



## **Consultation on Relocation of St. Joseph's Infant School to St. Joseph's CE Junior School Site**

### **Proposal**

The Trust are considering the relocation of St. Joseph's Infant School to the site of St. Joseph's CE Junior School with effect from September 2023. The proposal is for each school to remain a separate entity on the same site with each school retaining its own distinctive features.

### **Background**

This consideration has arisen for a number of reasons:

- 1) The 2 schools are located on sites adjacent to each other (please see map in appendix A).
- 2) The 2 schools work very closely together across the 2 sites, sharing an Executive Headteacher, a SENCO and a Local Governing Body. The staff body also work closely together for the benefit of the children in both schools. Shared staff and joint working is developing well. Both schools changed their names and uniform in September 2021.
- 3) The children who attend the infant school transition to the junior school. This is the only infant and junior school provision in the Chichester Area.
- 4) The infant provision was enhanced in April 2022 when the age range of the infant school was lowered to incorporate a nursery provision on site, which is popular with local families. The nursery provision will also be included on the junior site which will require a change to the fencing. The school also provides wrap around care for the children at both schools in the nursery building in its Sunrise and Sunset clubs.
- 5) Due to the national rise in energy costs and the increased salary costs across the education sector for teachers and support staff both schools, like many others, are predicting deficit budget positions over the coming years. By moving into one building, we are anticipating savings of approximately £40,000 per annum across both schools in terms of utility costs, cleaning costs and maintenance contracts. These savings will reduce the budget deficit in both schools directing the funds to ensuring high quality teaching and learning provision for all the children.
- 6) There are several benefits that this relocation can offer the children and parents of St. Joseph's Infant School and the community. They include:

- Shared resources that would benefit both the Infant and the Junior School in teaching and learning. The different curriculum subject expertise of staff could be easily shared.
- Potential opportunities for some joined learning across the key Stages.
- Infant pupils would benefit from much larger classrooms
- Parents would drop off and pick up from one site.
- Easy and full access to the school site e.g. hall, library, field, forest school and garden areas.
- Opportunities to extend the family and community ethos of the school partly through older children building relationships with the younger children to aid transition from the infant to the junior school.

The infant school was graded a Good school by OFSTED in May 2019. The Junior School has recently had a successful OFSTED inspection in November 2022, which secured Good in all areas. Both schools are in a strong position to undertake this development. The inspection report identified that

“Leaders have ensured that there are high expectations both of pupils’ behaviour and of what each pupil can achieve in their learning. New curriculums, designed to ensure that all pupils can achieve the best possible outcomes, have been introduced in several subjects. Most pupils now have very positive attitudes to learning.”

DCAT, the school leadership and Local Governing Body see this as another positive development for both schools, building on the investment in both schools since St. Joseph’s Infant School joined DCAT in December 2020.

### **Premises / Capital**

Historically St. Joseph’s CE Junior School was a 3 form-entry junior school with a capacity 360 pupils. Due to the reorganisation within the Chichester area of infant and junior schools, the need for 90 junior school places has reduced over the years and reduced further in October 2020 when the feeder schools for the junior school reduced to 1 school, St. Joseph’s Infant School. As a result, the junior site has a number of spaces that can be used, with minimum requirements for reconfiguration, that are suitable for providing Early Years (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 (KSI) education. The Trust has completed a review of the spaces and the following works have been identified to be completed to support the move:

- Refurbishment and redecoration of classroom spaces to include a large Early Years space that would allow greater opportunities for learning inside and outside the classroom.
- Refurbishment of toilet areas for infant age children
- Redevelopment of playground areas to provide an exciting outside environment for children in EYFS and KSI
- Additional facilities for staff including office space and toilets

The Trust has capital funding in place to enable the works to be completed to enable the building to be ready for 1/9/23. This is phase 1 of the programme. The aspiration is that the infant school grows to a Planned Admissions Number (PAN) at reception of 60 (2

classes) and this will in turn feed through to the junior school. Phase 2 will be to upgrade the junior school space to accommodate 420 children across both schools.

The Trust has discussed the plans with both the Diocese of Chichester and the Local Authority, West Sussex County Council who are supportive of the proposal. There are considerations in terms of the land and buildings owned by each party which will require legal processes to be followed should the relocation proceed.

### **The Process**

All responses to this consultation will be considered by the school and shared with decision-makers – the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust and the Local Governing Body. The proposed indicative timetable is as follows:

**Consultation:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Consideration of consultation and decision making:** 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Fast Track proposal to Regional Schools Commissioner:** 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Proposed implementation:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

### **Responding to the consultation**

You can respond to the consultation by clicking on the following [link](#) by the closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.