were attended by parents, staff, residents, School Governors and the Director of Education from the Diocesan Board of Education.

The school employs 83 members of staff the majority of which were supportive of the proposal.

Some of the comments made by respondents were as follows ...

*'I think this would be a very positive move for the school and the children within it'.*

*'I fully support the school in seeking designation as a Church of England School'.*

*'I strongly agree with this proposal and believe this would be so beneficial to the children and community'.*

*'Definitely! Fabulous idea'.*

*'I don't think that the school should academise either'.*

#### **11. Contact details:**

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