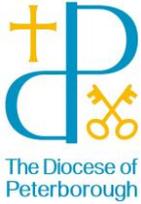


Peterborough Diocese – Board of Education



Proposal for a new Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School at Monksmoor Park Daventry

Contact Details

The Board of Education of the Peterborough Diocese of the Church of England is delighted to submit this proposal to Northamptonshire County Council for the establishment of a new Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School on the new housing development at Monksmoor Park, Daventry under Section 11 of the *Education and Inspections Act 2006*.

Contact details for the Board of Education (PDBE) are as follows:

Bouverie Court, 6 The Lakes, Northampton. NN4 7YD.

Telephone: 01604-887006. Email: education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The principal point of contact for Peterborough Diocese Board of Education (PDBE) in respect of this proposal is Liz Youngman, Deputy Diocesan Director of Education.

The proposal is submitted independently by the PDBE, with the strong support of the local Parish Churches, i.e. Daventry Team ministry.

This proposal document is structured in accordance with the information required of a Section 11 proposal as detailed in Schedule 1 of *The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013*.

Implementation

It is proposed that the school will open in September 2018. The intention is that the school will grow at the same pace as the demand for places from the new housing. It is expected that there will initially be 90 places, 30 in each of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The school will grow each year until it reaches full capacity. This growth will be managed in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council, in order to ensure the correct number of places is made available, with minimum potential impact on neighbouring schools. The Nursery class will open when appropriate by negotiation with the LA.

The capital costs of the new school will be met entirely by developer contributions, as part of a Section 106 agreement.

Reason for the new school

This will be a new Primary School required to serve the new development known as Monksmoor Park, Daventry. Outline planning permission for up to 1000 houses has been granted and three of the five phases of the development have been completed with houses already built and occupied.

Category

The *Education Act 2011* introduced a general presumption that new schools would be developed as Academies or Free Schools but with an option for establishing Voluntary Aided schools where there is local agreement to do so. This proposal, therefore, is to establish a Voluntary Aided Church of England maintained school at

Peterborough Diocese – Board of Education

Monksmoor Park under Section 11 of the *Education and Inspections Act 2006*, as amended by the 2011 Education Act.

Regulations provide that the decision maker for proposals such as this one is the local authority that will maintain the school.

Ethos and religious character

This proposal is to establish a Primary School which will operate with a religious character in accordance with the tenets of the Church of England. The proposers intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as having such a religious character.

It is intended that the school's ethos should be distinctively Christian whilst thoroughly inclusive in its welcome of, and provision for, children of all faiths and none. This ethos will be founded on key Christian values such as respect, compassion, service, friendship and justice. A high standard of behaviour will be expected, and all pupils will be supported and encouraged according to their individual abilities. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all will be fostered within a Christian environment and links with local churches will be nurtured.

Religious Education will follow the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus which, alongside Christianity, includes teaching about the world's major faiths. The school will encourage understanding and respect of other faiths, beliefs and practices, and of those who choose to follow no religion.

The Diocese made local people aware of its intention to make this proposal in February 2017. A public meeting was advertised, held and a survey was made available, both on-line and in paper format. This engagement revealed significant support for the proposal for a Church School.

The public meeting was attended by approximately 20 people. It was followed by a Churches Together in Daventry meeting when the proposal was also discussed. There was strong support for the proposal from those present. Questions raised included the timescale for the building of the school, admissions, the appointment of the Head teacher and key staff, and the Christian distinctiveness of the school.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The school will eventually provide for 210 boys and girls, aged 4 – 11 with three year olds in a Nursery class. No Designated Provision for children with Special Educational Needs is planned.

The proposed Admission Policy will not include any priority for places based on religious allegiance. The over-subscription criteria can be summarised as follows:

1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children
2. Children residing within the Monksmoor Park development*
3. Siblings of children attending the school.
4. Other children

Tie-break: Distance from the school measured by a straight line.

*The precise boundaries of the residential area served the school will be defined in consultation with the local authority. These may be subject to variation as the development grows and other new schools are established.

Peterborough Diocese – Board of Education

Early years provision

As required by the School Admission Code, the school will admit pupils in the September following their fourth birthday. There will also be nursery provision for three year olds.

Special Educational Needs provision

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will be provided with the necessary support to enable them to access the curriculum, modified as appropriate, alongside their peers. A Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) will be appointed to ensure that all pupils' needs are met and that access to specialist staff and services is provided, in accordance with local authority policy and resources. The school is designed to provide a high level of accessibility for pupils.

Curriculum

The proposers confirm that the school will meet the general curriculum requirement as detailed in Section 78 of the *Education Act 2002*. Whilst it will be for the school's leaders and governors to develop the details of what is offered by the school, the proposers are deeply committed to a broad and enriched curriculum, founded on national requirements, with the aim of giving every child the opportunity to achieve excellence. The proposers believe that a strong focus on the creative arts, humanities and sport develops and supports progress in core skills and can provide life-enhancing experiences for children.

