Public consultation – 11th October to 26th November 2021

Proposed Change of Age Range, Enlargement of Premises, and Amalgamation of Schools in Pershore

Dear families, residents and other interested stakeholders,

Introduction

This document helps to explain the background to the proposals and the steps of this process, including:

- the background to proposals;
- who can propose and decide on changes;
- what is being proposed;
- why it is being proposed;
- the impact of the proposals;
- how and when the proposals if agreed would be implemented;
- who is being consulted;
- how to submit a consultation response; and
- what happens at the end of the consultation period.

If you require any additional information not included in this document to enable you to make a response, please contact PershoreReview@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Have your say! Engagement with stakeholders and residents

It is very important that all those involved or have an interest have a say, we welcome your views.

All of the information available is accessible from this Worcestershire County Council Pershore Review webpage or the individual schools' websites. On online survey is available for you to respond to these proposals.

The seven week consultation period commences on Monday 11th October and closes at noon on Friday 26th November 2021. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to these proposals do so within this timeframe.

Worcestershire Children First and individual schools are holding consultation events to allow stakeholders to learn more about the proposals and give the opportunity to provide feedback. A summary of the events can be found on our Pershore EPA Review consultation webpage.

Responses required by noon on Friday 26th November 2021

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to make sure there are enough school places for children and young people who live in the county, and to make sure these places are of good quality with enough space to promote parental choice and diversity.

The Pershore Education Planning Area is made up of 16 schools serving the town of Pershore and surrounding rural areas. From September 2019 several schools have had proposals agreed to change the age range of their school to create an option for a two-tier (Primary and Secondary school) system of education for families. A total of six schools in the Pershore area currently operate as Primary and Secondary schools. The following school changes have either been made or proposed:

a) The Orchard, Inkberrow, and Norton-Juxta-Kempsey CE converted to Primary school age range (up to year six) in September 2019. Avonreach Multi-Academy Trust gained approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to vary age range of the three first schools and the high school (approved Dec 2018);
b) Pershore High converted to a Secondary school in September 2021, although they still operate their historic intake point at year 8 as well, meaning pupils either start at year 7 (two-tier pyramid) or year 8 (three tier pyramid). Avonreach Multi-Academy Trust gained approval for the age range change from the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) in December 2018;
c) Flyford Flavell converted to a Primary school in Sept 2020, approved in April 2020 by Worcestershire County Council; and
d) Himbleton C.E. converted to a Primary from Sept 2021, approved in October 2020 by Himbleton Governing Body.

Crowle C.E. have submitted an application to the RSC to convert to a primary school from Sept 2022, the decision-making body is the RSC.

Fladbury C.E. First have consulted with parents and stakeholders on the proposal to convert to a primary school but have not yet determined this decision.

Figure 1 details the current school structure in the Pershore area.

Figure 1: *Pyramid Structure in Pershore Education Planning Area by school type and* ***highlighted*** *where tier changes have been* ***approved****, consulted but not yet agreed or proposed*

