

## Consultation Information for the Proposed Permanent Expansion at Fulford School



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## Initial Consultation on the proposed permanent expansion of Fulford School

### Consultation period 16 November 2020 to 15 January 2021

This consultation document sets out:

- Information about the School
- Why we need more school places
- Why we are proposing to expand Fulford School
- An overview of the expansion proposals
- How you can give your views
- What happens after this consultation
- The consultation timetable

### Fulford School

Fulford School was opened in 1963 as a secondary modern school with around 400 pupils and became a comprehensive school in 1970. Today, the School is a designated co-educational comprehensive school providing education for pupils aged 11 – 18. Fulford School has a recorded pupil capacity of 1603 with currently 1543 on roll.

Fulford School converted to an Academy in January 2018 and is part of the South York Multi-Academy Trust along with three primary schools and one junior school. The School is successful, oversubscribed and recognised nationally for excellence, being awarded The Sunday Times, Schools Guide 2020, North State Secondary School of the Year.

Fulford School usually admits 240 pupils into the Year 7 cohort each year. Due to exceptional demand, appeals and an increase in Looked After Children and Children with an Education Healthcare Plan the School now has more than 240 pupils in most Year groups.

Due to significant housing developments creating the need for additional places, as well as the current basic need for more 11 – 16 pupil places as evidenced by Year 7 pupil applications over the past 4 years, the proposal is to permanently expand the school from a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 240 to 300. The increase would commence in September 2022 with initial growth in Year 7 only.

The School has 10 designated places reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs (Resourced Provision) and this specialist provision is unaffected by the proposed school expansion.

## Why do we need more secondary school places in Fulford?

The City of York Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient pupil places to meet the current and future demand for pupil places.

Similar to many other areas across York, Fulford has been facing a growth in the demand for places driven by:

- National demographic growth in the secondary school age range
- Housing developments in Fulford and the wider area in recent time
- The school is routinely oversubscribed with applicants for Year 7 places

Analysis of recent applicant data provides the following data.

Year	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Applications	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice Applications	Total Applications (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice only)	PAN	% oversubscription
2017 / 18	286	112	398	240	166%
2018 / 19	269	111	380	240	158%
2019 / 20	295	113	408	240	170%
2020 / 21	263	122	385	240	160%

City of York Council's pupil forecast data shows a continuing need for growth and supports the proposal for Fulford School to provide an additional 300 pupil places which, if approved, would allow for an increase of 60 places per year group, increasing each year from 2022 to 2027.

## Why are we proposing Fulford School expands?

With the support of the City of York Council, a complex range of data was assessed and analysed before the decision is taken to expand any school. For Fulford School all of the following have been reviewed:

- Pupil numbers and planning forecasts for short and medium-terms
- Capacity at neighbouring schools
- Location and size of the school site
- Ability to expand the school
- Catchment area and proximity of housing developments
- School performance (Attainment, Progress, OFSTED rating, etc.)
- Parental preference/applicant numbers

## **Fulford School is currently rated as ‘Outstanding’ by OFSTED.**

### **Expansion proposal**

If this proposal proceeds, 60 additional places will be offered to pupils applying for Year 7 places from September 2022. Construction, therefore, will have to complete to enlarge the school ready for September 2022. This construction will create more teaching, learning and support spaces and enhance facilities at the school. The Trust will eventually receive additional funding for the increase in pupils to allow for extra teachers and the resources and equipment needed to accommodate extra pupils. The School would continue to add 60 pupils each year until September 2027 when it will have 300 pupils per year group equating to 1500 pupils from Year 7 to Year 11.

As a result of the increase in Years 7 - 11, it is anticipated that post-16 numbers will also increase as demand for Sixth Form places has proven sustainable over recent years. It is envisaged that pupil numbers in Year 12 and Year 13 will increase proportionally as the 11 – 16 years’ population expands. Retention rates between Year 11 and Year 12 have remained consistent and stable averaging 70% which would grow the Sixth Form to a population of around 420.

In considering this proposal a feasibility study has been commissioned to explore different options for the site and the possibilities for the construction project including all associated costs. The details of these options will be negotiated with the Trust’s representatives and their consultants in partnership with the City of York Council to ensure minimum disruption to existing pupils during the creation of high-quality teaching and learning spaces and facilities to meet the needs of the local community.

In tandem with the school expansion feasibility study, City of York Council Traffic officers have been developing proposals to improve vehicular access to the school. Such proposals are subject to this public consultation. The timing of access improvements and the opening of the expanded school will be part of the planning application.

### **How can you offer your views?**

Due to the current pandemic, it is not possible to arrange a usual drop-in session at the School where representatives from the local authority and the Trust would be available to talk through this proposal.

However, your views can be forwarded as follows:

- Complete the Electronic Survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HLJ8WH2>

OR

- Complete the attached paper questionnaire post it to the School office (Expansion Consultation), Fulford School, Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford York YO10 4FY by the closing date of 15 January 2021.

Email comments to [consultation@fulford.york.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@fulford.york.sch.uk)

**Note:** Individual queries received during the consultation period will not necessarily receive a direct response, but collective concerns will be addressed in the report.

## What happens after the consultation?

All feedback will be collated and reported back to the Trust's Governing Board and the City of York Council. They will collectively decide whether to go ahead with the expansion based upon the feedback and the pressure of places in the area.

If a decision to expand is taken\* then the Trust will notify the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) which will include the responses to the consultation and the Trust's response. The Secretary of State will then consider the proposed expansion, and the ESFA will notify the Trust of the Secretary of State's decision.

\*This is all subject to the usual Section 77 requirements and relevant statutory consents.

## Process

1. The Trust holds a 6-week (minimum) consultation with stakeholders including parents/carers, local community, residents, etc.
2. Responses collated and analysed
3. Outcomes report produced
4. Secretary of State approval requested
5. Approval or rejection from the Secretary of State
6. ESFA notifies the Trust and Council of the decision and takes necessary action
7. The Trust implements proposed change (if approved)

## Timetable

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Programme</b>
1	Start of consultation	16 November 2020
2	Consultation closes	15 January 2021
3	Trust's Governing Board consider feedback	February 2021
4	Planning Application Process	Early 2021
5	Approval from Secretary of State sought	TBC
6	Secretary of State considers proposals	TBC
7	ESFA notifies Trust of decision	TBC
8	Implementation of proposal	September 2022