

Statutory Notices

Proposal to change the age range
and extend premises at Meadowcroft
Infant School



School Organisation Statutory Notice

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Surrey County Council, intends to make a significant change to Meadowcroft Infant School by changing the age range from 4 – 7 years old to 4 – 11 years old to become a primary school.

Local Authority Details:

Local Authority	Surrey County Council
Address	Quadrant Court 35 Guildford Road Woking GU22 7QQ

School Details:

Name of School	Meadowcroft Infant School
Category of School	Community school
Type of School	Infant school
URN	125065
Address	Little Green Lane, Chertsey
Postcode	KT16 9PT

Introduction

This paper outlines a proposal by Surrey County Council, in cooperation with the Governing Body of Meadowcroft Infant School, to change the age range of Meadowcroft Infant School from a one-form entry infant school to a one-form entry primary school and extend their premises to accommodate the additional children. The statutory process and timescales for the expansion are detailed below.

Proposal

Surrey County Council and The Governing Body of Meadowcroft Infant School are proposing to change the age range to accommodate ages 4-11 years, becoming a 1FE primary school. This would allow for a roll of 210 pupils across the school.

Proposed timeline

The proposed change of age range would come into effect from September 2024 onwards.

Phase	Date
Statutory notices	13 January 2022 – 10 February 2023
Lead Cabinet Member Decision	February 2023
Building work and changes to existing space	To start summer 2023, contingent on planning permission
Implementation	1 September 2024

It is proposed that:

1. Meadowcroft Infant School's age range is changed to accommodate ages 4-11, becoming a 1FE primary school. This would allow for a roll of 210 pupils across the school.
2. Further building work will be required on the site of the school to provide appropriate accommodation for the additional pupils.
3. If the proposal to expand Meadowcroft to 210 places is successful, there will also be a consultation to amend the admissions criteria and reduce the PAN at St Ann's Heath Junior School, from 90 to 60 places. This will be put forward through the School Admissions consultation process for September 2024. The consultation will be published on the following link - [Consulting on school admission arrangements - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/consulting-on-school-admission-arrangements)

Making Representations, Objections and Comments

1. This is a four-week consultation which starts on Friday 13 January 2023 and concludes on Friday 10 February 2023.
2. Any person can make comments, agree, or object to the proposal by sending representations to the Local authority through the following channels:

Website	www.surreysays.co.uk
Email	schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
Post	Sarah Manning Education Place Planning Surrey County Council Quadrant Court 35 Guildford Road Woking GU22 7QQ

Background

1. Meadowcroft Infant School is a community school. The school is situated in Chertsey, within the borough of Runnymede.
2. At present, Meadowcroft Infant School is a one-form entry infant school for pupils aged 4-7 years, with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 and provides permanent accommodation for up to 90 pupils. The school is rated as “Good” by Ofsted in its last full inspection in November 2021.
3. St Ann’s Heath Junior School is a community school with a “Good” rating from Ofsted. The school is situated in Virginia Water and is a three-form entry junior school for pupils aged 7-11 years with a published admission number (PAN) of 90.
4. Children currently leave Meadowcroft Infant School at the end of Year 2 and parents make separate admission applications for Year 3 places. The admissions criteria for St Ann’s Heath Junior School currently lists Meadowcroft as a feeder school. If this proposal goes ahead, there will be a change to the admissions criteria and reduction to the PAN at St Ann’s Heath Junior proposed in conjunction.
5. Pupils leaving Meadowcroft are also able to seek Year 3 places at other junior schools or primary schools without a separate Year 3 intake, which can be offered subject to vacant places being available.

Rationale

1. This proposal provides Surrey County Council with the opportunity to re-organise primary places in an area of Chertsey by providing an all-through primary school which will benefit the local community and provide opportunities for siblings in a family to attend the same school. It would also ease the transition made by children when transferring from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2, as pupils will have the opportunity to remain at Meadowcroft School instead of transferring to another school for their junior education.
2. Historically, Meadowcroft Infant School has had no formal follow-on for junior provision and, as such, pupils have previously been offered places at different schools across Chertsey, Addlestone, Ottershaw, and beyond; based on wherever Year 3 vacancies existed at the time.
3. In 2014, Meadowcroft became a formal feeder school for St Ann’s Heath Junior School to secure a junior pathway for Meadowcroft pupils.
4. However, St Ann’s Heath is over three miles away from Meadowcroft and therefore some distance from the homes of Meadowcroft pupils, who tend to live near the infant school. This does affect parental preference and as a result, Meadowcroft suffers with fluctuating pupil numbers as parents elect to move their children at other points during the school year to avoid having to make a junior transition by securing a place in a local all-through primary school.
5. The proposed change of age range allows Meadowcroft Infant School to offer junior places. The increase in junior places in the Addlestone and Ottershaw planning area will then match the total number of Reception places available. This would improve the sustainability of the school without negatively impacting pupil numbers at other primary schools across Addlestone, Ottershaw and Runnymede.

6. Meadowcroft's 1st preferences have been affected over the years due to the uncertainty of local junior provision, as illustrated below:

Meadowcroft Infant School	
Academic year	No. 1st preferences
2022/23	9
2021/22	12
2020/21	9
2019/20	13
2018/19	9

7. St Ann's Heath Junior School also has fluctuating numbers due to the uncertainty of pupils transferring across from Meadowcroft. As a result, the school is now operating at two classes in some year groups rather than three.

The table below shows the numbers on roll (NOR) at St Ann's Heath Junior School from the last four years' October census data:

St Ann's Heath Junior School				
	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2018	73	73	55	69
2019	88	76	76	56
2020	56	86	73	72
2021	78	54	83	68

The table below shows the number of first preferences St Ann's Heath Junior School has received for September 2022 entry and the previous two intake years. The table also illustrates how many of the children allocated a place at St Ann's Heath Junior School attend Meadowcroft Infant School. In 2020-2021 only 13 children transitioned to St Ann's Heath Junior School from Meadowcroft Infant School.

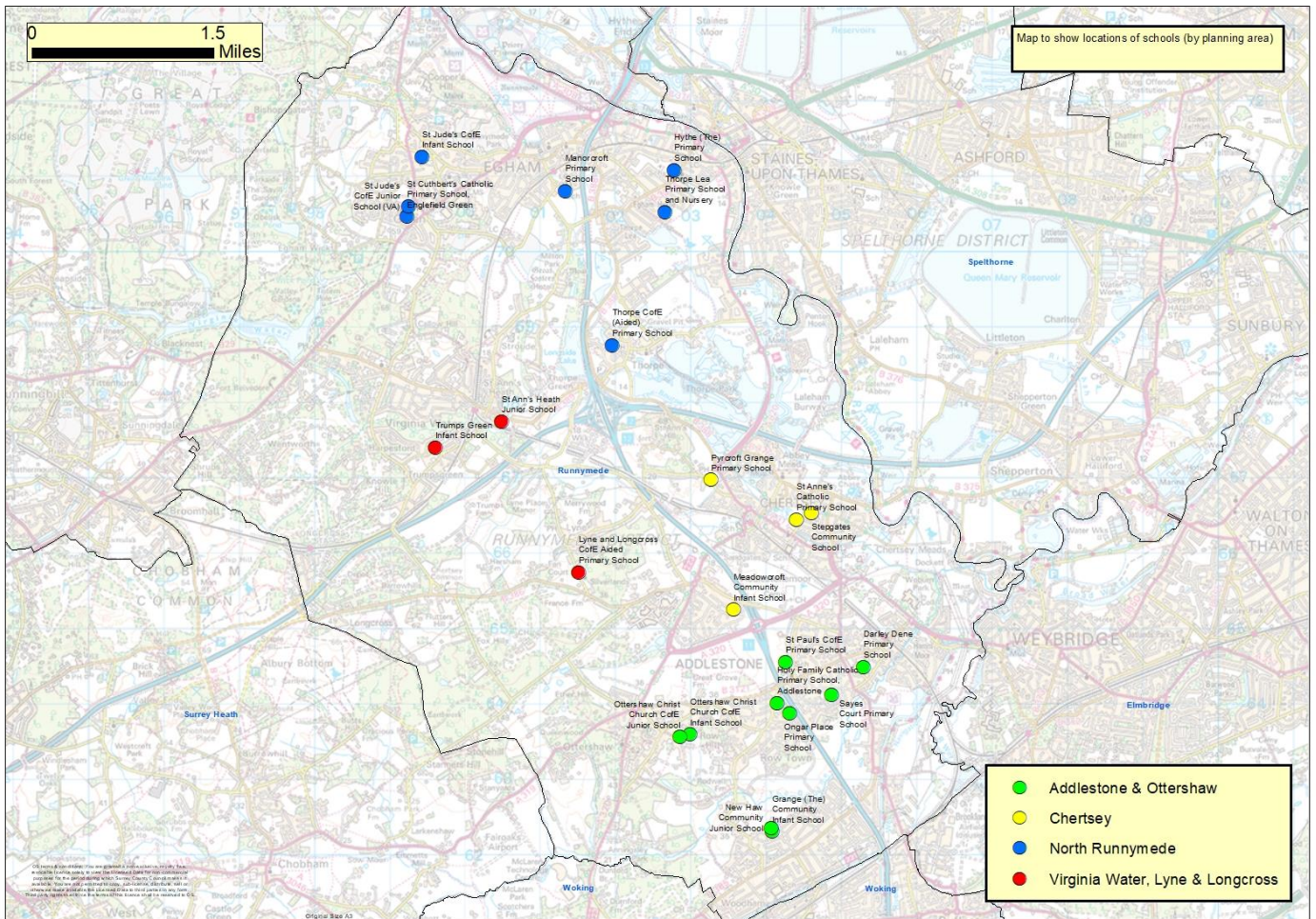
Academic Year	St Ann's Heath Junior Preferences received	Number of children allocated St Ann's Heath Junior from Meadowcroft Infant
2020-2021	81	13
2021-2022	99	22
2022-2023	97	25

Pupil Placement

- For the purposes of education place planning, Surrey County Council produce pupil projections based on planning areas. Planning areas do not have geographical boundaries but are groups of schools which reflect the local geography, reasonable travel distances and existing pupil movement patterns.
- From September 2022, there has been a reorganisation of planning areas within Runnymede. Meadowcroft Infant School is now located in the planning area of Chertsey, rather than Addlestone and Ottershaw. St Ann's Heath now falls under the planning area of

Virginia Water, Lyne and Longcross. Figure 2 below illustrates the location of the schools by planning area in Runnymede.

Figure 2 - Map to show Runnymede schools by planning area



The table below outlines the primary projections for the Chertsey primary place planning area. Housing permissions and trajectories received from boroughs and districts are combined with birth data and pupil movement trends to create projections. Providing Year 3 places at Meadowcroft from September 2024, will help reduce the forecasted deficit of places in the planning area. By moving the Year 3 places from St Ann’s Heath to Meadowcroft, it enables a continuity of education within the area where they are most needed.

Chertsey									
School year	Year R places	Year R forecast	Surplus / deficit	Year 3 places	Year 3 forecast	Surplus / deficit	Proposed Year 3 places	Year 3 forecast	Surplus/ deficit
2023-24	150	159	-9	120	131	-11	150	131	19
2024-25	150	155	-5	120	134	-14	150	134	16
2025-26	150	155	-5	120	133	-13	150	133	17
2026-27	150	153	-3	120	140	-20	150	140	10
2027-28	150	153	-3	120	135	-15	150	135	15
2028-29	150	155	-5	120	132	-12	150	132	18
2029-30	150	155	-5	120	129	-9	150	129	21
2030-31	150	156	-6	120	128	-8	150	128	22
2031-32	150	157	-7	120	129	-9	150	129	21

4. The table below outlines the primary projections for Virginia Water, Lyne and Longcross primary place planning area. Though the forecasts indicate a deficit of places this can be managed by bulge class provision should it be required.

Virginia Water and Lyne & Longcross									
School year	Year R places	Year R forecast	Surplus / deficit	Year 3 places	Year 3 forecast	Surplus / deficit	Proposed Year 3 places	Year 3 forecast	Surplus/ deficit
2023-24	90	93	-3	120	111	9	90	111	-21
2024-25	90	95	-5	120	112	8	90	112	-22
2025-26	90	93	-3	120	115	5	90	115	-25
2026-27	90	92	-2	120	119	1	90	119	-29
2027-28	90	90	0	120	118	2	90	118	-28
2028-29	90	90	0	120	114	6	90	114	-24
2029-30	90	90	0	120	110	10	90	110	-20
2030-31	90	89	1	120	108	12	90	108	-18
2031-32	90	89	1	120	107	13	90	107	-17

5. Should this proposal be agreed for Meadowcroft to expand to a primary school, there will be subsequent proposals to amend the admissions criteria and PAN at St Ann's Heath Junior School. This will mean that there is a complete match of infant and junior places across the borough, and lead to improved strategic place planning.
6. The proposal will enable Meadowcroft to start providing Key Stage 2 places from September 2024. The Year 2 class for 2023/24 would transfer into the newly established Year 3 class in September 2024/25, and Key Stage 2 will increase incrementally each year as each new Reception cohort is admitted. The new accommodation provided would allow adequate space for these pupils to move through the junior phase. Meadowcroft Infant School would be operating as a full 1FE primary school from September 2027/28 onwards, as shown below.

Meadowcroft Infant School	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2023/24	30	30	30					90
2024/25	30	30	30	30				120
2025/26	30	30	30	30	30			150
2026/27	30	30	30	30	30	30		180
2027/28	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

Changing the age range at Meadowcroft Infant School:

- Will allow pupils to transition through the school from Reception year, without the need to apply elsewhere giving them and their families the reassurance of a continuity of educational provision
- Will seek to enhance pupils' experiences, enabling higher standards of education to be provided
- The school can deliver the curriculum in a continuous and coherent way, putting them in a stronger position to plan for both continuity and progression in learning
- Provides the opportunity to build partnerships with pupils, parents and families over a longer period of time
- Will enable siblings to remain together during their primary education, rather than parents having to travel to two different schools
- Will create a sustainable school to serve the local community

School Building Requirements

1. A programme of building works at the school will improve the general fabric of the school buildings and enhance the learning experience for pupils, parents and staff. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, further work will be required to the existing site to make it suitable for the additional 120 pupils. This would involve the demolition of the caretaker's property and the creation of 4 new classrooms. Any further works would be subject to the requirements for planning permission and building control.
2. Due to the small school site, sufficient playing field space for junior-aged pupils to access for physical education has been sourced off site at St Paul's CofE Primary School, Addlestone.

Consultations, approvals, and overall timescales

1. It is proposed that the change of age range and extension of premises commences from 1 September 2024. The proposed changes require a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Learning if the proposal is to proceed.
2. The first stage of consultation was open from 22 June 2022 to 15 September. During this period the Surrey County Council shared proposals with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the school subject to the proposals. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.
3. The consultation analysis is published at www.surreysays.co.uk on the Statutory Notice webpage alongside this document.

Key points from the consultation responses:

- There were 62 responses to the consultation
 - 71% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 17.7% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 11.3% of respondents stated they didn't know
4. Statutory Notice is now open for a four-week period from Friday 13 January to Friday 10 February 2023. The publication of Notices is when the local authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning.

What happens next?

You can make representations, objections and comments using the online form at www.surreysays.co.uk. Alternatively, you can respond by email or post at the addresses given in the section [Making Representations, Objections and Comments](#).