

**Consultation on our Proposal to  
Extend the Age Range of  
Henlow Church of England Academy  
to a Single Phase Extended Secondary  
Provision for  
2020-2021**



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You are invited to meetings as part of this consultation – please see the attached schedule.

# **CONSULTATION ON OUR PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF HENLOW CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, CHURCH LANE, HENLOW, BEDS, SG16 6AN TO A SINGLE-PHASE EXTENDED SECONDARY PROVISION FOR 2020-2021**

## **The Purpose of the Consultation Document**

The purpose of this document is to provide information on a proposal to extend the upper age-range of Henlow Church of England Academy from 13 years to 16 years, to create a full secondary provision. This will mean that the school will take children from age 11 (Year 7) to age 16 (Year 11). In order to support Central Bedfordshire's two tier vision for education, we will admit year 5 pupils during the transition period towards primary/secondary provision.

## **1. Background**

Henlow Church of England Academy is a popular, over-subscribed middle school which has always delivered high-quality teaching and learning for pupils. At its last Ofsted inspection in July 2018 it was deemed to be 'Good' and 'Outstanding' in the SIAMS inspection of 2017.

In October 2016, Henlow Academy's governing body stated its intention to extend the age range of the school upwards. Conversations and meetings with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and the Department for Education (DfE) took place with the outcome being that any change should be part of a co-ordinated approach across the area. In August 2018 CBC stated their intention to move towards a two-tier system of education. This change of age range will secure the future of the Academy and ensure the continuing delivery of high-quality teaching and learning in a Christian context.

**Before responding to this consultation process, you might find it helpful attend one of our consultation meetings. A schedule of these events can be found at the end of this document.**

## **2. Contextual position**

There is much change within the local area, with a significant number of schools being Academies and a general move towards a two-tier system of education. The following points demonstrate these particular trends:

- Current mixed economy of school structures- middle schools, upper schools and extended middle schools
- A new 9 - 16 free school opening in September 2019
- Two 9 - 16 schools within 2.5 miles of Henlow CE Academy
- Parental questions posed to Henlow Academy/CBC/DfE/Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC)/local Member of Parliament (MP) in relation to the possibility of extending the age range
- Parental questions posed to Henlow Academy/CBC/DfE/RSC/MP in relation to the need for a diverse educational offer
- Two tier primary/secondary education is established less than 5 miles away in Hertfordshire and further afield in Bedford Borough.

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- CBC decision August 2018 to:
  - support schools and clusters that want to work towards a primary and secondary model, considering that:
    - the appropriate resources are in place to do so;
    - change is co-ordinated; and
    - change supports improvements in educational outcomes

Actively promote that any new schools that will be built will be primary or secondary

Within this local context, it is highly likely that the traditional 9-13 Middle School will struggle to exist. As an Academy, outside of Local Authority control, it is incumbent upon the governors to determine where they believe the future of the school lies. Nationally, the number of Middle Schools has also seen a significant decline with very few Local Authorities offering this type of provision. Teacher Training providers no longer offer opportunities to focus on middle years education, therefore recruitment to this type of provision is also going to be difficult.

**This consultation is taking place in collaboration with the Local Authority and other schools in the area to ensure that changes are co-ordinated across the local area and responds to the increase in demand for additional school places due to housing growth over the next 10 years.**

### 3. Proposal

Lower schools in the Shefford/Stotfold area (including feeder schools- All Saints Clifton, Raynsford and Meppershall) offer a Church of England education for pupils until the age of 9. Henlow CE Academy offers a Church of England education for pupils aged 9 - 13. Church of England education is not currently available for pupils above the age of 13 in the local area. The Diocese of St Albans has given its full support to Henlow Academy's age-range extension.

The proposed change would provide an alternative secondary provision for parents, especially those wishing for a church-school option, and bring diversity to the locality in order to meet the needs of all children and young people.

To summarise, our objectives are to:

- Focus on community, which is one of our core principles as a Church of England academy. Strong programmes and initiatives are in place to support pupils in becoming proactive community members. Our core Henlow values of Honesty, Enthusiasm, Nurture, Love, Originality and Wisdom underpin this ethos and are really lived by the pupils as they are woven into the fabric of the school through our collective worship programme, curriculum and extra-curricular offer. Henlow CE Academy will be the only secondary Church of England school in the area and the only stand-alone academy.
- Continue to rejoice in our foundation as a Church of England Academy. The Christian ethos of the school is both distinctive and embedded into the soul of the community it serves. The academy logo and Henlow values, which were designed in collaboration with the entire school community (parents, staff and children), provide the structure for a truly Christian experience.

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- Extend our approach across the whole secondary age range: prepare pupils effectively for their future lives through our values and the wide range of curricular and extra curricular opportunities designed to develop fully rounded individuals.
- Continue close liaison with our feeder schools including our robust transition programme in years 4 and 6 according to each school's needs and those of the pupils.
- Ensure our most vulnerable pupils and those with SEND continue to flourish by continuing the support of visits/tasters currently valued by families.
- Ensure our approach flourishes throughout all of the secondary years - Ofsted (2018) refers to the pupils' 'impeccable behaviour' and notes that 'pupils have a positive attitude to learning'.
- Continue to achieve high academic standards across the key stages. Henlow CE Academy's progress and attainment trend at KS2 demonstrates the high standards:

### Key Stage 2 Results (3 year trend)

#### KS2 Attainment

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Reading</b>	67%	78%	78%
<b>Writing</b>	76%	78%	81%
<b>Maths</b>	65%	72%	72%
<b>GPS</b>	71%	83%	73%
<b>Combined (Re,Wri,Ma)</b>	54%	56%	59%

#### KS2 Progress

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Reading</b>	-0.6	-0.7	0.4
<b>Writing</b>	-2.8	-1.9	-1.7
<b>Maths</b>	-1.8	-2.2	-1.4

- To offer all pupils an exciting and innovative curriculum provision throughout key stages 3 and 4 that meets their needs and supports them to achieve their full potential.

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## Curriculum plan (draft)

70% of teachers at Henlow have experience of GCSE teaching and are Secondary trained, including the Head and both deputy heads.

10 day cycle, 6 x 50 minute lessons daily

### KS3 (7 & 8)

Year 7 & 8 will remain the same with a slight amendment to allow RE to increase from 2-3 lessons per cycle in preparation for GCSE.

	Subjects	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
English baccalaureate subjects	English	14	14	10	10
	Maths	14	14	10	10
	Science	7	7	9	9
	MFL	2	2	4	4
	History	3	3	3	3
	Geography	3	3	3	3
Foundation	Religious education	3	3	3	3
	PE & games	4	4	4	4
	Music	2	2	2	2
	Computing	2	2	2	2
	Design technology (inc Food, art, textiles)	4	4	4	4
Personal development	PSHCE	2	2	2	2
Options	A huge variety of subjects offered			4	4

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### KS3 (Year 9): Community

In Year 9, pupils will continue to build a strong foundation of understanding of the English Baccalaureate subjects and pupils will have the opportunity to complete additional qualifications linked to the theme 'community':

ASDAN Mentoring certificate

Coaching and umpiring Level 1 courses

First Aid

Duke of Edinburgh

Collective Worship group

Alpha Youth (Christian course)

Crest Award

Asset languages course or equivalent

Computer Science is likely to be enhanced in KS3 to ensure it is a viable option for pupils to select as a GCSE in Year 10 (if they wish).

### KS4 (10 & 11)

Core / options	Subjects	Frequency	Number of qualifications
Core	English / Eng Lit	10	2
Core	Maths	8	1
Core	Science	9	2 or 3 (double or triple)
Core	RE	5	1
Core	PSHCE	1	0
Core	PE/Games	2	0
EBacc	MFL / European studies *	5	1 (0, European studies)
Makes up 40/60 lessons			
Select at least 1 option from EBacc A			
EBacc A	History / Geography	5	1
EBacc A	Computer Science	5	1
Makes up 5/15 lessons			
Select up to 3 option subjects			

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Options	Drama	5	1
Options	GCSE PE	5	1
Options	Art	5	1
Options	Design	5	1
Options	Sociology / Psychology	5	1
Options	Business studies	5	1
Options	Music	5	1
Number of options selected must not exceed 60 periods.			

#### **4. Details of the Proposed Arrangements for 2018 - 2019**

Henlow Church of England Academy Trust will make a submission to the Secretary of State, via the Regional Schools Commissioner, and subject to the outcome of the consultation process, to extend the upper age range of Henlow Church of England Academy from 13 years to 16 years, to create an all-through secondary provision. This will mean that, initially, the school will take children from age 9 (Year 5) to age 16 (Year 11). However, when the move towards a two-tier system of education is complete, it is likely that Henlow Church of England Academy will become a more traditional 11-16 school (Years 7 – 11).

#### **5. Implementing age phase changes 2020-2021 onwards**

We are seeking to offer continuity of learning throughout the secondary stage of schooling and, in particular, to enhance our excellent levels of provision through the National Curriculum phases of Key Stages 3 and 4.

Currently, pupils in this locality have to change school mid-way through Key Stage 3. Our proposal to keep pupils at Henlow Church of England Academy until age 16 would provide an alternative for those parents who wish to have just a single transition point for their child, but at age 9 instead of age 11.

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## 6. Proposal

From	Action
September 2020	Year 8 pupils remain at Henlow Church of England Academy and move into Year 9
September 2021	Year 9 pupils remain at Henlow Church of England Academy and move into Year 10
September 2022	Year 10 pupils remain at Henlow Church of England Academy and move into Year 11

## 7. Numbers on Roll – changes from September 2020 onwards

Date	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	TOTAL
Sep 2019 (anticipated)	150	170	205	140	0	0	0	665
Sep 2020	150	150	170	205	150	0	0	825
Sep 2021	150	150	150	170	205	150	0	975
Sep 2022	150	150	150	150	170	205	150	1125

## 8. Accommodation

The school buildings are currently set up to accommodate 720 pupils.

Existing facilities consist of:

- 4-court Sports Hall with changing rooms
- Sports pitches including two Multi Use Games Areas and two playgrounds
- Two classroom blocks with general teaching classrooms (all classrooms have interactive touch screens or interactive whiteboards).
- Specialist teaching spaces such as music, art, food technology and resistant materials alongside three science laboratories.

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Some adaptation will be needed to create additional capacity and to meet the needs of the modern curriculum. Expansion will include improved dining facilities alongside additional science laboratories, specialist teaching spaces (for textiles, graphics and drama), additional general teaching spaces whilst also improving circulation and ancillary space.

### 9. How will school admissions be managed?

Currently, our admissions are managed by the Local Authority (CBC). Places are allocated based on the admissions criteria, which take into account various factors such as catchment area, whether there are siblings at the school, whether the child is 'looked after' and attendance at feeder schools.

It is unlikely that the proposed changes to the age-range will require a change in the admission arrangements for Henlow Church of England Academy. The current criteria are listed below. Should there need to be a change, these would be consulted upon separately following the statutory procedures required by the Schools Admissions Code.

The current admissions criteria for Henlow Church of England Academy are:

1.	All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after'
2.	Pupils with siblings at the Academy
3.	Pupils living in the catchment area
4.	Children of permanent staff
5.	Attendance at our traditional feeder schools: All Saints Church of England Academy, Clifton; Derwent Lower, Henlow Camp; Langford Village Academy; Meppershall Church of England Academy; and Raynsford Church of England Academy, Henlow
6.	Children, one or more of whose parents/carers have, at the time of application, shown commitment of the Church of England or another Christian Church by attending a service at least once a month for the year prior to an application being made
7.	Any other children

It will be assumed that current year 7 pupils will remain at Henlow CE Academy into year 9 in September 2020. However, parents/carers will still be able to apply for year 9 places at other schools if they wish to do so.

