

Swaffham CofE Junior Academy

Consultation on proposed changes to Swaffham CofE Junior Academy

Pupil number growth in Swaffham

Norfolk County Council has a duty to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of school places to respond to housing growth and other demographic changes. They are responding to the planned housing – at least 1000 new homes, in Swaffham, by proposing a major change to the way the primary phase schools are organised in the area.

It is proposed that both Swaffham CE VC Infant School and Swaffham CofE Junior Academy change their age range, so that both schools become primary schools, with early years provision, for pupils aged 2 – 11 years.

The Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the two schools involved, along with representatives from the Diocese of Norwich and Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT), have been part of the discussions with us about the future provision of school places in the area.

Swaffham CE VC Infant School are consulting on their proposed change, at the same time as this consultation on the changes proposed to Swaffham CofE Junior Academy

It is now time to seek a wider range of views, which is why we are holding this consultation.

What we are proposing

At the moment, Swaffham children start their statutory education in Year R at the Infant School and then transfer to the Junior School after three years. We are proposing to change this pattern so that all children in Swaffham can attend one of two all-through primary schools (from Reception to the end of Year 6). We will do this by;

- Extending the age range of Swaffham CofE Junior Academy, to become an all-through Primary school for up to 420 children (60 pupils in each year group). Provision for pre-school children will be included. This school will be known as Swaffham CofE Primary Academy. An investment will be made by Norfolk County Council to support the expansion of the school to a primary school.

The Headteachers and Chair of Governors is also undertaking a consultation on a proposal to change the age range of Swaffham CE VC Infant School, to become an all through primary school for 240 children (30 children in a year group). Please follow this link to see the consultation document; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/swaffham>

Why we feel the changes are needed

The Governors, the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust and Norfolk County Council believe the changes would benefit all children and young people in Swaffham because;

- They will provide sufficient places to meet future demand due to housing and population growth
- Norfolk County Council's policy on school organisation is to favour all through primary schools where these are achievable.

There are a number of considerations that Norfolk County Council take into account when considering changes to organisations of schools. These include school leadership, performance, impact on the community, diversity of provision, need for places, travel, early years provision and special education provision. The overall driving force is to ensure any change is in the best interest of children's education and achievement.

The earliest the change could happen is 1 September 2020.

We will be holding drop-in events where you can come and find out more about these proposals, by attending any of the dates below:

- Wednesday 7 November, 2 – 3pm, at Swaffham Infant School
- Friday 9 November, 9 – 10am, at Swaffham CofE Junior Academy
- Wednesday 21 November, 6 – 7pm, at Swaffham CofE Junior Academy
- Thursday 22 November, 6 – 7pm, at Swaffham Infant School

If you are unable to attend these events but would like to comment on our reorganisation proposals please:

- complete the attached form and hand it to the school office
- or write to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 29), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR,
- or email schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- or access our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/swaffham>

We need all responses by 13 December 2018.

Swaffham CofE Primary Academy

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Let us know what you think of our proposal.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change the age range of Swaffham CofE Junior Academy to become a primary school? Please tick a box.

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither agree or disagree Disagree
- Strongly Disagree Don't know

Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision of the children? Please write in the box below.

We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether or not we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to change the age range at Swaffham Infant School, to become a primary school.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Norfolk County Council's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Norfolk County Council will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please tell us who you are, (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): _____

At which school? _____

What is your postcode? _____

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by returning this completed form to:

- Your school office
- Posting it to Swaffham School Organisation Consultation (DNEAT), 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5ES.

This consultation ends on 13 December 2018

What happens next

The Governors, the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust, the Diocese of Norwich and Norfolk County Council will listen to the consultation feedback. The Trustees of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust will then make a decision about whether or not to proceed to the next stage. If we decide to go ahead, we would then have to publish a formal public notice and seek approval from the Regional School Commissioner.