



Warfield Church of England (C of E) Primary School

All Saints Rise site
All Saints Rise, Bracknell, RG42 3SS

Woodhurst site
Sopwith Road, Bracknell RG42 6BR

Website: <https://warfieldprimary.co.uk>

Head Teacher: Mrs A. Kennedy
Chair of Governors: Mrs M. Shirvill

Local Authority: Bracknell Forest
LA contact: Mr C. Taylor

School Consultation

Proposal:

The Governing Board of Warfield C of E Primary School propose to unite the school community on to one site by migrating the All Saints Rise site to the Woodhurst site for September 2022.

What we are looking to achieve:

- to unite our school community on one site to enhance the learning experience for all our children.
- to enable us to respond effectively and efficiently to our school's needs now and in the future for the benefit of our children, providing equality and opportunity for all in our school community.
- to safeguard the long-term viability of the school's finances, ensuring Warfield C of E Primary School can maintain the high-quality educational provision for our children.



Background

Warfield C of E Primary School is rooted in the history of Warfield and has been contributing to the education and wellbeing of local children for over 200 years. In 1994 the school moved onto the existing site at All Saints Rise in response to an increase in families moving to the area. Further housing growth in Bracknell led to a second site being opened in 2016, at Woodhurst, and the school has since doubled its size and now operates as a two-form entry school on two separate sites.

The Woodhurst site was built to respond to the number of new school places that were needed due to the extensive housing development and was designed with capacity for further school expansion as identified in Bracknell-Forest Council's place planning strategy. The vision for Warfield C of E Primary School was to grow to be three-form entry offering provision from Reception to Year 6 for 630 children and 58 Nursery children.

Due to changes in local demographics and lower pupil yields arising from new housing the proposed expansion is no longer viable. In fact, there is now an overall surplus of primary school places in North Bracknell, with a surplus of 113 reception places across the borough this academic year 2021-2022. Funding for schools is largely linked to the number of children on role and this surplus of places has a significant impact on the budgets of individual schools. As a result, the council is now committed to reducing the numbers of surplus school places and is actively consulting with all schools on how best to reduce this surplus.

Warfield C of E Primary School is committed to providing the best education for its children and is currently operating with one of the two school sites (Woodhurst) being only half full. The current core ethos is well established on both sites and the school has maintained its status as a good school. The Woodhurst site is already built as a two-form entry school, and there are seven empty classrooms available to support the migration. These classrooms are vacant and the school places to which they relate are not available. Therefore, the current population of All Saints Rise can be migrated into the new classrooms at Woodhurst without any building development being required. The overall capacity of the school would not therefore change as a result. Current admissions data indicates that a two form entry school would meet the demands for school

places in the designated area. Therefore, the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Warfield C of E Primary School would remain at 60, which is two forms of entry. Uniting the sites would however mean that:

- the site allocation process will no longer be required, and new families who are offered a place will be confident where their child will attend
- effectively remove 210 surplus school places in North Bracknell which is consistent with Bracknell Forest Council's current School Capacity Strategy
- The current designated area for Warfield C of E Primary School will not change as a result of the migration

The Leadership Team and Governing Board of Warfield C of E Primary School put the children at the heart of everything we do. After weighing up options, the Governing Board feel that the proposal to unite the two sites safeguards the continued provision of the best education for our children, and will further enhance this through greater efficiency and financial stability that being on a single site would bring.

Benefits of uniting the school on to one site:

To improve the wellbeing and educational experience for the children through;

- Greater cohesion in planning and provision with year groups being able to work directly with partner classes. The year group staffing team will have greater capacity and be better placed to provide focused teaching and interventions to support children across the year group.
- Current learning resources including IT will be amalgamated providing a wider range of opportunities for all the children together. In the future there will be increased resources and less timetabling constraints caused by splitting resources across sites.
- All staff will be located in the same building meaning that access to staff expertise can be maximised.
- Senior leaders & specialist staff would always be on the site to react more immediately to support and respond to any child's needs, strengthening relationships through daily interaction.
- The playgrounds and outdoor spaces can be further developed to support the children's wishes, the school is committed to ensuring an equal opportunity of experience on each site, with only one site to invest in funding will be utilised more effectively.
- Current extra-curricular opportunities are site based with some available to both sites through the use of the minibus. Being based on one site will ensure all extra-curricular opportunities will be equally accessible to children across the school.
- All Warfield families will attend the same site, enabling a greater level of community cohesion between children and families. Children will be able to build successful, long lasting friendships with their year group peers.
- Being based on one site will free up a proportion of the school budget which can then be spent on the children and enrichment of the curriculum. The school would be able to offer some of the activities larger schools offer without impacting on the ethos.
- Uniting the two sites would result in significant savings in the amount of staff time lost through duplication of activities for each site, which ultimately will positively impact on outcomes for the children.



There would also be financial benefits to uniting the sites:

- There are additional staff employed in order to facilitate the running of the school on both sites which increases staffing costs. There are also other cost duplications relating to premises and general operation. Finance and other resources are currently being stretched to cover the upkeep and maintenance of the two separate sites. These are costs that are over and above that of a normal two form entry school. A migration would result in a better budget position for Warfield C of E Primary School
- All primary schools receive a fixed annual capital budget to undertake small works to their buildings. We receive the same amount of funding whether the school operates over one or two sites, therefore more funding would be available and could be used more efficiently and effectively if Warfield C of E Primary School was only running one site.
- The All Saints Rise site is now 26 years old. It is partly comprised of modular buildings and is now showing its age, with some aspects of the building needing some significant work in the near future. The Woodhurst building by comparison is only five years old and requires much less expenditure on maintaining the building fabric and the installed plant equipment. Migration would result in budget savings on maintaining the buildings that would free up resources for education and learning.
- The Woodhurst building is a modern 21st century design and is much more energy efficient than All Saints Rise, meaning further reductions in building running costs.



Areas for Consideration

- **Families at Warfield C of E Primary School have enjoyed the small school feel of the individual sites whilst being part of a larger school.**

Children on both sites have become used to being part of a one form entry school, should the proposal be approved then the school will prioritise transition opportunities for the children over the summer term. With the minibus in place we are able to provide opportunities for the children to be widely involved in setting up their new classes and getting ready to meet their year group partners.

- **A staff review will be required with a potential restructuring in some areas of the school.** Careful planning over the last two years, temporary contracts and natural career progression will ensure minimal impact on our current staffing.
- **Adjustments may be required in the Nursery provision for the school.** The migration of the All Saints Nursery is not supported by Bracknell-Forest Council as there is currently a surplus of nursery places in the North Bracknell area. We have carefully planned our Nursery admissions over this year to ensure we can provide places to all current Nursery pupils at Woodhurst if we were to migrate.
- **Families at All Saints may have to travel differently.** Whilst we are unable to address changes in distances we have worked closely with the highways department at Bracknell-Forest Council to ensure the pedestrian routes from All Saints to Woodhurst are safe and accessible. There will be a number of new measures put in place to support the migration including a new traffic signal pedestrian / cycle crossing on the Warfield Road and alterations to the existing pedestrian islands at the Quelm Park and County Lane roundabouts on Harvest Ride. Plans will be available to view on the consultation portal.
- **Increased pressure at pick up and drop off at the Woodhurst site.** Work has been undertaken at the Woodhurst site to address the challenges at the start and end of the school day. Drop off facilities for Key Stage 2 pupils has already significantly improved the processes at both the beginning of the day. Priority parking will be allocated in line with agreed criteria.

Additional Information

Who will decide if this proposal goes ahead? When will the decision be made?

The final decision, whether to unite the school on one site, will be taken by a Bracknell Forest Council Executive Member after the consultation is completed, in May 2022. In making their decision they will consider the consultation comments alongside all relevant consideration for impact on the school and local area.

Do all stakeholders have to agree to this move?

All stakeholders do not have to agree with the move but this is a consultation for the whole community and all feedback will be considered by the decision maker: Bracknell Forest Council.

How would you make the pedestrian routes to Woodhurst from All Saints safe?

The school has undertaken considerable consultation with the Highways Agency & Bracknell-Forest Council to ensure the pedestrian routes to school are safe. Funding has been agreed to install a new traffic signal pedestrian / cycle crossing on the Warfield Road and make alterations to existing islands at Quelm Park and County Lane roundabouts.

Would the children keep the same class teacher?

Class teachers remain the same throughout the school year unless the teacher leaves the school, or is absent. This would continue to be the case even if we are on one site. Children usually receive a new teacher at the beginning of the academic year, and prior to this there are a variety of transition opportunities for the children to meet and get to know their teacher before the summer holidays and this would still be the case.

Would children remain in the same class group or would the pupils from Woodhurst and All Saints be put in mixed classes?

Initially the children would remain in their current classes to support the transition and ensure security in relationships, whilst getting to know a new environment and new friends. Plans would be put in place to support all the children in building positive new relationships.

In the future being on one site would give us the opportunity to restructure classes should it be felt this would be more beneficial for the children. Some cohorts of children can benefit from being restructured to support optimum learning opportunities.

Would the class sizes remain at 30 pupils?

Yes, there will be no change in class sizes and the Local Authority's Published Admission Number will remain at 60 for all year groups. The Local Authority will continue to comply with the Infant Class Size legislation.

Are there enough classrooms and facilities at the Woodhurst site for all the children?

Yes, Woodhurst was built as a two-form entry school and so there are enough classrooms for both cohorts.

What will happen to All Saints Nursery if the migration proceeds?

The All Saints Nursery provision will close. There will however, be space for all children remaining in our nursery from September at the Woodhurst site. There is also a surplus of nursery places locally.

Will my child continue to be able to attend breakfast & after school club?

Yes, we will continue to offer this provision and all existing attendees will be offered a place.

I live nearer to Woodhurst would there still be a school place for my child?

The school will continue to have 60 spaces in each year group. This number of places more than caters for the demands for school places in the designated area to attend. Families living in Woodhurst Park would be guaranteed the Woodhurst site as the site allocation process would no longer be required.

Is there parking available at Woodhurst?

The Woodhurst site has a limited number of parking spaces which are currently available for parent use. Parking permits will be allocated under strict criteria. There is a drop off zone for children in Years 3-6. Park and stride options are available at Larks Hill and on Priory Fields. We encourage all our families to walk, cycle or scoot wherever possible. If you do have to drive, we ask that you are always considerate of our neighbours.

What would happen to the All Saints site if the school unites at Woodhurst?

The All Saints Rise site is governed under a clear covenant from the Church of England that states the land must be retained for the provision of education to the local community. Bracknell-Forest Council and the Oxford Diocese are in ongoing discussions as to how they will work in partnership to achieve this.

Project costs

- The council has retained a capital budget to open the new classrooms at Woodhurst and has agreed that this money can be used to furnish and support the migration process.

Procedure for responses (support and objections) and for receiving comments

- the council's website will enable consultees to register their support for or objection to the proposed migration by ticking the relevant boxes.
- consultees can also make written comments online by entering these into the consultation form on the website
- the consultation will also be available as a printed leaflet to enable consultees to make written responses if they are unable to access the online website
- these responses will be collated at the end of the consultation and reported to the decision maker prior to the decision date.