

# Public Consultation

16 January 2017 to 10 February 2017

Proposal to expand

## St Chad's Church of England Primary School

with effect from September 2019



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## **What is being proposed?**

The Abbey Multi Academy Trust and governing body of St Chad's Church of England Primary School, in partnership with Leeds City Council, are proposing to expand the school to help provide more places for local children.

The current published admission number (PAN) is 30 entering reception each year, and our plan is to increase this to 60 with effect from September 2019. If the proposal is approved the school would gradually increase in size so that by 2025 it would have a total capacity of 420 children.

This document forms part of the consultation process, which lasts for four weeks between **Monday 16 January 2017 and Friday 10 February 2017**. During this period we will be seeking the views of parents, staff, residents and other local stakeholders on the proposal to permanently expand the school.

In addition and as part of this consultation, Leeds City Council will be seeking views on a change to a small section of the West Park playing fields adjacent to the school, which would be required to provide a shared use sports pitch as part of the whole expansion scheme.

## **Who is the Abbey Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?**

The Abbey MAT is a Church of England Multi-Academy Trust that exists to provide outstanding education in both primary and secondary schools within the Anglican Diocese of Leeds area. Abbey MAT is a mixed trust that includes community and Church of England academies.

Initially Abbey MAT was set up as a partnership between the lead academy Abbey Grange and St. Chad's Church of England Primary School. The MAT has since grown with the addition of a sponsored academy, Lightcliffe Academy which is in Calderdale, near Halifax. In the future Abbey MAT will continue to grow with the addition of further primary and secondary schools from across the Diocese of Leeds.

## **How does the proposal support the Abbey MAT's vision for the future?**

As a Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust, Abbey MAT is committed to working within a caring and Christian ethos. The vision for the academies is 'To work in partnership to educate, nurture and empower.' Abbey MAT academies aim to provide an environment which is welcoming, caring, calm, disciplined and purposeful and will stretch our young people academically, support them pastorally and help them develop socially and spiritually.

The schools within Abbey MAT work extremely closely in providing the best education for their pupils including curriculum planning, cross-phase school improvement reviews involving all of our Principals and Headteachers, PE and sport, music and computing opportunities, family support work, transition support from primary to secondary, shared CPD and INSET days.

Abbey Multi-Academy Trust is passionate about being able to provide an education for the families with the local community.

The proposed expansion would enable existing and future pupils to access high quality learning spaces and facilities. If the proposed expansion went ahead, the Executive Headteacher and governing body would give priority to ensuring educational continuity and good outcomes for children. The Executive Headteacher and governing body are keen to retain the ethos of the school and are confident that they could manage any changes successfully without any detriment to the sense of “togetherness” that currently exists within the school. They would be able to draw upon the experience of colleagues from other schools that have expanded when considering how to retain a suitable atmosphere.

### **Why do we need to expand this school?**

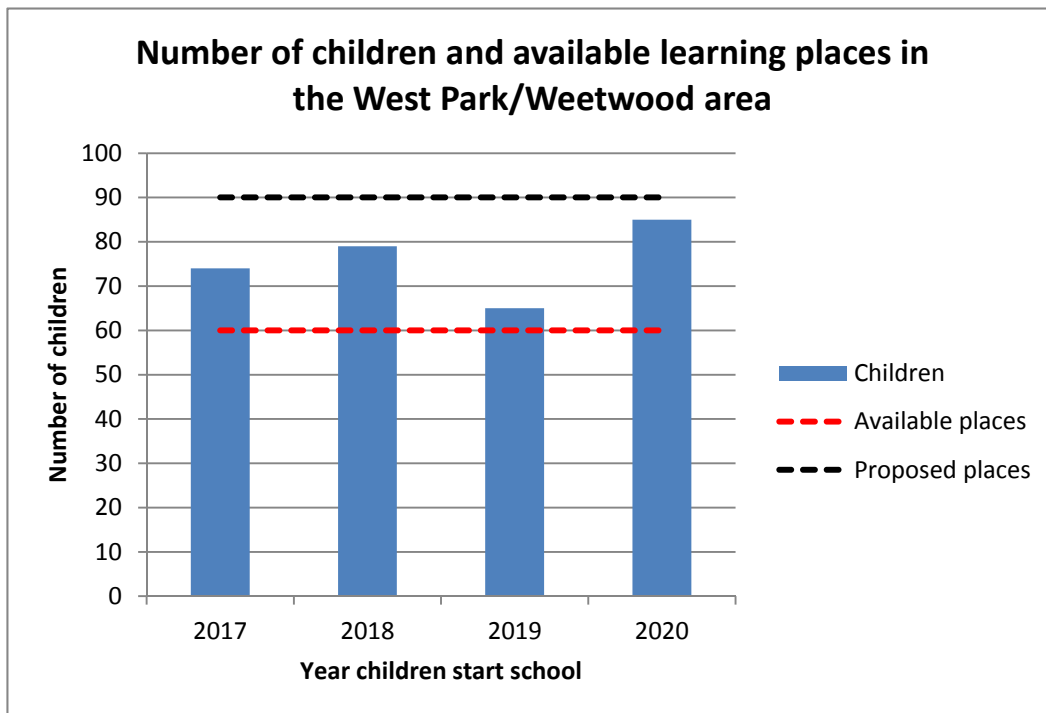
Leeds City Council (LCC) has a statutory duty to ensure there are enough learning places across Leeds and as part of their school place planning, has highlighted Weetwood and West Park as areas of high demographic growth. This means that if no additional places are created in these areas, then some children may not be able to obtain a local school place and are likely to have to travel out of the area.

