

Bolton Council

School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2018

This is a copy of the Complete Proposals to expand primary school provision at Gaskell CP, Thomas Holden Street, Bolton. BL1 2QG.

1. School and Local Authority Details

Name of school: Gaskell CP, Thomas Holden Street, Bolton. BL1 2QG.

Name of Local Authority: Bolton Council, Department of People, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bolton. BL1 1RU.

Contact Details: Hina Maisuria-Hill, Senior Asset Management Officer, Bolton Council, Department of People, 1st floor Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU, or via email at hina.maisuria-hill@bolton.gov.uk

2. Description of Proposal and Implementation

Bolton Council is proposing to expand Gaskell CP School by remodelling and physically extending the existing building and permanently raising its Planned Admission Number from 45 to 60 with effect from 1st September 2020 for all year groups, creating 105 additional pupil places.

In September 2019 the school admitted offered an additional 105 pupils across Reception to Year 6 as a temporary increase, but the Council is now proposing to make this a permanent increase in the number of pupil places offered by the school.

The current number of pupils on roll at the school is 375 (Rec to Y6) and the current physical capacity is 420 (including the recently added temporary modular classrooms). The Council is proposing to permanently increase the school's capacity to 420 places by physically extending the school which is subject to a planning application and which is yet to be determined. If approved, the construction works will be undertaken over the course of the next 12 months with a view to providing permanent additional accommodation from September 2020.

3. Objectives

Bolton has seen a rise in the demand for pupil places in the Halliwell area of the borough and the proposed expansion of Gaskell CP School is intended to support this increased demand and respond to parental demand for local primary school provision.

Gaskell CP School was judged Good in its last Ofsted inspection and consistently receives a high number of applications for admission into reception each year, which often cannot be fully met.

Bolton Council therefore believes that the proposed expansion of Gaskell CP School will appropriately help in meeting the increased demand for places at a successful and popular school.

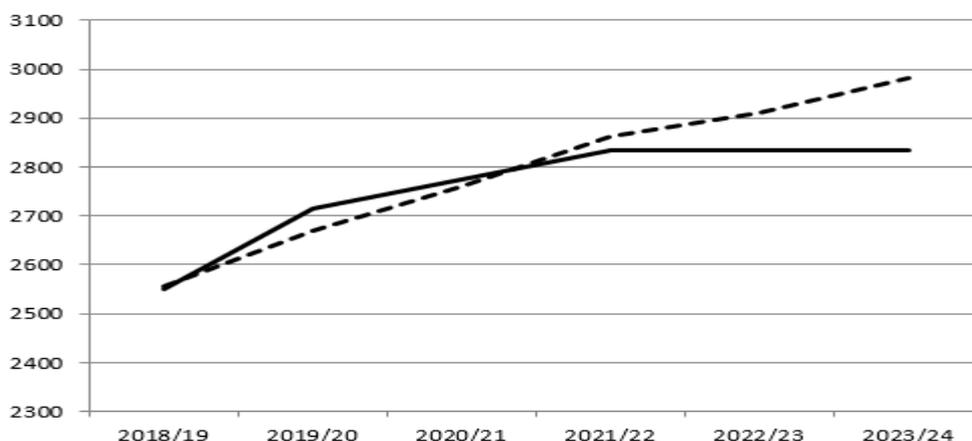
4. Project Costs

The capital cost of expanding Gaskell CP will be £1.7m, which will be met from Basic Need funding that has been allocated to Bolton from the DfE to meet the demands of pupil growth as well as funding from the Council’s schools’ capital programme.

5. Evidence of Demand

The demand from parents of Reception to Year 6 aged children who require a school place has risen over the last few years. The graph below shows that the demand for school places in the Halliwell area is expected to consistently exceed the number of places that are available in the local area. To accommodate this demand, an extra 105 temporary places across all year groups were made available at Gaskell CP from September 2019 with the provision of modular classrooms.

Halliwell		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Projected NOR (dotted line)		2,557	2,668	2,760	2,862	2,910	2,981
NOR Capacity (solid line)		2,550	2,715	2,775	2,835	2,835	2,835
Surplus Capacity %		-0.3	1.7	0.5	-1.0	-2.6	-5.1
Surplus		-7	47	15	-27	-75	-146



In order to meet the growing demand for places in Halliwell it is proposed that the total number of places for Reception to Year 6 pupils at Gaskell CP School be permanently increased from 315 to 420 and it is proposed that the school will permanently become a 2 form entry school from September 2020.

6. Description of Alterations

To cater for the additional demand of places in September 2019, temporary modular classroom units were provided at the school before the start of the new academic year. Plans have since been prepared which show how the school will be physically and permanently extended to create sufficient classroom space to cater for an increase in pupils from 315 to 420. However, as the proposal will be achieved by way of a physical extension to the school, this is presently the subject of a planning application which is yet to be determined. If approved, construction will be undertaken throughout the spring and summer, with a view that the works will be complete by September 2020.

7. Travel

Admission and transport arrangements for pupils attending the school will not be affected by these proposals and will remain as existing.

8. Consultation

Prior to the publication of the current Statutory Notice, a consultation exercise was undertaken, which ran from 14th October 2019 until 8th November 2019. Although this 'pre-publication' consultation exercise is no longer formally required (as per revised DfE guidance of 'Making significant changes' dated October 2018), it is nevertheless regarded as good practice to do so and there is a strong presumption that appropriate consultation will be undertaken with affected stakeholders.

Letters advising of the proposal were therefore sent to the parents and carers of Gaskell CP School pupils, governors and staff at the school and head teachers of all Bolton primary schools, as well as local ward councillors for the Halliwell area, local MPs, appropriate trade union bodies, and colleagues at the Roman Catholic Salford and Manchester Church of England Diocese.

All responses received in respect of the above were reported to the Executive Member for Children's Services for consideration at a meeting on the 9th December 2019. A copy of the report can be found at

www.bolton.gov.uk/website/Pages/Cabinetandcommittees.aspx

9. How to make representation

Within four weeks from the date of publication of the Statutory Proposal (ie no lo later than 13th January 2020) any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Hina Maisuria-Hill, Senior Asset Management Officer, Bolton Council, Department of People, 1st Floor Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU, or via email at hina.maisuria-hill@bolton.gov.uk