



**St John's CE (C) Infant School – A Statutory
Proposal made by the Governing Body to
change the upper age limit from September
2022.**

**Produced by the Governing Body of St John's C E (C) Infant School.
April 2021.**

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Together in love we learn with

Respect, Hope, Friendship and Forgiveness.



1) Intent – What are the proposals?

For some time the Governing Body of St John's C E (C) Infant School, located in Dewsbury, have had the aspiration to become an all-through primary school. We feel that this would have great benefits for our community by supporting children and families through the entire primary phase of education rather than only 3 years as it is currently. This is in response to the demands of parents over a number of years as they particularly value our nurturing ethos and whole family orientated character, underpinned by our Christian Values, which are appreciated by those of all faiths or none. Following a series of collaborative discussions between our Governing Body, Westmoor Primary School's Governing Body, School Leaders, Church of England Diocese of Leeds representatives and Kirklees (Local Authority) representatives, St John's C E (C) Infant School's Governing Body have the following intentions from September 2022:

- St John's C E (C) Infant School to become an all-through primary school with a Public Admissions Number (PAN) of 30. The current PAN as an Infant school is 60.

This would create possible opportunities for other local schools to increase their PAN at Key Stage 1 (KS1) in order to ensure that there is no detrimental effect to places in Dewsbury West.

Current Arrangements	Key Stage 1 Places	Key Stage 2 Places
St John's C E (C) Infant School	60	0

Proposed Arrangements	Key Stage 1 Places	Key Stage 2 Places
St John's C E (C) Infant School	30 (-30)	30 (+30)

Dewsbury West Planning Area	Key Stage 1 Places	Key Stage 2 Places	Mismatch KS1 to KS2
Current	435	413	-22
Future	405 (-30)	443 (+30)	+38

By law, for such a change to happen, it requires the Governing Body, as the proposer, to undertake a statutory process to make a prescribed alteration to change the upper age limit of the school from age 7 to 11 years, as set out in 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools; Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' (DfE, October 2018).

The members of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Education welcome and support the proposals and have encouraged the school to launch an agreed consultation. The Diocese have commented on how the school has worked collaboratively with others (Kirklees Council – Non Statutory Consultation, February 2020).



2) Implementation

a) How would our intentions be implemented?

These are the figures (number of pupils) based on our current PAN:

St John's C E (C) Infant School	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2021/2022	60	60	60	0	0	0	0	180
2022/2023	30	60	60	60	0	0	0	210
2023/2024	30	30	60	60	60	0	0	240
2024/2025	30	30	30	60	60	60	0	270
2025/2026	30	30	30	30	60	60	60	300
2026/2027	30	30	30	30	30	60	60	270
2027/2028	30	30	30	30	30	30	60	240
2028/2029	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

These are the figures (number of pupils) based on the current numbers in school:

St John's C E (C) Infant School	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2021/2022	39	56	35	0	0	0	0	130
2022/2023	30	39	56	35	0	0	0	160
2023/2024	30	30	39	56	35	0	0	190
2024/2025	30	30	30	39	56	35	0	220
2025/2026	30	30	30	30	39	56	35	250
2026/2027	30	30	30	30	30	39	56	245
2027/2028	30	30	30	30	30	30	39	219
2028/2029	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

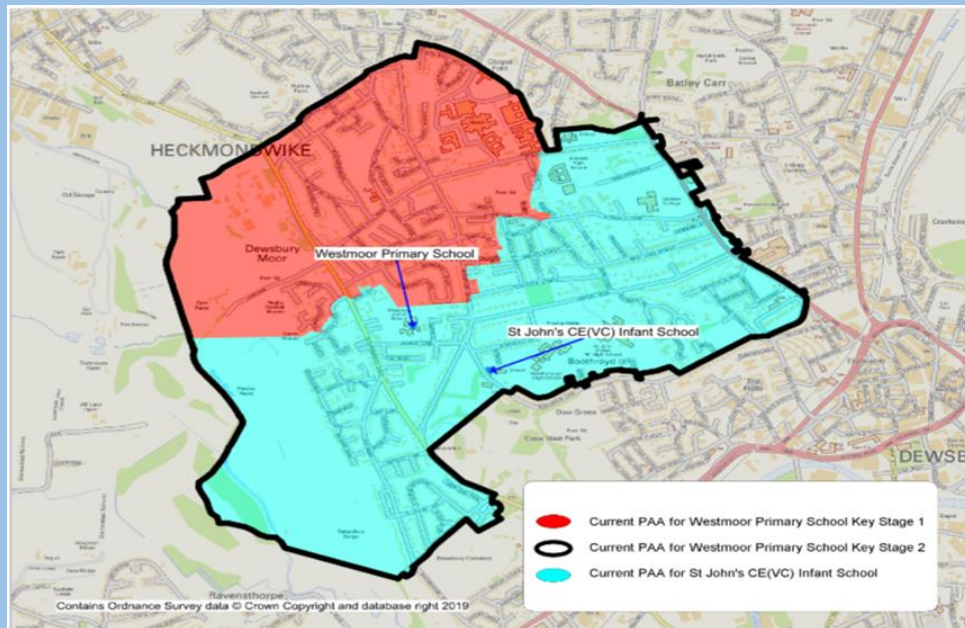
For both of the tables above, the numbers peak in the academic year 2025/2026 because of the commitment we would make in ensuring that all children currently in school (2 form entry) are offered a place. These larger year groups take time to filter through.

b) What does this mean for future admission arrangements?

Overall there would be less places available for Reception intakes at St John's Infant School (down from 60 to 30). Parents who secured a place for their child would no longer need to apply for a Key Stage 2 place unless it was their choice to change schools.

There are no proposals to change the Priority Admission Areas (PAA's). The map below illustrates the current PAAs.

- St John's CE (C) Infant School PAA is highlighted in blue.
- Westmoor Primary School, which is the Key Stage 2 (KS2) provider within our PAA, has a Key Stage 1 PAA highlighted in red and a key stage 2 PAA which combines the two (illustrated with a black line).



No current pupils would be displaced by these proposals.

c) How will this proposal be financed?

St John's has made a healthy financial contingency, which Schools Forum have approved use to become an all-through primary school. This will then enable us to fund the changes needed, including any building work. In the transition years, St John's will have the availability to accommodate all the pupils if the maximum figures in the previous section were reached. Planning and phased work for this has already begun over the last few years.

3) Rationale – What are the reasons supporting our proposals?

As previously stated, it has been the intentions of St John's C E (C) Infant School to become an all-through primary school for a considerable amount of time. This was further reinforced when the authority merged Knowles Hill Infant and Nursery School with Westmor Junior School to become Westmor Primary School, which is now all situated on the Church Lane site. This caused a considerable drop in St John's pupil numbers, as some parents reluctantly moved children to reduce transition points and for the convenience of having all primary aged children in a family on one school site.

Below is a summary of why we intend to become a through primary school, starting in September 2022.

- ✓ **Parental Preferences:** Parents and carers continually indicate that they wish for their child/children to remain at St John's due to its family orientated character and nurturing ethos. Parents value the teaching and support staff. They comment on how the continuity they provide will help their children's development and give them confidence to succeed. This has been further highlighted recently during the unprecedented pandemic times, when children at such a young age have needed a safe and secure environment they are familiar with alongside their known peers to excel and achieve.



- ✓ **Church of England School:** St John's has a distinctive spiritual feel based on Christian values that underpin our curriculum and school life, which are appreciated by those of all faiths or none.
- ✓ **Transition point to a large Primary School in Year 3:** As governors we believe that families in the community should have the choice of sending their children to a large or small primary, even at Key Stage 2 and not just Key Stage 1. Many parents, year on year express their worries about their child moving to large primary schools and would prefer them to stay in small, nurturing environments such as St John's.
- ✓ **Council Intentions to reduce transition points:** The council have made it very clear that their intention is to reduce transition points in education and have been exploring opportunities for doing this over the last few years by working closely with school leaders and Governing Bodies (Kirklees Council – Non Statutory Consultation, February 2020).
- ✓ **Recognition of how transition has changed for our children:** It is very clear the transition is different now despite it still being at the end of Year 2, as they are now feeding into an already existing primary school as opposed to a junior school where friendships, routines, expectations and culture are already established. Parents worry that this places our pupils at a disadvantage compared to others. St John's is the only infant school in Kirklees whose recognised link school is a through primary rather than a junior school.
- ✓ **Sustainability – decrease in pupil numbers:** Over the past few years, we have seen a significant drop in the number of pupils on roll. If this continues the future of St John's is under threat. Becoming an all-through primary school would increase pupil numbers and prevent this.
- ✓ **Inconvenience to parents:** Many parents report difficulties when dropping off and collecting from 2 schools, especially when the children are at such a young age and the schools are on 2 separate sites.

