

Consultation
on proposed
changes to
St Catherine's
Catholic Primary
School, Penrith



What this consultation is about

This proposal is being presented as a result of increasing numbers of children living in Penrith and rising birth rates in the urban area.

The Local Authority is currently working with the schools in the area in order to ensure sufficient pupil places are available to meet the increasing demand. Part of the solution will require the expansion St Catherine's Catholic Primary School. We are proposing that the number of places available in each year group should increase from 15-20.

Who this consultation is for

This document is aimed at parents, staff, governors and everyone else with an interest or stake in primary education at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, including the diocese. The proposed enlargement of the school requires that we publish a statutory proposal and potentially we would look to implement the expansion from September 2012. This means that the county council's Cabinet will have to make a final decision on the St Catherine's proposals in March 2012.

How you can respond to this consultation

Please use the form at on the back pages of this document to let us know what you think. You can also attend the consultation event at the school on Monday 12th December to talk to us face to face and discuss our plans to expand the school.

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

Current situation

There are currently 115 pupils at St Catherine's and the school operates a Published Admission Number of 15.

Next steps

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

There are five stages to the statutory process required for the change proposed for St Catherine's 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 to issue 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. For this proposed change to St Catherine's Primary School the period lasts for four weeks.

Decision

Within two months after the representation period ends, the county council must make a decision on whether to implement the proposal, i.e. to expand St Catherine's.

Implementation

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

Have your say

The council's proposal for the expansion of St Catherine's will begin a period of public consultation for six weeks from 1st November to 16th December.

You are invited to a consultation event so that you can find out more about the options. A meeting for staff and governors will be held from 3.45pm. From 6pm there will be opportunity for parents and members of the public to speak informally with council officers 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
St Catherine's Catholic Primary School	Monday 12th December 3.45pm to 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
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.

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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 **St Catherine's**

Parent/carer

Member of Staff

Governor

Other

Other (please specify) _____

- 2 Given the current situation and the information contained in this document, do you think it appropriate for St Catherine's School to be expanded in order to provide 20 places per year group. (The school is currently able to provide 15 places per year group.)

Yes

No

Supporting and additional comments can be entered overleaf if required.

Name (Please print) _____ Date _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please provide any supporting / additional comments below: