



Consultation on our proposal for Fulbrook to be a 9-16 extended secondary school beyond 2024.

Question:

Do you agree with the proposal for Fulbrook to remain a 9-16 extended secondary school, with a review of the school organisation in the Fulbrook Pyramid to have happened by August 2029?

Please take the time to read this consultation document and complete our [questionnaire](#). Alternatively, paper copies of the questionnaire are available from our school reception.

Your feedback is important to us.

1. Context

Having a long history of working together as a group of schools, it was in September 2018, when the Governing Bodies and Head Teachers from Fulbrook, Swallowfield, Aspley Guise, Husborne Crawley, Woburn and Ridgmont schools (known collectively as the Fulbrook Pyramid) agreed to work even more closely together, to provide the best quality, 'all-through' education, from 2 to 16 years, in our local schools, for our local families.

As a result, approval was sought from the Regional Schools' Commissioner for a significant change to Fulbrook. The academy ran a full consultation, to which there was overwhelming support for the extended secondary school proposal. The results of the consultation helped to inform and support our business case, which was submitted for consideration by the Head Teacher Board, who subsequently made their recommendation to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

In August 2021, Fulbrook was informed by Dame Kate Dethridge (the Regional Schools Commissioner at that time) that she had reviewed and approved our request for a change in age range to a 9-16 extended secondary school, from 1st September 2022, with further transition to 11-16 secondary school. This included the reduction of the Year 5 published admissions number (PAN) in the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24. This was also to align with the potential move from three- to two-tier locally and our feeder lower schools becoming primary schools.

Funding was awarded from CBC's Schools for the Future programme and planning was approved for a significant development of the school site. A programme of

activities, including but not limited to curriculum development and staff recruitment, was started, to develop the school into a 9-16 extended secondary.

In June 2022, Fulbrook entered into discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council and the Schools for the Future team, about the possibility of remaining an extended secondary for a longer period than originally planned and to increase the intake of Year 5 pupils (from the proposed one form of entry to two forms). This was in response to one of the lower schools in the pyramid, Aspley Guise Village School, not yet being able to pursue its plan to become a primary school.

Fulbrook's senior leaders and governors met to discuss this proposal and decided it was right for the school to support the local community in this way, agreeing to work with CBC to develop the school further and to offer these additional primary places.

In September 2022, Fulbrook started its life as an extended secondary school, currently with students in Years 5 to 9. The first phase of works at Fulbrook is complete and the steel frame for the sports hall is taking shape.

CBC is committed to the extended secondary model for Fulbrook and is investing in the school estate for this. The new teaching block has been redesigned to reflect the increased capacity of our school, as we look to remain an extended secondary for longer than anticipated. The planning application for this redesign is being submitted in the coming weeks.

As an academy, we need approval and support from the Regional Director (formerly known as the Regional Schools Commissioner) and this has necessitated that we go out to consultation again, specifically on the question of being an extended secondary in the longer term.

When the wider Leighton and Linslade clusters consult on its transition to two-tier, the local authority proposes that all the schools in the cluster are included in this consultation to ensure pupil place planning is considered as a whole.

Whilst a date for the transition of the wider Leighton Linslade cluster has not yet been determined, the local authority commits to a review of the school organisation of the Fulbrook Pyramid within five years from the point at which any extension is proposed. This arrangement would therefore be reviewed on or before August 2029 and a proposal put to the Department for Education (DfE) for approval, in line with the DfE guidance and procedures.

The consultation focuses on this question and asks whether you agree that Fulbrook should continue to offer these primary school places, and therefore remain an extended secondary (9-16) school for an additional period of time, beyond 2024, until such a time as a review of the Fulbrook Pyramid of schools is undertaken, no later than August 2029.

2. What will being an extended secondary for a longer period of time look like?

We are already taking a phased approach to becoming a 9 -16 school. From 2022, our Year 8 pupils were able to continue through the school, into Year 9, automatically, unless they opted to apply to another school. No application was or will be required from Fulbrook students, who wish to stay at the school. We have already consulted on our admissions policies, which remain unchanged. We have one point of entry currently and that is Year 5. In-year applications can be made at any time for Years 5 through to 9. In future years this will extend to Years 10 and 11. From 2024, our draft admissions policy moves to a single point of entry at Year 7. However, should we receive approval to remain an extended secondary beyond 2024, our admissions policies will change to reflect this; Fulbrook would have two points of entry: Year 5 and Year 7.

By September 2024, Fulbrook will have seven-year groups, from Year 5 to Year 11 (ages 9 - 16).

As Swallowfield has recently changed its age range and is now a primary school, it retained its first cohort of Year 5 pupils in September 2022. The Year 5 admission number to Fulbrook reduced at that point. We propose to continue taking two forms of entry in Years 5 and 6 (while there is the local need for these pupil places) and four forms in each of the Key Stage 3 and 4 cohorts (Years 7 -11).