4) Welcoming your views

The school's proposal is open to consultation between Thursday 29th April 2021 and Thursday 27th May 2021. You have until then to express your views in writing or in person at the consultation meetings in the school playground or remotely via Zoom. The Governing Body would like to hear the views of as many people as possible. There will be 5 consultation meetings at which you will have the opportunity to hear more from the Governors and discuss the proposals. Please see the following dates, venues and times:

Date	Time	Venue	Who can attend?
Tuesday 18 th May 2021	8.00 – 9.30am	St John's C E (C) School Playground	Parents of children at St John's C E (C) Infant school.
Tuesday 18 th May 2021	2.45 – 3.45pm	St John's C E (C) School Playground	Parents of children at St John's C E (C) Infant school.
Tuesday 18 th May 2021	6.00 – 7.00pm	Remotely online via Zoom	All members of the public, including parents.
Wednesday 19 th May 2021	1.00 – 2.00pm	Remotely online via Zoom	All members of the public, including parents.
Wednesday 19 th May 2021	3.30pm – 4.30pm	St John's C E (C) School Hall	Staff of St John's CE (C) Infant School.



Anybody wanting to attend one of the scheduled consultation meeting via Zoom then please use the following link and details. Alternatively contact the school office on 01924 325323 for support.

<https://zoom.us/j/97834347268?pwd=V0R6ZlFNemRkZlFkODBUak9CNnBJQT09>

Meeting ID: 978 3434 7268. Passcode: K2mbty

Everyone is welcome to attend one of these events, including families of current, previous or prospective pupils and other interested members of the community. Please come along and talk to us so we can answer any questions you may have.

Support is readily available to anyone who feels they may need help to take part in the consultation.

You can take part in the consultation by completing the response form at the back of this document and returning it to Kirklees Council at the following address, NO stamp is required:

FREE POST Kirklees Council
St John's CE (C) School Proposal

or

Email it to school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk

Following the consultation period, the Governing Body will consider all the views that have been expressed. Kirklees Council is then responsible for deciding on the proposal no more than 2 months from the end of the consultation period. If the proposal is rejected by Kirklees Council, the Governing Body may appeal to the Schools Adjudicator within 4 weeks of the Local Authority's decision. If the proposal is agreed, the Governing Body will proceed to implementation for September 2022.

The proposal will be shared in many different ways from the 29th April 2021. This includes on the school website, in the Dewsbury Reporter Newspaper, shared with schools in Kirklees through Heads Up, emailed to various local Early Years providers, shared with local mosques, St John the Evangelist Church and visible in other public buildings such as libraries and the Sure Start Centre.



5) What happens next?

St John's CE (C) Statutory Process Timeline

Stage	Key dates
St John's publish statutory proposal	29 April 2021
Representation period (4 weeks) ends	27 May 2021
Kirklees Council publish cabinet report*	19 July 2021
Kirklees Cabinet, the main decision making body of Kirklees Council consider the proposals and all representations*	27 th July 2021
Proposed implementation	September 2022

*These stages are not in the direct control of the proposer, St John's CE (C) Infant School.



Consultation Responses

Do you support the proposal to extend the age range of St John's C E (C) Infant School to establish an all-through primary school for children aged 4 - 11?

Please tick one of the boxes below:

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below:



This section asks you for some information that will help us to analyse the results of the survey and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by the information you provide.

I am a (Please tick all those that apply to you):

- Parent/carer. Your child's/children's school/s: _____
- Pupil. Your school: _____
- Governor. Your school: _____
- Member of staff. Your school: _____
- Local resident. Your postcode: _____
- Other. Please tell us any other link to school: _____

Thank you for your time.

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or

Email it to school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk