

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND**

**NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES  
AT WILLOW FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Local Authority Proposals and Contact Details**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN to :

- Enlarge the premises which will increase the capacity of **Willow Fields Primary School, Winslow Close, Sunderland SR5 5RZ** from 140 places to 315 places with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

Willow Fields Primary School is a maintained primary school maintained by Sunderland City Council.

Willow Fields Primary School is to relocate to a new school building in September 2021. The current school building is based at Winslow Close, Sunderland. The school accommodates 140 primary aged children and has a 20 place nursery.

The new building will be based at the former Maplewood School site, Redcar Road, Sunderland. It is proposed that the new building will have the capacity for 315 children in total or 45 children per year group.

It is proposed that from September 2021 the school operates with a Pupil Admission Number of 30 children per year group with a total maximum number on roll of 210 pupils. This is an increase on the current school capacity of 70 pupils.

As stated above, the actual capacity of the new premises will be 45 children per year group with a total capacity of 315 places. Additional places will be made available as pupil requirements in the area increase.

**Reason for the Enlargement / Increased Capacity at Willow Fields Primary School**

Willow Fields Primary School is currently over capacity in 3 of 7 year groups. The current school has neither the capacity nor additional support resources to support this ongoing oversubscription.

The current building has insufficient physical capacity to provide 1 classroom per form of entry, with 5 general class bases for 7 year groups. The proposed expansion of the school will provide sufficient class bases and supporting areas for both a 210 and a 315 place school.

New housing proposals in the North Sunderland area will place pressure on the sufficiency of existing school places. Within statutory walking distance of the new Willow Field Primary School site at Redcar Road there are proposals for in excess of 900 new homes. This level of housing development is estimated to require over 210 school places, the equivalent of a new primary school.

The proposal to increase the capacity of Willow Fields Primary School is associated with the

already approved proposal to relocate the school to a new building at the former Maplewood School site in North Sunderland. This proposal was approved by Sunderland City Council's Cabinet in March 2019. This proposal is to increase the physical capacity of the new build by 175 places over those currently available within the school's current buildings.

### **Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area**

In the first instance the increased capacity at Willow Fields Primary School will not be fully utilised. The overall capacity of the school will result in the creation of 175 new places. However, in the first instance only 70 places will be made available. This will reduce the potential displacement of pupils from existing schools and academies.

### **Project Costs**

The costs associated with the increased capacity at Willow Fields Primary School are contained within the wider £5m project budget allocated towards the provision of a new school building at the former Maplewood school site.

Current funding legislation allows for the allocation of a cost per pupil revenue growth fund. Subject to funding legislation remaining unchanged from the 2019/20 academic year this provides the facility for any good or outstanding schools increasing admission numbers as a result of a defined school place planning requirement to receive the equivalent per pupil funding for any period outside the normal funding round. It is proposed that, subject to the school satisfying the qualifying criteria required to receive support, Willow Fields Primary School is allocated Growth Funding to meet additional revenue requirement associated with this proposed expansion.

### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

Willow Fields Primary School is currently oversubscribed in 3 of 7 year groups. The expansion of facilities available to the school will ensure sufficient capacity exists within the school to meet the needs of oversubscribed year groups.

There will be no change to the existing admissions criteria at Willow Field Primary School post expansion. The school will continue to offer places according to Sunderland Council's Co-ordinated School Admissions Scheme.

### **Displaced Pupils**

There will be no pupil displacement as a consequence of this proposal. Pupils currently attending Willow Fields Primary School will continue on roll at the new school site.

### **Impact on the Community**

The community will benefit from the availability of increased primary school places. This will result in more parents and carers within the North Sunderland area benefiting from the opportunity to access a primary school place within statutory walking distance of their home address.

Families moving into the area will have a greater opportunity to secure school places for children across multiple year groups at a single school.

### **Balance of Denominational Provision**

There will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the school does not have a religious character.

### **Special Educational Needs Provision (SEND)**

The new build at Willow Fields Primary School enhances the facilities already available within the school's existing buildings for pupils with SEND. There will be further ongoing engagement to ensure the needs of children with SEND attending the primary setting are met.

### **Travel**

The Council has considered the impact of travel within this proposal. The increase in capacity at the school will ensure that suitable primary school places are available within statutory walking distance for pupils from the existing school and new developments proposed for the former college site at Hylton Lane as well as new proposed housing sites.

### **Consultation**

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the following dates:

- 2nd October 2019 to the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and the website of Willow Fields Primary School. Consultees included parents, staff, pupils, the local ward councillors and staff representatives (unions).

The Local Authority also held a consultation event for both parents and carers of children currently attending the school and for the general public at Willow Fields Primary School on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Attendees were directed to provide feedback on the proposal through the above online consultation

The consultation received 34 responses with 30 (88.24%) of the responses in agreement with the proposal to increase the capacity of Willow Fields Primary School from 140 places to 315 places.

### **Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposal**

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: [alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0191 5611372

Post: Retained Education Functions Lead, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

*By e-mail to :-*

[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Or by post to :-*

*Alan Rowan*

*Retained Education Functions Lead*

*Civic Centre*

*Burdon Road*

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*SR2 7DN*

Signed : Patrick Melia,  
Chief Executive,  
Sunderland City Council.

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