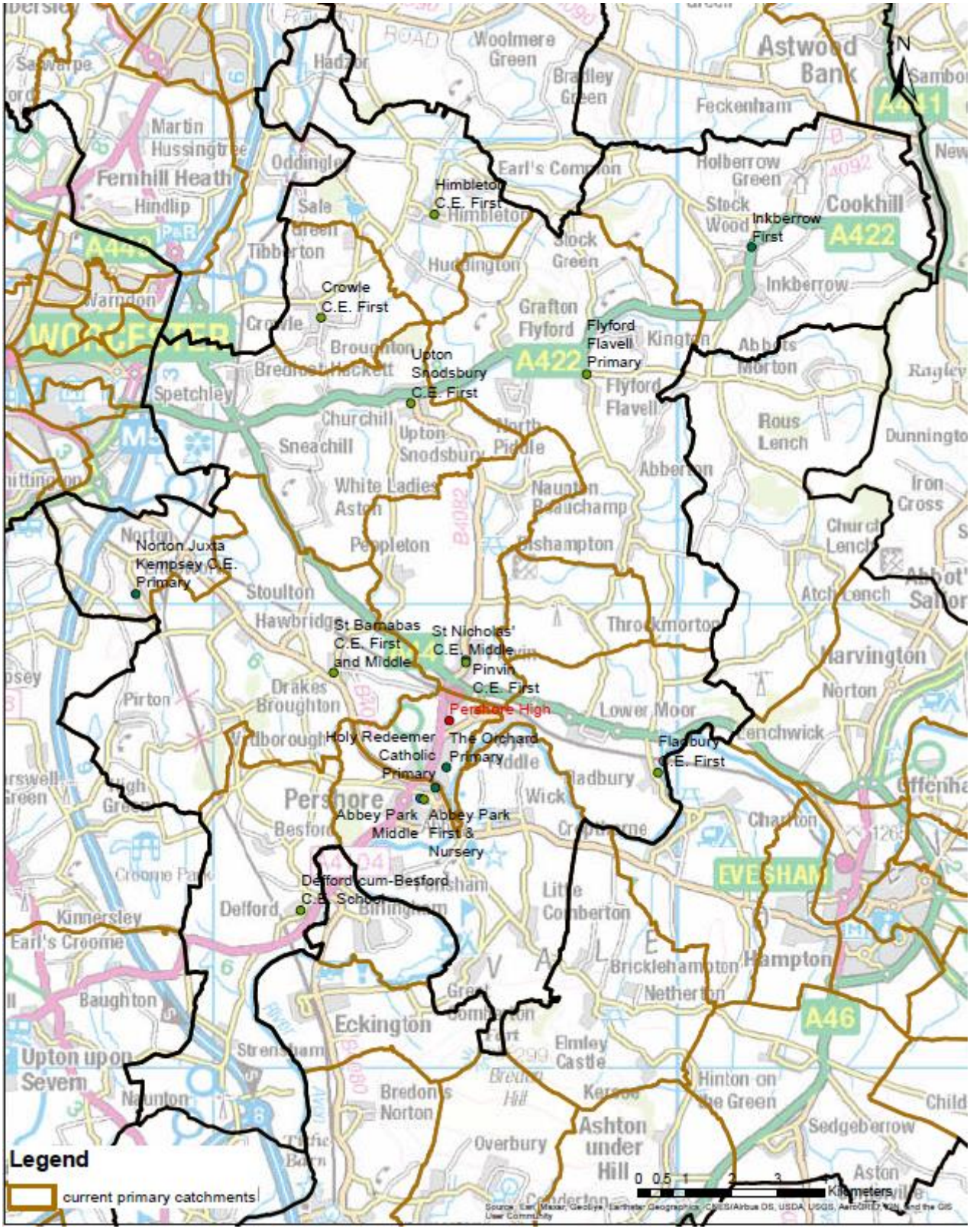
High Schools	**Pershore High (Avonreach MAT)**
Named Feeder Schools	Abbey Park Middle (Community) **Flyford Flavell Primary School (Community)** **Inkberrow Primary (Avonreach MAT)** **Norton Juxta Kempsey Primary (Avonreach MAT)** **Orchard Primary (Avonreach MAT)** St Barnabas CE First & Middle (DOWMAT) St Nicholas' CE Middle (DOWMAT)

Middle Schools	**Abbey Park Middle**	**St Barnabas CE First & Middle**	**St Nicholas' CE Middle**
Named Feeder Schools	Abbey Park First and Nursery (Community) **Orchard Primary (DOWMAT)**	Defford cum Besford CE First (Voluntary) Eckington CE First * (Voluntary) **Norton Juxta Kempsey CE Primary (Avonreach MAT)**	Crowle CE First (DOWMAT) Fladbury CE First (Voluntary) **Flyford Flavell Primary (Community)** **Himbleton CE Primary (Voluntary)** **Inkberrow Primary (Avonreach MAT)** Pinvin CE First (DOWMAT) Upton Snodsbury CE First (Voluntary)