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## 10. What are the arrangements for the consultation process?

The consultation process will run from 7 May 2019 until 12 noon on 11 June 2019. During that period, we want to hear the views of:

- Parents of current students
- Parents of potential students in our feeder lower schools
- Staff who work at the school
- Our traditional feeder Lower Schools
- Our local communities, including pre-school groups and Early Years Providers, and our current site users
- All other schools within Central Bedfordshire Local Authority
- Neighbouring Local Authorities, the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses, the NHS Health Authority and other stakeholders
- Pupils will have the opportunity to record their views via google forms as part of our in-school consultation.

In order to engage in meaningful and informed consultation, we will be holding a number of consultation events to engage with all stakeholders, as well as providing the opportunity for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals. All of this evidence will be collated into a Consultation Report that the governors will consider prior to deciding whether to make a submission to the Secretary of State. What follows is the full timetable, but processes after June 2019 will only be actioned if the governors decide to proceed based on the feedback from this consultation process.

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Event	Timescale
<b>Consultation process</b>	Tuesday 7 May 2019 – noon Tuesday 11 June 2019
<b>Consultation Events:</b>	<p>Tuesday 7th May 2019: Main Hall 16:00 - 17:00 (staff)</p> <p>Thursday 16 May 2019 : Sports Hall 1430 - 1530 (stakeholders)</p> <p>Thursday 16 May 2019 : Sports Hall 1800 - 1930 (stakeholders)</p> <p><i>Stakeholder meetings are open to all but are primarily for the parents/carers of current and future pupils</i></p>
<b>Analysis of responses and preparation of Consultation Report</b>	12 June – 21 June 2019
<b>If Governors decide to proceed, proposals will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner for consideration and then final approval by the Secretary of State</b>	Timescales will depend on decisions taken by Central Bedfordshire Council in Autumn 2019
<b>Decision by Secretary of State via the Regional Schools Commissioner</b>	Anticipated November/December 2019 (TBC)
<b>Final Implementation of Proposals</b>	1 September 2020

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**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE TO A SINGLE-PHASE SECONDARY PROVISION 2020-2021**

Please take the time to read our Consultation document and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us. Please email completed questionnaires to [consultation@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:consultation@henlowacademy.org.uk), hand in at the school office, send by post to:

Mr P Huntley, Chair of Governors, Henlow Church of England Academy, Church Road, Henlow, Beds, SG16 6AN

Or via our school website at [www.henlowacademy.org.uk](http://www.henlowacademy.org.uk)

**All responses must be received by noon on 11 June 2019 please.**

**PROPOSAL**

**Should Year 8 pupils remain at Henlow Church of England Academy and move into Year 9 from September 2020?**

Yes	Don't know	No

**Comment** (please give the reasons for your answer if you wish)

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1. Please tell us who you are.

We intend to analyse responses according to stakeholder group.

Please tick all the boxes that apply in the list below.

- Parent of a student(s) currently attending Henlow Church of England Academy
- Member of the Governing Body at Henlow Church of England Academy
- Member of staff who works at Henlow Church of England Academy
- Parent of a child in Years 1 – 4 in our traditional feeder lower schools
- Governor, including Headteacher, at one of our traditional feeder Lower Schools
- Member of the local community
- Representative of the Local Authority
- Representative of a Diocese
- Other (please specify) .....

2. We will respect any desire to remain anonymous (no one will be publicly identified in the report on the consultation) but if you are content for us to know your name (or names if this is a joint response), please enter it/them here:

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3. If you would like us to send you a copy of the final consultation report, please provide an email address here: . . . . .