



Newcastle
City Council 

Broadway East First School Consultation on Relocation and Expansion

Frequently Asked Questions

Why can't we just stay as we are currently?

Because this is a rare and exciting opportunity to improve our educational offer and we do not want our current pupils and our pupils in the future to miss out. In addition, if we stay as we are, the school will continue to become financially vulnerable as a result of relatively small pupil numbers and increasing costs.

Will the school still have the same ethos and values?

Yes. Because the school leaders, governors and staff will move with the school, we remain committed to maintaining the same caring ethos and Broadway East values. The ethos of a school is created by the people, not the location or the size of the school.

Will the curriculum be the same?

No, it will be even better because we will have a new building and new facilities which will create more learning space, better outdoor learning spaces, single year group (not split) classes, access to different ecological habitats and the opportunity to develop a new and exciting forest school curriculum. The location of the school will mean that we have immediate access to 600 acres of open space, including woodlands, wetlands and a range of habitats and wildlife areas. We will have even better opportunities for extra-curricular activities before and after school. We will have sufficient teaching staff so that we can develop more curriculum expertise and better coordination of subjects.

Will it open as a three form entry school?

It is intended to phase the growth of the school. It is, therefore, likely that the school will open as a two form entry school and grow to three forms of entry. There will be provision for all year groups as we expect to take most of our pupils with us. Whatever transition arrangements we put in place, they will be designed to minimise disruption for parents and pupils.

Does my child have to move to the new site?

All children on the school roll at the time of the relocation will remain on roll and move to the new site, unless parents/carers tell us that they wish to remove them from roll because they have been offered a place in another school. Children who are currently in Year 1 or above will not be directly affected as they will already be attending middle school, or other educational provision, in September 2020.

Will there be a nursery or a pre-school? And what will the hours be?

There is no planned provision for nursery or preschool on the site. It is understood that there will be additional private nursery provision within Newcastle Great Park as it continues to grow. This is in line with the existing provision at Newcastle Great Park provided at Brunton Day Nursery and Brunton First School.

How do the staff feel about the relocation?

Staff have been informed and will take part in this consultation. Through initial discussions, staff have expressed a desire to relocate the school as they see the potential future benefits and are excited by the curriculum improvements and learning opportunities that a relocation would bring.

Who will pay for the new school?

Newcastle City Council will oversee the delivery of the new school and secure all of the required funding, all or most of which will come from Section 106 housing developer contributions.

Will there be a breakfast and after school club? And who will run this?

We are very excited at the possibility of providing our own wrap around care on the new site. We would be able to appoint our own staff, possibly extend the hours of some of our existing support staff and ultimately provide excellent continuity in care for the children using the facility.

If I would prefer not to send my child to the new site can they go to GPFS or another school?

There will not be an automatic process for children to transfer to a different school because of the relocation and any applications would be treated as in-year admissions. However, there are also likely to be expansions of other schools, including Gosforth Park, these would be subject to separate consultations.

Can children from other schools go to the new site?

Children from other schools will be able to apply for places at the new site, although we will not be trying to take children out of other schools. However, we also recognise that some families already living on or moving to Newcastle Great Park or neighbouring areas may want to apply for places if the new school site will be more local to them.

Where will the extra children come from to fill the new school?

The extra children will be from families moving into the newly built houses and possibly some living in the area who are currently travelling out of the area to other schools.

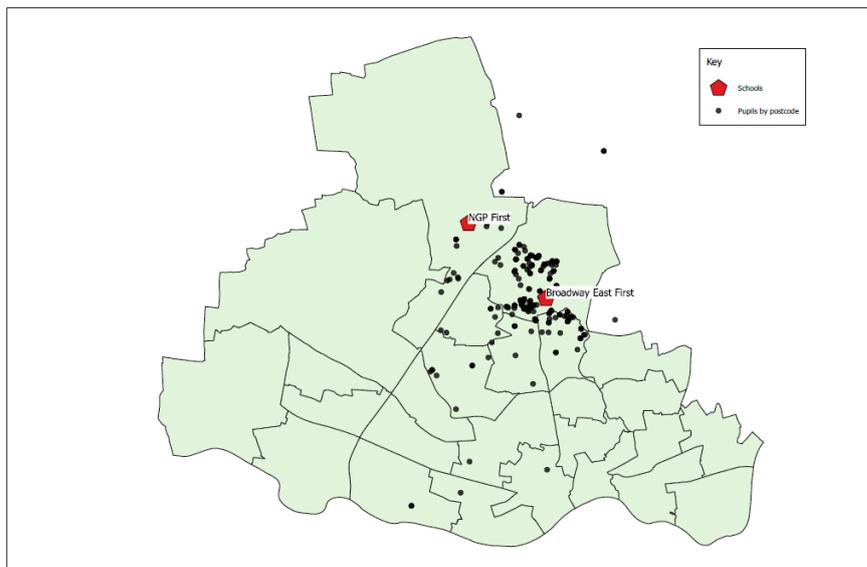
Could the school stay on its current site and expand?

We can't easily expand on our current site and it is not a viable option as there is not enough space or infrastructure for significantly increased numbers on the site. Staying here would also mean that we would be missing out on an opportunity to improve our school provision and curriculum through the relocation.

Why is Broadway East rather than another first school proposing to move?

Governors at Broadway East voted to consult on relocation because we believe that it offers us a fantastic opportunity to secure the future of the school in new purpose built facilities. Currently, there is a wide geographic spread of pupils attending Broadway East, including families living closer to the proposed new site.

Broadway East First School Pupils by Postcode (January 2017)



What will the admissions and feeder arrangements be for BEFS and the new Y5-Y11 school on Newcastle Great Park? Will my child still be able to go to GEMS?

The Governing Body, as the Admissions Authority, has no plans to change the admissions arrangements for BEFS as a result of relocation, although the over-subscription criteria based on home to school distance will obviously be based on the new school address.

It is not yet known how the school feeder pattern for the new Y5-Y11 Gosforth Academy Free School will work.

Given the first school expansions that happened in 2015 and the new Y5-Y11 school on Newcastle Great Park, schools in the Gosforth Schools' Trust and the Federated Gosforth Academy Trust will need to work closely together to conduct a joint review of the admissions and feeder school arrangements across Gosforth schools. Headteachers and the City Council have already agreed that this process is a priority and will begin as soon as we have enough information about numbers of children right across the Gosforth Pyramid, and when Broadway East Governing Body has made a decision about whether to proceed with these proposals. The Schools in Gosforth have a history of working closely together to give the best provision to the Gosforth Community and are committed to the best possible transition for all pupils.

Will siblings still get priority even if we don't live close to the new site?

The Governing Body, as the Admissions Authority, has no plans to change the criteria regarding siblings.

What will parking be like at the new site?

Detailed plans for the schools on the new site have not yet been drawn up, including any staff parking and parent drop-off points. The new school sites are close to the existing Park and Ride facilities in Newcastle Great Park and it is hoped that we will be able to make good use of this, along with appropriate on-site provision.

Will we be able to cycle to the new site?

Yes, we will continue to encourage people to walk, scoot and cycle to school if they are able to and we envisage cycling to the new site to be much easier and safer than it is currently. Existing school provision at NGP has very positive numbers of children, walking, cycling or scooting to school safely crossing the A1 over Brunton Bridge. The proposed school site has been masterplanned to ensure that safe and dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes will be delivered from all parts of the Park and the wider City to the school site. The school will work with its stakeholders to develop a new school travel plan relating to the new school site.

What help is there available if I would like to move my child to the new site but logistically it is too difficult for me to get there?

As part of this consultation, we would like to seek parental views on transport options to the new school site. Following that, we will be working closely with the City Council to put appropriate and sustainable solutions in place. We anticipate further future discussion with parents about these options.

Will the school change its name or uniform?

We are very attached to the name of our school as it is unique and well known. While we hope to retain at least an element of the current name, we will consult parents and pupils in the school family nearer to the time of transition to the new site. If the name, logo or uniform changed, there would be a phasing in period in order to minimise any costs to parents and carers.

Will the timing of the school day change?

This will be decided in collaboration with stakeholders at the time of transition to the new site. We have no plans to change the timings of the school day, but some minor adjustments might be necessary. We will also be looking to establish a breakfast and after school club on the new site.