



## BARLEY (VC) CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

### PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

#### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Barley (VC) C of E First School, Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW, a Voluntary Controlled (VC) school.

(The decision-maker is Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DF.)

#### **In respect of a LA Proposal: School and local authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school.

#### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

It is planned that the proposal will be implemented in full from September 2018.

#### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, by which objections or comments should be sent to the local authority; and
  - the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Any person may object to or comment on the proposal. Comments or objections need to be received by 31 May 2018 by sending them by post, marked for the attention of Barley (VC) C of E First School, to: Freepost RTHH-LXSL-BYYR, Hertfordshire County Council, Education Department, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DF, or by email to: [education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing body of the Barley/Barkway First Schools Federation intends to make a prescribed alteration to Barley (Voluntary Controlled) C of E First School, Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW (**the School**), a Voluntary Controlled school, with effect from September 2018.

The governing body of the Barley/Barkway First Schools Federation (**the Governing Body**) proposes to change the category of **the School** from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided. If the proposal is implemented it will make the category of **the School** the same as the category of Barkway Voluntary Aided (C of E) First School, 84 High Street, Barkway, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8EF, a Voluntary Aided school. If enacted, the proposal would be implemented in full in September 2018. Having a school category in common would allow both schools within the Federation to have the same legal responsibilities.

#### School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, and 12-14 of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

N/A

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

N/A

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

N/A

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

N/A

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, and 14 of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

N/A

### Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

The proposals are to be implemented by **the Governing Body**.

### Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No new or additional site is required.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

### Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 12 or 13 of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 12 or 13 of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

#### Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

N/A

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

## Objectives

### 10. The objectives of the proposals.

The objectives of the proposal are to change the category of **the School** from VC to VA from September 2018, so that **the School** can in turn federate with Barkway Voluntary Aided (C of E) First School. **The Governing Body** believes that it is strategically beneficial for the two schools to be aligned in terms of their category. **The Governing Body** considers it necessary for both schools to have a Voluntary Aided category.

**The School** and Barkway VA (C of E) First School are both village schools, around 4 miles apart. Pupil numbers on roll are small; 35\* at Barley and 25\* at Barkway. Both communities want to retain their village schools and by working together the two schools are able to be more cost effective, saving on staff budgets, training, and services. Collaboration between the two schools allows for larger class sizes, thereby enhancing teaching opportunities, for example through improved group dynamics. Collaboration also brings benefits for staff, in that they can enjoy working professionally with an increased number of colleagues. Ensuring that the schools are of the same category will assist in achieving these aims.

It had been the intention to alter the category of **the School** prior to the Federation process but due to an administrative error this had not occurred.

*\*Reception to Year 4 pupils on roll (data: School Census January 2018)*

## Consultation

### 11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

#### a) A consultation letter was sent to the following stakeholders:

- Parents/carers of pupils, staff and governors - at both **the School** and Barkway VA (C of E) First School
- Anglican Diocese, St Albans
- Barley Parish Council
- Barley Church Council
- Barley Surgery (Medical Practice)

- Local MP
  - School Planning Team, Hertfordshire County Council
  - Ministerial and Public Communications Division, Department for Education (DfE)
- b) Minutes from the drop-in session for stakeholders held at **the School** on 7 March 2018 - No minutes were taken because no members of the public or stakeholders attended the session.
- c) Consultation response summary - One response was received from a parent, who thought that by changing to a Voluntary Aided category, Barley First School would become “more Christian”. The chair of governors responded to the parents who subsequently agreed that they had completely misunderstood the reasons behind the proposal and as a result they withdrew their objection. No other responses were received.
- d) Public consultation commenced on 20 January 2018 and ran until 8 March 2018. The consultation letter was sent to the stakeholders listed in a) above.
- e) A copy of the consultation letter is attached (Appendix A). The consultation letter was sent to the stakeholders listed in a) above and was also published on the websites of both **the School** and Barkway VA (C of E) First School.

**Project costs**

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local authority, and any other party.

The proposal will not incur any capital costs.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local authority and the Education Funding Agency or Skills Funding Agency (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

N/A

**Age range**

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

N/A

**Early years provision**

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

#### Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

- (c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

### Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

The specific proposal is not to establish or change provision for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND).

Pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) / Education, Health and Care Plans or special educational needs identified by the school are already provided for within the current maintained school setting which offers support to a wide range of pupils.

SEND provision will continue for those pupils currently receiving provision and be provided for any additional children attending the school following implementation of the proposal, in line with current practice at the primary and nursery school.

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

No additional specialist features are included within the proposals. The SEND position will be monitored on an ongoing basis, and appropriate steps taken to address any additional specialist needs which may arise.

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

The expenses of the provision will continue to be met from the school's delegated budget with additional allocations for any named pupils eligible for additional SEND funding under the county council's existing arrangements.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;



N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

The expenses of the provision will continue to be met from the school's delegated budget with additional allocations for any named pupils eligible for additional SEND funding under the county council's existing arrangements.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

**Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 11 to the Equality Act 2010).

N/A

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

### Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

There will be no alteration to the extended services currently provided.

### Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

N/A

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

N/A

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

N/A

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

### Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

N/A

*Ruth e. Pyke*

*Chair of Governors*

*4<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

## Appendix A



### **Barley VC Church of England First School**

Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW  
T: 01763 848281 | E: admin@barley.herts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Stakeholders,

Please see attached consultation paperwork relating to the change of status of Barley First School from Voluntary Controlled (VC) to Voluntary Aided (VA). Due to an administrative error this was missed from the original consultation document when the schools were preparing for federation last academic year.

We have arranged a drop in session for parents and stakeholders at Barley School on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 2pm until 4pm. Lizzie Jeanes the deputy director of education for the St. Albans diocese will be in attendance together with members of the governing board and headteacher, Sharon Brown. They will be happy to answer any questions relating to the consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Pike,  
Chair of Governors,  
Barley/Barkway First Schools Federation

Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW  
T: 01763 848281 | E: admin@barley.herts.sch.uk



**Appendage consultation on change of status from  
Barley Voluntary Controlled First school to  
Barley Voluntary Aided First School  
To be completed by Thursday 8th March, 2018**

The federated governing board of Barley and Barkway First Schools Federation is seeking to consult with all stakeholders on the change of status for Barley First School from a Voluntary Controlled (VC) to a Voluntary Aided (VA) school. During our original proposal for Federation consultation in September/October 2016, this step was overlooked due to an administrative error. Barkway is already a Voluntary Aided school and in order for the Federation process to be complete the governing body would like Barley to change its status to Voluntary Aided.

**Why should this happen?**

The governing body believes that it is strategically beneficial for the 2 schools to be aligned in terms of their status (VC/VA). In order to federate the new governing body had to be a VA structure and therefore the governing body believes that it makes sense for both schools to have VA status.

**What is the difference between a voluntary aided and a voluntary controlled school?**

1. In a Voluntary Aided school Foundation Governors exceed any other category of governor by 2 . This is already in place in the new federation governing body. Besides foundation governors, our governing board has parent, local authority, co-opted and staff governors as before.
2. Staff are employed by the governing board of the school rather than the local authority. As part of the original consultation staff have already been made aware of the change in employment details through meetings held last academic year.
3. Voluntary aided schools are the admissions authority for their school.

**Will it make a difference to the education of the children?**

No. Both schools are Church schools and come under the direction of the Diocese of St. Albans and have a distinctive Christian ethos. The schools follow the National Curriculum as prescribed by the Department for Education

**Further information**

There will be a drop in afternoon session for all stakeholders on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 2pm  
A copy of this consultation is available from either school website and will be circulated to all stakeholders as before.

**Response form to Appendage Consultation on change of status of Barley First School from Voluntary Controlled (VC) to Voluntary Aided (VA) status**

Responses to be received by mid-day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Name:

Address: (Optional)

Postcode: (Optional)

1. I am a: (please tick box as appropriate)

Parent/Carer of a pupil at Barley First School	
Member of staff at Barley First School	
Governor at Barley/Barkway Federation	
Other interested party (Please state)	

2. What is your view of the proposal to change the status of Barley First School from a Voluntary Controlled (VC) to Voluntary Aided (VA) school? (please tick as appropriate)

I support the proposal	
I do not support the proposal	
I am not sure	

3. Would you like to provide more detail on your view? Do you have any further comments? (please continue on reverse of page if required)

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**Please return to**  
Barley VC Church of England First School,  
Church End, Barley, Herts. SG8 8JW