Relevant experience of proposers

The Church of England has an historic and substantial role in the educational system of this country. The National Society, which celebrated its bicentenary in 2011, was instrumental in the establishment of Church Schools throughout England, many decades before primary education became compulsory.

The Board of Education shares responsibility for over 100 schools across the Diocese of Peterborough, which encompasses the whole of Northamptonshire, as well as schools in Rutland and Peterborough. Church of England Schools in the Diocese enjoy a very strong reputation and the demand for places at many of them is very high. From large secondary schools, such as Bishop Stopford in Kettering, to "medium-size" primaries including Hackleton and Oundle, to small village schools, such as Brigstock and Gayton, Church of England schools in the Diocese are regularly rated as "Outstanding" in OfSTED inspections. Indeed, 90% of C of E Schools in the Diocese are currently rated "Good" or "Outstanding", a figure greater than the County average.

The academic results of Church of England Schools within the Diocese are particularly good. C of E schools are invariably well-represented in the upper echelons of the Key Stage 2 Performance Tables for Northamptonshire. Whilst the Board recognises the limitations of data, it does indicate a culture of high achievement within the family of church schools.

The Diocese has been approved by the Department for Education as an Academy sponsor. Its multi academy trust, Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET) has been established for this purpose. Currently 23 church academies have joined the trust, many of them by choice. Such a high level of interest is indicative of the

Peterborough Diocese – Board of Education

confidence that Church of England Schools place in the Diocese's education provision.

It is not proposed that the new school should be an Academy, but all Church Schools within the Diocese benefit from the greatly enhanced capacity and expertise that is in place. Peterborough Diocese Board of Education is fortunate to be able to draw upon the services of a large number of capable and dedicated people, who serve as Foundation Governors of Church of England Schools. It is expected that the supporting churches will provide some of the members of the initial governing body.

Effect on standards and contributions to school improvement

Whilst there is a very well-established Church of England Junior School in Daventry town and others in surrounding villages, there is currently no C of E Primary School located in the outlying residential areas of the town. This proposal will therefore make a strong contribution to diversity of provision in the area.

The new school will be expected to make a significant impact on raising standards across the area. Church of England Schools have a long history of providing support for one another. Consistent with Biblical principles, stronger church schools respond willingly to share their expertise with other members of the family facing temporary difficulties. Curriculum support, management consultancy and even secondment of skilled and experienced staff have all been features of the support that C of E schools have provided for one another in recent years. In the context of a gradual diminishing of the support available from the Local Authority, the resilience of the family of church schools represents a real strength of this proposal.

It is not the case, however, that the church school family is in any way exclusive. Church of England schools throughout Northamptonshire play a full part in local clusters and partnerships. Where they have the expertise and capacity to offer help, church schools readily give support to schools of all types. This is a two-way relationship. Indeed in recent years church schools have also been the beneficiaries of a range of excellent support and consultancy initiatives from colleagues in community schools, often underwritten financially by the County Council. The educational landscape may be changing, but the Diocese sincerely hopes that partnerships of this kind will continue.

Location and costs

The school's location has been finalised and work on the new building has begun. The estimated capital costs are believed to be in the region of £4,500,000 and, as stated above, these will be met from developer contributions. Phases 1, 2 and 3 houses have been completed with phases 4 and 5 to be completed in the future to a total of up to 1000 homes.

Travel

It is anticipated that children will be able to walk or cycle to school, in line with the garden village concept outlined on the www.monksmoorpark.com website.

VA Schools - Trust matters and Governing Body's capital contributions

The school will be a Church of England School with its Christian foundation and land and building trusteeship held by Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (the local

Peterborough Diocese – Board of Education

Diocesan Church of England School trustees) following its statutory transfer by the Local Authority upon completion of the construction of the school buildings.

We hereby confirm that the Governing Body of the school will be able to fund any future 10% contributions to deliver future capital work projects at the VA school.

A Church of England School – the best for Daventry

The Diocesan Board of Education recognises both the privilege and the responsibility that establishing a new school will bring. It is essential that the new school delivers the highest quality of education, with a relentless focus on outstanding teaching and learning and high achievement, alongside strong provision for the pastoral care and well-being of all pupils.

The strong track record of the Board's schools in providing excellent education, the supportive family of church schools, an experienced and knowledgeable local backroom team and a powerful commitment to meeting all of the community's needs combine, in the Board's view, to make a Church of England School the best choice for Daventry.

Liz Youngman
Deputy Diocesan Director of Education

9th October 2017

Miranda Robinson
Diocesan Director of Education