

## Penrith- St Catherine's FAQs

- Q. Will there be any improvements to the School premises to accommodate the expansion as the school has limitations and would not cope as it is now?
- A. *There will be investment in the school buildings to accommodate the expansion if it is agreed. Staff and Governors would be involved in the planning and process of any expansion.*
- Q. Will the additional building work/funding be provided from the County Council?
- A. *Yes. Money available at the moment from the Government is in recognition of the need for extra school places across the country. There is a provision from this year's local authority budget to cover the proposed work.*
- Q. What affect will the proposal have on the area?
- A. *St Catherine's is the only Catholic school in the Penrith area and expansion will increase the choice available to parents. The expansion will likely form part of a longer term strategic plan to cover rising birth-rates in the town and potential increase in local housing.*
- Q. } Why aren't the council doing more to fill the surplus places in the rural schools before expanding the urban ones?
- Q. } Why is there a need for more school places?
- A. *The proposals for expansion are in order to ensure that sufficient places are provided for the indicated increase in demand for provision. General Practitioner records show that this increase will take place across Penrith town and, whilst a number of parents have historically chosen to send their children to the more rural schools, figures indicate that their will not be sufficient places to cater within existing capacity in Penrith and the immediately surrounding schools. Parents living in the town should not have to be 'forced' into sending their children to the rural schools if they would prefer to send their children to their local school, and we need to accommodate this preference whenever possible.*
- Q. How will the expansion be handled so that the children and their education are not disrupted?
- A. *It is planned that the majority of work will take place over the summer holiday in preparation for the start of the academic year in September 2012.*
- Q. The staff are already under pressure, what can you do to help this?
- A. *Staff and Governors will be involved throughout the planning process and will therefore be fully involved..*
- Q. What will be done in regards to car parking, this is already an issue?

- A. *Provision for any additional facilities will be discussed with the school (including other factors such as car parking) but the budget is limited and concentration will have to be on providing teaching spaces.*
- Q. Will the increase in PAN be in every year group immediately?
- A. *No. The increase to PAN will affect the Reception intake each year and therefore work its way through the school with each additional year of intake.*
- Q. } Will this expansion help stabilise staffing levels and increase staff expertise?  
Q. } How will increasing the PAN be beneficial for the school?
- A. *The school feels that the proposals are a positive step forward and will help to stabilise levels and increase expertise as well as providing additional places for younger children.*
- Q. } Will the pupil/staff ratio remain the same?  
Q. } Will extra class rooms allow for teaching groups to be smaller?
- A. *Staff and Governors would be involved in the planning and process of any expansion and staffing levels would be determined by the school itself.*