The following schools do not have any feeder school links to middle or high schools in Pershore
Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary*

**Children resident in Birlingham are part of a shared catchment area with Eckington C.E. First in the Evesham area and Defford-cum-Besford C.E. First in the Pershore area. This shared catchment area also applies to the Middle and High schools of Bredon Hill Academy and Prince Henry's High in the Evesham area and St Barnabas C.E. First and Middle, Drakes Broughton and Pershore High School.*
***Children resident in Birlingham attending Eckington C.E. First School as the catchment area school should consider transfer, on attaining nine years of age, to Drakes Broughton, St Barnabas C.E. First and Middle School (Pershore Area) as this is the catchment area school at that age. Parents should also be aware there is no catchment area priority to Middle Schools in the Evesham area.*

Figure 2 shows a map of all of the schools in the Pershore Education Planning Area (EPA)



What is being proposed?

Schools and education partners are collectively seeking a singular approach to education provision in this area in the form of an **area wide-transition to a two-tier (Primary and Secondary) system of education**. This will involve all First and/or Middle schools changing to Primary schools and the High School becoming a Secondary school for all the Year 7 pupils in the area.

An area-wide transition requires a number of changes to schools to be coordinated to ensure changes are made in line with other schools so that pupil journeys would not be detrimentally impacted.

These proposals include:

a. Change of age range of the following first schools to primary schools, resulting in permanent expansion of the physical capacity at:
    i. Crowle CE First School (RSC approval of change already sought)
    ii. Fladbury CE First School (Governing Body decision) with PAN reduction and lowering age range to incorporate pre-school age children
    iii. Upton Snodsbury CE First (Governing Body decision)
    iv. Defford-cum-Besford CE First (Governing Body decision)
b. Change of age range of St Barnabas CE First & Middle School to primary age range (RSC decision) and lowering to incorporate pre-school age children
c. Change of age range and amalgamation of Abbey Park Middle and Abbey Park First school to provide a single primary school on this site, and incorporating 2 year old pre-school provision into the school age range (LA decision)
d. Change of age range and amalgamation of St Nicholas C.E. Middle School and Pinvin CE First School to provide a single Primary school on this site (RSC decision), including a PAN increase from 25 to 30 pupils per year and opening of pre-school provision by lowering age range of the school
e. Permanent expansion of physical capacity, increase in the schools PAN, and change of feeder school links for all Pershore Primary schools at Pershore High School for additional year 7 pupils (RSC decision)

The schools mentioned above have prepared individual consultation documents to detail their Governing Body or Academy Trust proposals and the reasons for the proposals. These can be accessed from the schools' individual webpages about the consultation, links to these can be found on the Pershore consultation webpage.

In line with age range changes already approved, these changes would collectively result in all schools in a two-tier education system for all schools in the Pershore Education Planning Area.

Figure 3 details the proposed school structure in the Pershore area.

Figure 3: *Pyramid Structure in Pershore Education Planning Area by school type if proposals are agreed*

High Schools	**Pershore High (Avonreach MAT)**
Named Feeder Primary Schools	Abbey Park Primary (Community) Crowle CE Primary (DOWMAT) Defford cum Besford CE Primary (Voluntary) Hadbury CE Primary (Voluntary) Flyford Flavell Primary School (Community) Himbleton CE Primary (Voluntary) Inkberrow Primary (Avonreach MAT) Norton Juxta Kempsey Primary (Avonreach MAT) Orchard Primary (Avonreach MAT) Pinvin & St Nicholas' CE Primary (DOWMAT) St Barnabas CE Primary (DOWMAT) Upton Snodsbury CE Primary (Voluntary)

Why is it being proposed?

