

Proposed
changes to
primary education
in the Carlisle
West area



What this consultation is about

This consultation document is about proposals for changes to the following schools:

- Yewdale School and Nursery, Yewdale Road
- Robert Ferguson Primary School, East Dale Street
- Newtown Community Primary School, Newtown Road
- St Bede's Roman Catholic Primary School, Strathclyde Avenue

The proposals are part of a wider review of the number of primary school places in Carlisle as a whole.

Further information can be found at cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation

In each of these schools the council is proposing to increase the number of pupil places available. In the case of St Bede's this can be done without additional building work. At the remaining three schools building work would be required to increase the classroom space available.

We are suggesting this because the school age population in the Carlisle West area is now increasing.

The county council wants to hear your views on these proposals before deciding whether to make the changes.

Who this consultation is for

This document is aimed at parents, staff, governors and everyone else with an interest or stake in primary education in the area.

How you can respond to this consultation

Use the form at on the back pages of this document to let us know what you think or you can attend the consultation event on Friday 9th December at Richard Rose Morton Academy to talk to us face to face.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please contact the School Organisation Team on:

T: **01228 226013**

E: school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is 16 December 2011

Let us know what you think!

We hope that you will take the time to read this consultation document carefully. We both feel it is really important to hear from parents, governors, pupils and other local people about the proposals we are making before we make decisions.

With the birthrate increasing we have to take steps to make sure there are enough school places available in the area. We want all children to have the best possible chance of finding a place at their local school. We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals.

Yours sincerely



Duncan Fairbairn
Cabinet Member - Children's Services



Julia Morrison
Corporate Director - Children's Services

More information

How we know extra places are needed

By law the council must make sure there are enough school places in the area. On the basis of current information available to us we think there is a risk that there may not be enough places in future.

Each year the county council looks at data provided by local GP surgeries. This data shows how many children have been born and where they live. From this information the council can estimate the number of children who are likely to require a school place in the future in each area. In the Carlisle area generally, and the Carlisle West area in particular, the data shows the number of school age children is increasing.

Each year, the county council checks its pupil forecasts against actual numbers on roll to determine how accurate we have been in the past. On this basis, we can modify the forecasts and improve them where necessary, but in the past our projections have proved to be very accurate. Forecasts for primary school intakes can only be made accurately for the next four years, because children who will require a place beyond that time are not yet born.

Carlisle West - School Totals	Reception Intakes					GPR Figures			
	PAN	Sep 08	Sep 09	Sep 10	Sep 11	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15
	291	288	286	309	247	340	346	371	Projections updated shortly

PAN = Published Admission Number (the number of pupils the school is allowed to admit each year)

How many places we think are needed

The council estimates that the following numbers of extra places are required at these four schools:

School	Proposed change/s	Outcome
Yewdale	Expansion to 2FE	Additional 25 places/year group
Robert Ferguson	Expansion to 2FE	Additional 15 places/year group
Newtown	Expansion to 1FE	Additional 15 places/year group
St Bede's	Increase PAN from 27 to 30	Additional 3 places /year group

FE = Form of entry (a form of entry constitutes 30 children)

If all of the changes above were to be implemented, this would increase the number of places available in Reception classes and subsequent year groups from the current 291 to 359. Whilst this is fewer than the number of children we might expect to be living in the catchment areas in September 2014, some parents traditionally choose to seek places at schools outside of the area. We expect, therefore, that a proportion of the 371 children forecast to require a Reception place in September 2014 will seek and be allocated one elsewhere. Only the size of the Reception classes will be affected each year and therefore the overall school sizes will increase gradually as those children move through the Key Stages.

How we propose to provide the extra places

School	Proposed change/s
Yewdale	Yewdale has a large amount of existing classroom accommodation which is currently not designated as classroom space and could relatively easily be brought back into use. One additional classroom would need to be built on the site, and some internal remodelling of the building is likely to be required
Robert Ferguson	Robert Ferguson has a large amount of existing classroom accommodation which is currently not designated as classroom space and could relatively easily be brought back into use. The school would require an extension to its Foundation Stage accommodation in order to be able to accommodate 60 pupils per year group
Newtown	Expansion at Newtown would require the provision of additional classrooms on the site, and some internal remodelling
St Bede's	St Bede's already has sufficient space to accommodate 30 children per year group

We want to make these changes beginning in September 2012. In all cases, the schools named would be able to accommodate the extra children without the need for building work to be completed prior to the increase in the Published Admission Number.

Next steps

The School Organisation and Governance Regulations mean that, if a council proposes to close a school, change an age range or increase the capacity above a certain point, their proposal must be published in a statutory notice.

For the proposed changes set out above, formal consultation and the publication of a statutory notice are required for all of the changes other than the small increase proposed at St Bede's. It is important that we understand your views on all of the changes proposed, whether or not they require statutory proposals.

There are five stages to the statutory process which must be followed:

Consultation

The issue of this document marks the beginning of a period of consultation during which the views of any interested parties are sought. These views will be considered before any move to the next stage of the process happens.

Publication

Dependent upon the outcome of this consultation, a decision on whether to proceed in issuing a statutory notice must be made by Cumbria County Council's Cabinet.

Representation

Following publication of statutory notices representations can be made on the proposals. This period lasts for four weeks.

Decision

Within two months after the representation period ends, the county council must make a decision on the proposal.

Implementation

If the proposal is approved then it is likely that changes would be implemented from September 2012.

Have your say

The council's proposals will be the basis of a period of public consultation for six weeks from 1 November to 16 December.

You are invited to a consultation event so that you can find out more about the options. The event will run as a drop-in from 3.45pm to 6.45pm where you can speak to council officers informally on a 1-2-1 basis. This will be followed at 7pm when there will be a presentation from council officers and an opportunity for questions.

Location	Date and time
Richard Rose Morton Academy, Wigton Road	Friday 9th December 3.45pm - 8.00pm

The consultation runs until 16 December 2011 and you can respond by completing the questionnaire in this document or writing separately to:

**Cumbria County Council
School Organisation
Parkhouse Building
Kingmoor Business Park
Carlisle
Cumbria CA6 4SJ**

By Email to:

school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk

On-line at: (Use the link below to complete the questionnaire contained in this document on-line)

www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/cumbria-county-council

It is not possible to enter into individual correspondence.

Carlisle West schools

Reply slip - Please send by 16 December to Cumbria County Council, School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.

1. We need to know some basic information so that we can accurately report back to the council's Cabinet. Please tick those boxes that apply

Are you a	Yewdale School	Newtown School	St Bede's School	Robert Ferguson School
Parent/carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) _____

2. Given the current situation, and the information contained in this document, do you think it appropriate for the schools named above to be expanded?

Yes No

Supporting and additional comments can be entered overleaf if required.

Name _____ Date _____
(Please print)

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please provide any supporting / additional comments below: