

St Bede's Catholic College



Consultation on increasing the Planned Admission Number from September 2018

Consultation Period

10th April 2017 – 8th May 2017

Introduction

St Bede's Catholic Academy situated on the west of Bristol serves the local and wider catholic community within the Diocese of Clifton. The present planned admissions number is 180 per year group in the 11-16 phase with a sixth form capacity of 200 students.

Within Bristol, the school population has been increasing steadily and Bristol City Council (BCC) has provided new primary school places to serve that need. That increased population is now working its way through to secondary level and in order to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all pupils in its area, Bristol with financial support from the Department for Education, is now investing in increasing capacity within the secondary sector.

The Department for Education has a strong expectation, especially in areas of basic need, that academies should consider how they can best support their Local Authority in meeting this duty. To help achieve this, academies can propose either an expansion of their school premises, increase their Planned Application Number (PAN) or admit over PAN.

A couple of Bristol Secondary schools have already started admitting extra numbers and St Bede's Governors have agreed plans to assist BCC in meeting the basic need to educate an increased number of children from 2018.

The Planned Admission Number (PAN) for the main school, 11 to 16, is currently 180 and Governor's have agreed to expand the College by one more form of entry, in each year group starting September 2018. This means the College will go from 7 Forms of entry to 8 Forms of entry by increasing the PAN to 207 pupils. This amounts to an additional 27 pupils in Year 2018/2019 and an overall capacity increase of 135 pupils from 2018 to 2022.

In order to provide for these additional children, Bristol City Council (BCC) has conducted an analysis of what this would mean in terms of curriculum and the consequent accommodation requirements. The analysis shows a need for 7 new classrooms, four of which will be designated as Science teaching areas and the associated resource, facilities and plant accommodation.

The new, purpose built teaching block will be situated within the grounds of the College.

Consultation

As part of the process of expanding our College Governors are now consulting with parents, carers and other stakeholders to provide the opportunity to hear views about the proposal.

To meet the increased numbers from September 2018 there are two public consultations to be undertaken, in a short space of time.

The first consultation is this one regarding the increase in the St Bede's Planned Admission Number as detailed and as required by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

The second consultation will be arranged by Bristol City Council Planning Department, the time for this will be determined when the agreed building plans are submitted to the planners.

Following feedback from these consultations the usual contracts and agreements for these matters will be arranged and undertaken between The Department for Education, Bristol City Council and St Bede's Governors.

If you wish to comment on the proposals to expand St Bede's Catholic College, increasing the Planned Admission Number from 180 to 207 from September 2018 please email: Consultation@stbcc.org

Attached is a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' which may be of help to you. Please use the College Website www.stbcc.org for additional information as these proposals develop.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q - What is being proposed?

To assist the City Council in addressing a shortage of Secondary School Places we propose an increase to the school's Planned Admission Number from 180 to 207.

To accommodate the increase in pupils, 7 new classrooms will be needed. The new building will be within the compound of the school site.

Q – My child currently attends St Bede's College how can I be assured that the high standards of current provision will be maintained if the College is expanded?

A – St Bede's is fully committed to maintaining its record for being a great place of learning. The increased number will not adversely affect the quality of education of the young people.

Q - Would St Bede's College be able to continue to provide a full and varied curriculum following the expansion?

A – The new classroom block will ensure that St Bede's can continue to provide the best curriculum for all the children taught at the College.

Q – Have you considered the impact of an expansion on transport, traffic flow and car parking?

A – This will be carefully worked out by the College, Planners and the Builders. St Bede's has a Travel Plan in place which will be considered as part of the overall development project. This will include parking and access to the College via all the available public transportations.

Q - Who is involved in the project?

A – St Bede's College Governors, Catholic Diocese of Clifton, Skanska (the builders) are working with Bristol City Council and the Local Education Partnership (LEP).

Q - What is the timetable for the build?

A - We hope that building work will commence towards the end of this academic year and be completed for the start of the 2018 – 2019 academic year.

Q – When would the new facilities open?

A - Subject to completion of the build, we would expect the new facilities to be operational from September 2018.

Q – How would admissions to St. Bede's given the increase in pupils be managed?

A – The same admissions arrangements and criteria would remain in place for the expanded College and the catchment area for the school would remain unchanged. The only difference would be that a total of 207 places would eventually be available per year group.

Q – Would this expansion impact upon the existing staff at the school?

A – The school would recruit new staff as and where necessary to enable the College to teach and care effectively for the additional children.

Q - Will there be an increase in the number of students admitted to the Areté Sixth Form?

A - No, there will be no change to the arrangements for our Post 16 student intake.