Changes to schools in the Pershore education planning area over several years has led to uncertainty and sustainability concerns across the education planning area. At present, one school exists outside of the Pershore tier structure in the two-tier Catholic pyramid; six schools have changed or have approved changes to two-tier; and two further schools have already consulted on change of age range proposals.

The creation of additional places in years 5, 6 and 7 as a result of the approved changes has resulted in an unsustainable level of surplus/excess places in these year groups. By 2023 we anticipate that two of the middle schools in the area will be operating at around 50% capacity, which creates significant difficulty to provide key stage 3 (Year 7, ages 10 to 11) curriculum in particular.

Over the last two years when a choice has been available, we have seen parents in the area choosing a Primary and Secondary (two-tier system) education in their school admissions applications, with an increasing percentage choosing to remain at already converted primary schools and a number choosing to transfer from first to primary schools during key stage 1 and 2.

This creates a risk to ensuring clear and high quality education journeys for pupils.

Please see individual school proposals for specific reasons why schools are proposing changes.

Who can propose and decide the changes?

All schools in the Pershore pyramid have agreed to consult on the proposal for an area-wide transition to a two-tier system of education, however, there is no single decision-making body that can legally agree such a change for all schools. The Local Authority in their capacity as Education Authority have agreed to coordinate this consultation but are not able to solely determine these changes. For details on the types of changes and the decision-making powers for each school, please see below:

For Local Authority Maintained (Community, Voluntary, Foundation) schools:

Expansion & Change of Age Range

The Governing Body of the school can propose and decide for all types of mainstream schools to permanently enlarge premises and increase capacity of a school if the increase will result in a change of less than 30 pupils **and** 25%). The Governing Body of voluntary and foundation schools only can propose an alteration of change of age range by up to 2 years (excluding adding or removing a sixth form).

Worcestershire County Council is the sole proposer and decision maker for prescribed alterations for community, voluntary or foundation schools to permanently enlarge premises and increase the capacity of a school (if the capacity of the school will increase by more than 30 pupils **and** 25%). Worcestershire County Council can propose and decide for prescribed alterations relating to change of age range of a community, voluntary or foundation school. For changes that are expected to be in place for more than 2 years, Local Authorities can propose a change of age range by following the statutory process, which requires the publication of Public Notices and an adequate representation period.

Amalgamations

The Local Authority and/or Governing Body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to amalgamate two or more schools following the statutory process. This may include the closure one school (or more) and enlargement/change the age range/transfer of site of an existing school, to accommodate the displaced pupils. Alternatively, LAs may propose to amalgamate schools by closure of all schools involved and replace them with a new school.

When proposing changes, LA's and GBs should act reasonably, and in line with the principles of public law, to ensure that the changes do not have a negative impact on the education of pupils in the area.

For Academy Schools:

Expansion & Change of Age Range

Academy schools that are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' at their last inspection, are in good financial health, and are proposing a change that is not contentious or subject to objections from the LA, may propose to expand their physical capacity and / or change the age range of their school by up to two years (including adding nursery provision but excluding adding or removing a sixth form) by following a fast-track process. Academy Trusts proposing to change the age range of their schools by three years or more, those which want to add or

remove a sixth form, make any age range change which is contentious, or which will set a precedent for schools in their local area, must submit a full business case.

The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) is the sole decision maker for proposals for Academy schools. The RSC will consider a range of factors and make a balanced judgement when deciding whether to approve or reject a proposal. The RSC may also defer the approval pending further evidence. Where proposed changes are particularly controversial and could attract adverse public or press attention; the RSC may choose to escalate such proposed changes to the Secretary of State for a decision.

For the Amalgamation of schools:

In ALL cases, proposed changes to amalgamate an academy with (an)other academy/academies will require a full business case. There are two ways to do this:

I. The academy trust may propose to close one (or more) academy and expand the remaining academy. The amalgamated academy will retain its school number, as it is not a new school, even if its age range has changed.

