

Proposals to increase the pupil numbers of Broadway East First School and to transfer the school to a new site on Newcastle Great Park

Newcastle City Council, People Directorate, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH and the Governing Body of Broadway East First School, Gosforth.

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with S19(2)(b)(ii) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Newcastle City Council intends to increase pupil capacity at Broadway East First School, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5JQ (no. 391/2006) from 1 September 2020.
2. To enable the school to expand to the proposed capacity, the Governing Body of Broadway East First School are proposing, in accordance with S19(3)(a) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that from 1 September 2020, the school should relocate to a new building on a site identified in Newcastle Great Park.
3. The demand for school places across Newcastle has been growing rapidly and will continue to do so owing to an increase in school age children and growth from existing and planned housing developments. There has been significant growth in Gosforth and, in particular, in Newcastle Great Park.
4. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide enough good school places for the children in the city, and has been working with schools and trusts across Gosforth to create more school places, where possible. To meet demand, additional places have already been created in three first schools and one middle school. More places are forecast to be required by 2020 - with around 400+ additional pupils anticipated in Newcastle Great Park alone.
5. To support some of this demand, there are proposals for two schools, a first school and one for pupils aged 9-16 years in Newcastle Great Park. The plans for further housing growth at Newcastle Great Park include proposals for two schools, for both primary and secondary age pupils, to meet the need for more school places. The schools are included in the outline planning application for Cell A at Newcastle Great Park which was submitted in May 2017 which is yet to be decided by the local authority's Planning Committee. These schools will become part of the Gosforth school planning area and the three tier provision.
6. The Gosforth Schools' Trust and Newcastle City Council have agreed that the preferred solution for the first schools is for Broadway East First School to relocate and to expand one of the existing Gosforth schools. This is in line with the Local Authority's agreed school organisation principles which aim to:
 - Build on Newcastle's successful schools and relationships by, wherever feasible, expanding successful schools, (on current or new sites), to strengthen them and increase their sustainability
 - Work collaboratively with Newcastle schools, Trusts and partner organisations to develop the right, creative solutions for the city and local communities now and in the future

- Manage school organisation, school expansions or other changes within an overall approach to school improvement - that supports and enables collaboration and pupil achievement
 - Ensure that proposals do not disadvantage particular groups of children or communities, are not in themselves unsustainable and do not have a detrimental impact on the viability of other schools
7. With two Gosforth first schools (Broadway East First School and Gosforth Park First School) on the same site, there is an opportunity for one school to relocate without leaving a gap in provision for families in the immediate area. Broadway East First School Governing Body agreed to consult on a proposal to relocate their school to Newcastle Great Park. This consultation was conducted in Summer Term 2017. Full details of the consultation are published on the Broadway East First School website (see below for website address)
 8. The identified site is 1.8 miles (straight line distance) from the current school site and is situated northwest of the Sage buildings. By a road route the new site is around 2.8 miles from the school's current site. The school would be adjacent to Gosforth Academy's proposed new free school which will provide places for pupils in year 5 to year 11.
 9. The Governors of Broadway East First School believe that the relocation and expansion of their school is a rare and exciting opportunity to improve their educational offer and that it would give their school:
 - a resulting larger budget which means that they could use their resources more efficiently to secure a more viable financial position for the future. The school is facing some difficult financial decisions regarding curriculum provision, resources and services and Governors are aware that it cannot maintain the current level of provision with the available funding
 - the benefits of a modern new building designed to deliver a 21st century curriculum
 - better opportunities for pupils, especially for sport, computing and outdoor learning, as well as maintaining and building on their excellent outcomes in other areas of the curriculum
 - access to different ecological habitats and the opportunity to develop a new and exciting forest school curriculum. The location of the new school would provide immediate access to 600 acres of open space, including woodlands, wetlands and a range of wildlife areas with even better opportunities for extra-curricular activities before and after school
 - the ability to have single curriculum year group classes (unlike the split classes currently in KS1 and KS2) and therefore more targeted provision for pupils, particularly with the new changes to the primary curriculum
 - more opportunities for improving teaching and learning through collaboration and sharing of good practice by teachers and teaching assistants as a result of a larger staff team and multiple classes in each year group

- greater opportunity to develop non-core curriculum subjects as a result of a larger staff team with more expertise across the curriculum
 - improved access to the site and potentially better cycle routes to and around the site, properly designed parking facilities for visitors and staff
 - its own wrap around care on site managed by its own staff and providing excellent continuity of care for pupils.
10. The new site would have the space for the school to grow from the current 1.5 forms of entry to 3 forms of entry. When full, the new school would have a capacity of 450 pupils. The current school has a capacity of 225 pupils and is frequently oversubscribed. The current admission number for reception class is 45. This would increase to 90 in a planned and phased way. The school will work with the local authority and other local schools to agree the phasing of this to meet the increased need for places in the local area.
 11. Remaining on the existing site does not offer the chance to expand to this extent. There is insufficient space and infrastructure to significantly increase pupil numbers on the existing site.
 12. The relocation of Broadway East First School would also provide opportunities for other Gosforth first and primary schools to expand to meet local need for places and increase their future sustainability.
 13. All children on the school roll at the time of the relocation would remain on roll and move to the new site unless parents/carers advise that they wished to remove them because they have been offered a place in another school. There will not be an automatic process for children to transfer to a different school because of the relocation (in line with the requirements of the Admissions Code). Any applications would have to be considered alongside any other in-year admissions applying the published over-subscriptions criteria if there were more applications than places available. It is intended that further new places would be created in Gosforth so there would be opportunities for parents to apply for places if they choose to.
 14. Children in current year 2 and above would not be directly affected by the move as they would have already moved on to the next phase of their education.
 15. The Governing Body recognises that transferring the school to a new site could present some difficulties for existing parents in terms of travel and convenience. The school and the City Council would work together to support parents who have difficulty accessing the new site, and would put appropriate and sustainable travel solutions in place.
 16. There would be designated parent drop off/parking for the new site. The new site is also close to the existing park and ride facilities in the Great Park and it is hoped that the school would make good use of this. The school would continue to encourage walking, scooting and cycling to school. The new site will have safe and accessible dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes from all parts of the Great Park and the no-car bridge crossing over the A1.

17. The Governing Body, as the admissions authority for the school, has no current plans to change the admission arrangements for Broadway East First School as a result of the proposed relocation, other than the phased increase in the pupil admissions number (PAN) referred to in 9 above, although oversubscription criteria based on home to school distance would be based on the new school address. There is already a wide geographical spread of pupils attending Broadway East First School, including families living closer to the proposed new site.
18. With the first school expansions that have already happened and the proposed new Y5 - Y11 Gosforth Academy Free School in the Great Park, the schools in the Gosforth Schools' Trust and the Gosforth Federated Academies Trust are intending to conduct a joint review of the admissions and feeder school arrangements across all schools in Gosforth for which they act as admissions authorities.
19. If approved, the Local Authority will oversee the delivery of the new school building and will secure all of the required funding, all or most of which will come from housing developer contributions. The Local Authority considers that a new enlarged building on a new site will provide value for money in the longer term.
20. Copies of this proposal may be obtained from the Headteacher of Broadway East First School, on the school website <http://www.broadway.newcastle.sch.uk/> or by emailing schoolinfo@newcastle.gov.uk
21. Anyone can object to or comment on these proposals by writing to Deb Tyler at Newcastle City Council Services to Schools, People Directorate, Civic Centre, NE1 8QH, or email: schoolinfo@newcastle.gov.uk by 26 October 2017.

Signed: Authorised Officer, Newcastle City Council and Chair of Governors
Broadway East First School

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