

Friday 7th July 2017

Dear Staff, Parents/Carers and other interested parties
Dear Consultee

Proposal to Expand Witham St Hughs Academy

Witham St Hughs Academy is commencing a consultation process on the proposal to permanently expand the capacity at the academy with an implementation date of September 2018.

The Local Authority (LA) has approached Witham St Hughs Academy to ask if additional capacity can be provided. This expansion proposal will assist the LA to comply with its statutory duty of ensuring that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. The LA believes it to be the best available option both to address the potential shortage of Primary Reception school places in the village and also to help support local children being able to go to their local school. It is important that the academy gathers and considers all views on this proposal prior to making a decision on whether to proceed.

The proposal being consulted on is to **permanently expand the school capacity from 315 to 420, and take the Published Admission Number (PAN/intake) from 45 to 60** from 2018 onwards. To meet local demand, we have had to over-offer above our official PAN of 45 pupils since 2015. This is in an attempt to meet local demand as we have been oversubscribed on 1st preference local applications for the past two years and had to make use of temporary accommodation on site. It will not be possible to continue to over-offer without additional accommodation. The increased intake to 60 would be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake until the PAN of 60 applies to all year groups. This phased approach will allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures, and help to ensure that pupil numbers at other local schools are maintained.

The expansion proposal will enable the correct infrastructure and facilities to be provided for the number of pupils on roll. As such, the academy, in partnership with the LA, is proposing to proceed with building plans to provide the additional classrooms needed to ensure sufficient capacity is available in permanent purpose built accommodation.

The following information outlines the reasons for the proposal and explains why there is a need to expand this school and how the expansion can benefit the children and the local community.

Reasons for the Proposal to Expand Witham St Hughs Academy

National birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined with the effect of major new housing development, is continuing to have an impact at primary school age putting significant pressure on primary schools across the country where there will be a shortage of Reception places if additional places are not created. The community of Witham St Hughs and the wider area may experience a shortage of available places in the future if capacity at the local school is not permanently increased.



There is expected to be a long term requirement for more primary places in Witham St Hughs. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community beyond what may be considered a reasonable distance in the context of a rural county.

Having additional classes and more children on roll will also have financial benefits for the academy. This may potentially provide the opportunity to enhance teaching provision and career opportunities for staff which in turn will benefit the learning experience of the children.

Following statutory consultation, if the expansion proposal is approved, it is proposed that building work to add necessary additional accommodation will begin later in 2017 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be completed in advance of the start of the 2018/19 academic year. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays where possible.

Please note that the planning application process is dealt with and consulted on separately and there will be an opportunity for those that are interested to be involved throughout the planning process.

Have Your Say

If you wish to comment on this proposal then please email with your comments to - enquiries@withamsthughs.org.

If you would like to discuss these proposals further please contact Debi Markham on 01522 869590.

Copies of all documents related to this proposal, including an electronic version of the feedback form can be found online at <http://www.witham-st-hughs.org> with hard copies available on request.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Griffiths
Headteacher