II. Alternatively, the academy trust may propose to close all the academies involved and replace them with a new school.

Changes to Admissions Policies

Published Admissions Number (PAN) where an enlargement of premises has not taken place.

Changes to admissions policies include alterations to the Published Admissions Number (PAN) of schools, as well as changes to feeder school links and other changes affected admission to a school. Admission authorities must set a PAN for each 'relevant age group' when determining their admission arrangements. If an admission authority of a mainstream school wishes to increase or decrease PAN, without increasing the overall capacity of the buildings, this would be classed as an admissions change, not a prescribed alteration. The statutory process described in this guidance would not need to be followed (please see the School Admissions Code for further details of the processes admission authorities must follow).

Admission Arrangements

An age range change may, in certain circumstances require changes to admission arrangements in order to implement the change. In such cases, schools must follow the admissions variation process.

An amalgamation is also likely to require an in-year variation of the school's admission arrangements. A request for an alteration to admission arrangements, in line with process, can be made at the same time as the school makes an application for a significant change.

Consultation on school admission arrangements

The Impact of the Proposals

Worcestershire County Council is committed to supporting schools, these proposals are expected to provide the following benefits to Pershore schools and local families:

- every child will have a clear and transparent education journey;
- schools are supported to deliver good education outcomes in a stable and known education system; and
- schools are able to deliver a full curriculum and remain sustainable and financially viable.

School Transport

Changes to schools can have an impact on transport for individual pupils. However, the current Transport policy is designed to support schools and pupils in a settled education planning area, therefore, the policy is currently out of line for all options during transition phase but would be suitable once a single pathway is in place.

To manage this, for those pupils attending a school at the time of the change ordinarily eligible for transport support, special transport arrangements may be put in place to assist during the transition phase. Once the changes have been implemented any new pupils joining the school will be subject to the normal application of the transport policy.

School Accommodation

These proposals would have an impact on accommodation at some schools. Some schools would require additional facilities, while for others these changes would create surplus accommodation. There may be opportunities to consider additional specialist and or multi-agency provision in those schools that identify surplus accommodation.

School staff

Implications for school staff would include reductions in some schools and the need for more staff in other schools. For the two academy Middle schools, this could result in a small number of redundancies for existing staff and the costs associated with this. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have been notified of this concern and are working with the Multi Academy Trust. Individual schools and Trusts will work as far as possible to support staff as part of the proposed changes.

Vulnerable pupils

It is envisaged that the change to a single tier system will make education transitions clearer and more straightforward and support in particular pupils from vulnerable backgrounds.

There is a strong Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community within the wider Pershore are and a specific assessment will be undertaken to ensure pupils from this community are supported during this change.

Abbey Park Middle and Pershore High School have Mainstream Autism Resources Base provision on site for children and young people with an identified Autism diagnosis and an EHCP naming resourced provision. There is no indication that this provision would need to alter significantly apart from the age range for both bases in line with the school age ranges.

Financial

Capital

These proposals will have capital and revenue implications for a number of different education providers in this area. Detailed feasibilities have begun at required schools to understand full capital and revenue costs and accommodation implications.

Capital costs to deliver accommodation changes as required to all schools are estimated to be in the region of £4million across all changes and across funding bodies based on a cost per pupil place model, though costs are expected to be higher in part due to the impact of Covid-19 on materials.

It is anticipated based on this method that the proposed changes to the four LA maintained schools, will cost circa £2m which will require LA funding. If the proposals proceed WCF will seek commitment from Cabinet to fund the changes to the LA Maintained schools (subject to feasibility and viability).

The expectation will be that the DfE will support funding for Academy Trusts in either revenue or capital funding requirements.

Changes to Pershore High (Academy) is estimated to cost approximately £2.8m. Pershore High has been named in the first 50 schools of the DfE rebuilding programme[1] which provides an opportunity to incorporate the changes required at the school into a wider scheme. The ESFA are working with the complex capital team on this matter.