As part of the pupil place planning and options appraisal carried out by LCC, other schools were considered, but site constraints or location proved to be a barrier to potential expansion. LCC then approached the Abbey MAT and governing body of St Chads to ask us to consider proposing an expansion of the school. Government legislation states that local authorities can only propose expansions to community or voluntary controlled schools and therefore LCC sought to work collaboratively with the Abbey MAT.

Following discussions between the Trust, Executive Headteacher and governing body of St Chad’s and LCC, we made a decision on behalf of the Abbey MAT and in partnership with LCC, to propose an expansion of St Chad’s to help ease the demand for school places in this area.

The Weetwood and West Park area is served by two primary schools providing a total of 60 places. Demographic data indicates that additional permanent places are required because of increases in the number of children living in the area. Planned new housing is likely to add further pressure on school places over coming years.

The graph below shows the number of children eligible to start school from 2017 to 2020 in the West Park/Weetwood area



### **Would any building work be required and would the school need to close?**

If the proposal was to progress, there would be the need for additional accommodation associated with an increase in learning places that would be delivered as part of the expansion. Modifications to external play areas and increased on-site parking would also be included in the scope of work.

All of the building works would be planned carefully and contractors would work with senior leaders at St Chad's to ensure that works are scheduled to keep disruption to an absolute minimum, so the school would not need to close. The building site would be a secure area to ensure the health and safety of the children, staff, parents and visitors.

### **How would the fenced sports pitch align with the current landscape of the playing fields?**

The usual height for a boundary fence is 2.4m high and would be green welded mesh to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

### **Would there be a change to the Academy admissions policy?**

The proposal does not affect the admissions policy. The Academy's admissions policy was amended, following consultation in 2016, to ensure that a percentage of places are allocated as 'community' and are based on distance to the school.

## **Why is LCC consulting on a change of use to the West Park playing fields?**

As part of the proposed expansion, additional playing field space would need to be created and with limited space available within the current school site, the only way to achieve this is to utilise a section of the West Park playing fields adjacent to the school. Although these fields are council owned; in 2012 LCC applied to Fields in Trust (FiT) to protect them through a Deeds of Dedication.

Fields in Trust is a national charity set up in 1925 by King George V, to safeguard recreational spaces, such as sports pitches from development. For further information, please use the following link to the Fields in Trust website: [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

Any proposed change to land that has a Deed of Dedication requires the land owner to seek permission from FiT. Part of this process requires consultation with the local community, with details of this to be included as part of the application for a change request.

The area of the current St Chad's site would be 7600m<sup>2</sup> too small were the school to expand to a PAN of 60 pupils. Therefore it would be necessary to use the majority of the existing hard standing and playing field to house the additional accommodation required. LCC propose to seek approval from FiT to provide the shortfall of land using a section of the protected green space adjacent to the school. This land would remain as a playing field but would fall within the school's secure fence line to ensure that there were no safeguarding or health and safety issues. However the school playing field would be available for community use out of school hours.

