

Carlisle - West FAQs

Robert Ferguson

- Q: Will the outdoor area for continuous provision be better designed for access from school rather than through current access? }
Q: Will there be provision for Early Years outdoor space? }
Q: Will enlargement of facilities be taken into consideration ie, hall space and inadequacy of present kitchen provision? }

A - We will need to discuss all of these issues with school representatives before making decisions on final designs.

- Q: Lots of parents already looking around for their child's school place. Therefore, will the perceptions of school changing be promoted much more positively?

A - It is not appropriate for the Local Authority to promote any one school over another.

- Q: Would single age classes - benefit children?

A - It's possible, but not certain. Many schools in Cumbria operate mixed-age classes very successfully, and it does not necessarily follow that single-age teaching is better for children. There are examples of outstanding practice in single age and mixed age teaching across the County.

Yewdale

- Q: Will other facilities and rooms, not just the classroom space be looked at? }
Q: Need for expansion as there are more children coming through. Will this be taken into consideration? }
Q: Drainage on field is not good, will this be looked at? }

A - We will need to work with the school to determine what level of work is required. There may be a number of possible solutions to accommodate the additional children, and we need to assess which will work best. We can only do that in detail once decisions have been made.

- Q: When does the period start for looking at planning and when will the building begin?

A - Following a decision to expand, more detailed planning will take place on how the building will look in the future.

- Q: How much money will be provided for buildings?

A - We've nominally allocated a sum for the work, but that could change depending on the more in-depth discussions we will need to undertake following a final decision on the expansion proposals in March.

General

Q: Will there be further consultation with staff and governors?

A - Publication of statutory proposals triggers a representation period, during which anyone can write to the county council with their view. There will be no further consultation meetings before a decision is made, though. Once decisions are made, further work with schools on their building requirements will take place.

Q: Will increased class sizes hinder some children academically

A - We would still expect to have reasonable class sizes of no more than 30 following expansions. Children's education should not be hindered.

Q: Is there any plans to upgrade Newtown Primary to make attractive to parents?

A - As with other schools facing expansion, we will need to discuss with the school's governors what work is required.

Q: Will there be any cost to the Diocese, who supports the additional places.

A - No.

Q: Will the increase in numbers reduce disappointment in not getting into catchment school?

A - Hopefully, yes. There will be more places available and, hopefully, greater opportunities for parents to access a place at their preferred school.

Q: Will expansion of the school allow future siblings to go to the same school?

A - It should do, yes. More places means a greater likelihood that siblings will get a place in the same school.

Q: Will the school lose any valuable resources, ie, library, music room?

A - We hope not, but it may be a case of doing things differently in the future. For example, some schools might find it better to have ICT resources incorporated within general classrooms rather than in a separate ICT suite.

Q: Will existing education be maintained?

A - Yes! There's no reason that expansion should impact on existing standards of education. We'll work very closely with schools to make sure that any work is carried out sensitively, and with the needs of children uppermost.