Funding considerations for decision makers

When determining these proposals, the decision-maker in each case should be satisfied that any necessary funding required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g.trustees of the school, diocese or relevant diocesan board) have given their agreement. A proposal cannot be approved conditionally upon funding being made available.

Revenue

Revenue implications for schools are yet to be fully determined – whilst middle schools may be at increased risk from financial deficits during the change period as pupil numbers decrease, Primary and Secondary schools will have an increase in numbers and pupil-led funding, however it is likely to take time before revenue costs for primary schools are directly aligned with pupils in the classroom. The revenue implications will need to be reviewed and carefully managed on a school-by-school basis.

Other education areas

Some schools in Pershore education planning area attract pupils from outside of the Pershore area, for example from Evesham, Droitwich and Worcester. These proposals could impact the number of pupils able to transition into the Pershore schools because of the proposed feeder school changes and the proposed changes of age range will alter the intake points.

[1] School Rebuilding Programme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Evesham operates mostly a three-tier education system (First, Middle and High schools) with intake points that differ to those of Pershore and are at Year 6 (Middle) and Year 9 (High). There are three Primary schools in the Evesham area. The 5-year average shows 4 to 5 pupils moving from the Evesham planning area to Pershore planning area for Year 8 intake at Pershore High. 2021 is the only year with data for Year 7 which showed 2 children moving from Evesham to Pershore. Pupils' resident of Birlingham, Eckington can currently transfer to a Middle School in Pershore or stay in Evesham schools. If Middle Schools in Pershore close, there would no longer be a normal phase transfer point for Eckington pupils. Families could apply for places into an existing year group. In September 2021 no children leaving Year 5 in Eckington transferred to a Pershore Middle school.

Droitwich operates mostly a three-tier education system which is in line with the Pershore transition points (First, Middle and High schools) with intake points at Year 5 (Middle) and Year 8 (High). There are four Primary schools in the Droitwich area. At High school level the 5 year average shows an average of 12 Year 8 pupils from Droitwich choosing schools in the Pershore education planning area each year. For Year 5, the 5-year average shows 10 pupils moving from Droitwich to Pershore. In September 2021 there were no Year 7 pupils moving from Droitwich to Pershore. The proposed change of age ranges in Pershore would remove the same year group transition / intake points as Droitwich. Therefore, families in Droitwich wanting to move to Pershore High for Secondary school provision would need to apply at Year 7 or request to transfer for year 8 if places are available.

Worcester operates a two-tier education system (Primary and Secondary schools) with intake points in Year 7 (Secondary). This would align with the proposed changes in the Pershore area. In September 2021, there were 5 pupils living in Worcester, attending a Pershore Middle or Primary school that were successful in obtaining a place in the Year 7 intake at Pershore High. Additional Year 7 places at Pershore Secondary School may encourage more families living in Worcester to consider Pershore as an alternative to a Worcester Secondary school. In September 2021, 23 pupils residing in the Pershore area chose Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College in Worcester, transitioning from Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary School in Pershore which is a natural feeder. The 5-year average shows that just over 80% of pupils at Holy Redeemer transfer to Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College each year.

How and when, if approved, would the proposals be implemented?

As part of this consultation stakeholders are being asked to consider, if approved, when they would like the changes to take effect from. We have created a **Pershore Education Journey Tracker** for pupils, parents and professionals to see in detail how the three options below would change the journey for pupils in the Pershore education planning area should the proposals be approved, and the year groups available at each school.

There are three options to manage the proposed changes:

Option 1: Transition in line with natural progression, coordinated age range changes and coordinated accommodation changes. All changes made by September 2024.

School changes

- Change of age range at First schools in 2022 and 2023. All First schools to convert to Primary by September 2023
- Removal of Year 5 intake and change of age to remove year 7 for Middle schools from September 2023
- Increase of PAN and change of feeder links at Pershore High for 2023 to admit all pupils in year 7 in pyramid.

Impact

- Final year 5 intake in September 2022 at Abbey Park Middle and St Nicholas Middle to be the only year group on roll in Middle schools in 2023/2024 (year 6)
- Students applying for Middle school places (1st September 2021 to 15th January 2022) for September 2022 will not know at point of application that Middle schools will not be delivering year 7 places

Option 2: Year groups 5 & 6 closed in Middle schools early, impacting pupils' journeys and greater impact for families. Children would need to change school after year 5 for one year. All changes made by September 2023.

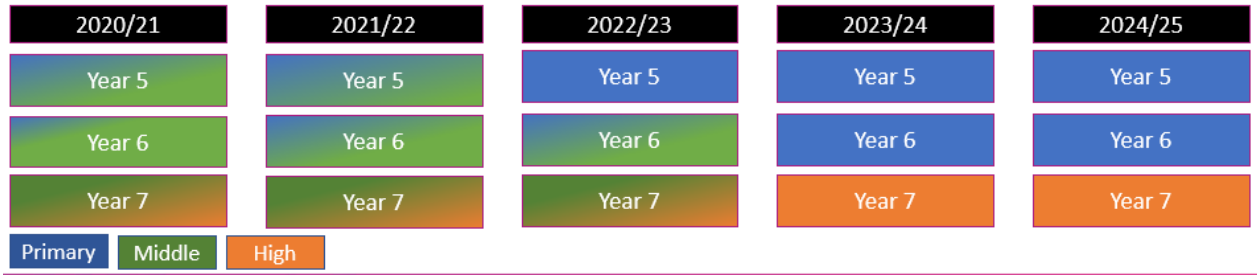
School changes

- Most First schools to convert in ’22. All schools to convert to Primary by September 2023
- Closure of Abbey Middle School and St Nicholas CE Middle from September 2023 and applications made by pupils in year 5 to transfer back to a Primary for Year 6. Change of age range of St Barnabas CE First and Middle for September 2023
- Increase of PAN and change of feeder links at Pershore High for 2023 to admit all pupils in year 7 in pyramid.

Impact

- Middle school September 2022 year 5 intake would be required to make three school applications in three years (and three transport applications where applicable)
- Rapid change for Abbey Park First and Pinvin C.E. First which will jump from R-Y4 to R-Y6 on roll in single year.

Option 3: Emergency variation to admissions changes resulting in limited time for consultation with stakeholders before the change is implemented. No intake into Middle schools in 2022. All changes and accommodation would need to be made by 2022. All changes made by September 2023.



School changes

- All First schools to convert for September 2022
- Emergency variation in admission arrangements for Abbey Park Middle and St Nicholas Middle School so that there is no intake in September 2022. School closure of Abbey Park Middle and St Nicholas Middle from September 2023.
- Change of age range and removal of year 5 intake for St Barnabas for September 2023.
- Increase of PAN and change of feeder links at Pershore High for 2023 to admit all pupils in year 7 in pyramid

Impact

- This will require emergency variation to admissions changes but will mean clearer pathway for pupils in year 5 in 2022
- Rapid change for First schools – several require accommodation changes so it may be difficult to manage
- This gives families the least amount of time before changes are made.

Who is being consulted?

The consultation will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending / known to the schools
- Staff, Governors, Board Members of school and other local schools
- Multi-Academy Trusts
- Local Parish, District and County Councillors
- Immediate neighbours of individual schools
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Unions
- Any other local stakeholder

How to respond to the consultation

Consultation Phase – Monday 11th October to Friday 26th November 2021

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the proposals and options expressed in this document and the individual school consultations.

It is very important that all those involved or have an interest have a say, we welcome your views.

All of the information available is accessible via the Worcestershire County Council Pershore Review webpage or the individual school websites. An online survey is accessible from these websites. If you require a paper copy, please email PershoreReview@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or one of the schools.