## **How would the school playing fields be managed to allow community use?**

The community would still have access to the section of playing field that would form part of the school expansion. Children from the school would utilise the pitch during school hours and for after school activities, with the community able to access it out of hours, including weekends and holidays. All external user requirements would be managed by the school through a formal lettings process.

In terms of how this would be managed, it is likely that a lease arrangement would be set up between LCC and St Chads/Abbey MAT for use of the council owned playing fields, with access to these out of school hours being managed through the school.

## **How would an increase in traffic and parking be managed?**

A traffic and parking assessment would be carried out by LCC Highways Services as part of the design and planning stage. In addition, the Academy's travel plan would need to be updated and would be used to encourage families to find alternative ways of travelling to St Chad's in order to reduce the number of car journeys.

## Where to find out more and give your views on the proposal

There are a number of ways in which you can find out more about the proposal and comment on it:

### Drop in sessions

Informal drop-in sessions have been arranged to provide opportunities for people to ask questions and find out more about this proposal. Representatives from the Abbey MAT and officers from LCC will be available at these sessions to answer questions. All drop-in sessions will take place at St Chad's Church of England Primary School on the following times/dates;

Venue	Date	Time
St Chad's Church of England Primary School	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	2:30 – 4:00pm
	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	5:30 – 7:00pm
	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	8:30 – 9:30am

### Making a response and commenting

To make comments on the proposal, please use one of the methods below:

- **Hand in the response form or email comments to the school**
  - St Chads C of E Primary School, Northolme Ave, LS16 5QR.
  - Email: [school.organisation@stchadsprimary.net](mailto:school.organisation@stchadsprimary.net)
- **Submit the response form or comments to Leeds City Council**
  - Sufficiency & Participation Team, c/o Leeds Town Hall, PO Box 837, Leeds, LS1 9PZ
  - Email: [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk)
  - Blog: <https://leedsschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/>

### Online information

This booklet is available to download, along with information on the progress of the proposal at the following web pages:

- [www.abbeymat.co.uk/](http://www.abbeymat.co.uk/)
- [www.st-chadsprimary.co.uk/](http://www.st-chadsprimary.co.uk/)
- [www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Currentschoolsconsultation.aspx](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Currentschoolsconsultation.aspx)

## What happens next?

- Consultation ends at 4pm on 10 February 2017
- Responses will be collated and reviewed to enable the Board of Trustees of Abbey MAT/Governing body of St Chad's Church of England Primary School to fully consider the points that were raised during the consultation period.
- The board of Trustees of Abbey MAT/Governing body of St Chad's Church of England Primary School will make a decision on whether they would like to progress with this proposal.
- If the decision is to progress with the proposal, LCC would need to apply to a committee within FiT for a change of use of part of the West Park playing fields. All comments received during the consultation period about the proposed change of use of part of the West Park playing fields would be submitted as part of the application and would demonstrate engagement with local stakeholders
- If FiT approves the change in use of part of the West Park playing fields, funding for the expansion scheme would need to be secured. In this case, a report would be submitted to the Executive Board of LCC describing the outcome of the consultation process and the application to FiT

If you do not speak English, please call 0113 3785945 for advice on how to access LCC's interpretation and translation services. If any of the information is required in large print/braille/ audio tape/CD please call 0113 3785945.



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## Consultation Response Form

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- **Submit this response form or comments to Leeds City Council**
  - Sufficiency & Participation Team, c/o Leeds Town Hall, PO Box 837, Leeds, LS1 9PZ
  - Email: [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk)
  - Blog: <https://leedsschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/>

Question 1. Do you agree with the proposed expansion of St Chad's Church of England Primary School from 30 places to 60 places from September 2019?

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Your comments (please use a separate sheet if needed):

Question 2. Do you agree with the proposal to change the use of part of the West Park playing fields to accommodate a shared use sports pitch for St Chad's Church of England Primary School from September 2019?

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Your comments (please use a separate sheet if needed):

Did you find this consultation useful?

Yes it was useful

No it was not useful

Comments;

Please tell us who you are:

Parent of a child at St Chad's Church of England  
Primary School

Councillor (Elected Member)

Member of staff at St Chad's Church of England  
Primary School

Local resident

Other (please specify below)

School Governor

If you would like your response to be acknowledged, please provide your contact details:

**Name:**

**Address**

**e-mail:**

**Data Protection Act 1998**

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following:

Abbey Multi Academy Trust and Leeds City Council are seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.