The seven week consultation period commences on Monday 11th October and closes at noon on Friday 26th November 2021. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to these proposals do so within this timeframe.

Worcestershire Children First and schools are holding a number of consultation events to allow our stakeholders to learn more about our proposals and give the opportunity to provide feedback. A summary of the events can be found on the Pershore EPA Review consultation webpage.

What happens next?

How the decision will be made?

At the conclusion of this consultation period individual Governing Body / Academy Trusts / Local Authority will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to publish or submit statutory proposals to make changes.

The Proposers (Governing Body / Local Authority / Academy Trust) will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- Existing guidance, regulation and policy
- the response to the public consultation;
- the quality of education provision at the schools;
- the ability of the school to manage the proposed change;
- demand for places at the school and in the local area; and
- funding to cover the capital costs of the proposed change has been secured, and that there are no issues with the school's current budget and/or finances. In the case of expansions, academies must show they have sufficient funding for additional pupils, until lagged funding is received.

Submission of formal proposals

The proposers will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period a decision will be made whether to submit a formal proposal to the decision makers, requesting their support.

Governing Body Decisions

If the Governing Bodies decide to support the proposals, they will need to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation period has been carried out and they have given full consideration to all the responses received. Before making any changes GBs should ensure that:

- they have consulted with the LA to ensure the proposal is aligned with local place planning arrangements;
- they have secured any necessary funding;
- they have identified suitable accommodation and sites;
- they have secured planning permission and/or agreement on the transfer of land where necessary. The proposal can be approved subject to planning permission being granted;
- they have the consent of the site trustees or other land owner where the land is not owned by the GB;
- where a school is designated as having a religious character, they have the consent of the trustees of the school, the diocese or relevant diocesan board, or any other relevant faith body, where appropriate; and
- the admissions authority is content for the published admissions number (PAN) to be changed where this forms part of expansion plans, in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Cabinet Decisions

Where the statutory process for maintained schools is required and the Local Authority are the decision maker, Officers at the County Council will prepare a report for Cabinet detailing the arguments for and against the change. The anonymised responses of the public consultation will be shared with Cabinet along with the Governors' comments on the issues raised.

If Cabinet decides to support the proposal, the County Council will publish formal Public Notice. The public will then have a final opportunity to comment or object within a four-week timescale laid down in law. Notices are published in the local press and displayed outside the Schools. At the end of the four weeks any feedback or objections will be reported to the Cabinet for a final decision.

Regional Schools Commissioner Decisions

For Academy schools, the Academy Trust Board will then submit a significant change request to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) alongside any requests to vary school admission arrangements.

The RSC will consider a range of factors and make a balanced judgement when deciding whether to approve or reject a proposal. The RSC may also defer the approval pending further evidence. Where proposed changes are particularly controversial and could attract adverse public or press attention; the RSC may choose to escalate such proposed changes to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Related proposals

Where proposals appear to be related to other proposals, the decision-makers must consider the related proposals together. A proposal should be regarded as related if its implementation (or non-implementation) would prevent or undermine the effective implementation of another proposal.

The Local Authority will, as far as possible, seek to coordinate all proposals.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by noon on Friday 26th November 2021 by completing the online response form available on the school websites and WCC website. If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.

Relevant documents:

Cabinet Member Decision on Change of Age Ranges & Policy: Cabinet Member Decision on Change of Age Ranges & Policy

Cabinet Report: Responding to Change of Age Range requests from Maintained Community Schools or Change of Age Range Consultations form other types of Schools Jan 2020: Cabinet Report: Responding to Change of Age Range requests

School Sufficiency and Organisation for the Pershore Area September 2021: School Sufficiency and Organisation for the Pershore Area

HeadTeacher Board record of decision Avonreach Multi-Academy Trust Change of Age ranges for The Orchard, Inkberrow, Norton-Juxta-Kempsey and Pershore High Dec 2018 [ARCHIVED CONTENT] (nationalarchives.gov.uk)