The table below illustrates the change in number of students, for which the school will have capacity, over the next five years and beyond. *Please note, this gives a 'best case scenario' for pupil recruitment and retention into each cohort, based on the current number on roll and our proposed PAN.*

Academic Year	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total	Max.
2022-23	47	125	100	117	61			450	510
2023-24	60	47	125	100	117	61		510	600
2024-25	60	60	120	125	100	117	61	643	720
2025-26	60	60	120	120	125	100	117	702	720
2026-27	60	60	120	120	120	125	100	705	720

Table 1. Change of Fulbrook pupil population 2022-2026

3. What changes are needed?

3.1 Accommodation

The approved expansion plans are currently designed to accommodate 600 students. The first phase of works at Fulbrook is complete and the building of the new Sports Hall has commenced. To reflect the proposed increased capacity of our school and in order to continue accommodating up to 120 Upper Key Stage 2 pupils (Years 5 and 6) beyond 2024, CBC is investing in additional and improved facilities for Fulbrook. The new teaching block has been redesigned and the planning application for this is being submitted in the coming weeks.

This redesign will also allow us to provide primary classrooms and teaching spaces in our current Block B, for use predominantly by the primary aged-pupils of our extended secondary school.

Planning for the reconfiguration of the front of the premises has already been secured and will provide an in/out school bus 'drop off' area, as well as additional staff/visitor parking facilities and cycle/scooter parking for students. Slight amendments to these plans, to cater for the additional pupil places longer term, will be submitted along with the redesign of the new teaching block.

3.2 How will being an extended secondary school affect the delivery of the curriculum?

There will be no change to the way in which we currently teach Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9), or our plans for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). The curricula for these students are taught with a subject specialist approach, by secondary trained and experienced staff.

The teaching of our Year 5 and 6 cohorts, however, will follow the primary model of teaching, whereby pupils will be taught predominantly by one class teacher. They will, however, have access to some of the school's specialist facilities, such as the food technology room and music suite.

We shall continue to work closely with the Fulbrook family of schools (the Fulbrook Pyramid) to ensure that our curricula are aligned; to ensure that our primary-aged pupils and those in Years 5 and 6 at Swallowfield Primary School have as similar an educational experience as possible; and to ensure that transition between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 (when students move into Year 7 at Fulbrook) is as smooth as possible.

3.3 Pastoral Support for primary-aged pupils in an extended secondary setting

Knowledge of individual pupils and families and their needs, from an early stage and over an extended period of time, is one of the real strengths of the Fulbrook Pyramid and an all-through approach to schooling.

There are already highly productive links between all Fulbrook Pyramid schools, ensuring the best possible provision and high expectations for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); these will be built upon through regular meetings to discuss pedagogy and practice as well as the learning and progress of individual and groups of pupils as they make the transition from lower/primary school through to the extended secondary provision at Fulbrook.

Our older students have always and will continue to have opportunities to lead activities with our younger pupils. This helps to develop a sense of school community and improves relationships between the youngest and oldest cohorts.

The teaching of our primary-aged pupils will take place predominantly in Block B of the school. This will give our younger students a sense of their own 'safe space' and discrete part of the school. Their involvement in the wider life of the school, for example when they move to specialist facilities and are part of whole school events, will help to make them feel included, valued and an integral part of the school.

The staff teaching and working with our current Year 5 cohort are experienced with this age group and have been specifically recruited or retained to be our Key Stage 2 team. Future recruitment will focus not only on the secondary requirements to deliver the full KS3 and KS4 curricula, but also on ensuring we have the right staff to work with the 120 primary-aged pupils we shall have in the fullness of time.

4. What are the arrangements for the consultation process?

The consultation will run from Monday 28th November 2022 to Monday 2nd January 2023. The statutory period of consultation is four weeks; our consultation will run for six weeks to take account of the holiday period. We shall consult with and want to hear the views of:

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Parents/carers of every registered student at the school
- Fulbrook students
- Parents of potential pupils in our catchment area
- Staff who work at Fulbrook
- Our local communities and our current site users
- All other schools – feeder and destination – including their staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors
- Nursery and pre-school providers
- Parish councils
- Professional Associations and Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposal

We shall hold a couple of drop in sessions at Fulbrook on Wednesday 7th December (from 17:00 to 19:00) and on Saturday 10th December (from 10:00 to 14:00), at the Woburn Sands Community Market. It is at these drop-in sessions where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to pose questions. There is also the chance for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals.

Having received stakeholders' views, the governors are required to formally decide on the proposal to be an extended secondary school beyond the already approved date of 2024. There will be a further short period for representations to be made. The agreement of the Local Authority and the Regional Director (DfE) is required before we can proceed.

The full timetable follows:

Consultation Timetable

Event	Timescale
Consultation Process	Monday 28 th November 2022 – Monday 2 nd January 2023
Consultation Drop-ins	<p>Wednesday 7th December: School Hall 17:00-19:00</p> <p>Saturday 10th December 2022: Woburn Sands Community Market 10:00-14:00</p> <p>Parents, carers, the wider community and any interested parties are welcome at either/both drop-in events</p>
Analysis of responses and preparation of Consultation Report	3 rd – 6 th January 2023
Governors consider responses to consultation and determine proposal to be an extended secondary longer term	w/c 9 th January 2023
If the Governors decide to proceed, the decision and the reasons for it will be communicated within one week to those listed opposite; the decision and Consultation Report will be posted on the school's website.	<p>by 20th January 2023</p> <p>The Local Authority The parent/carer of every registered Fulbrook student Anyone else we deem appropriate</p>
Governors to submit a full business case to the Regional Director	by 20 th January 2023
Publication of statutory proposal	Before the end of January 2023
Representation period	February 2023 – March 2023
Advisory Board to consider business case and proposal	February 2023
Implementation	The Governors will inform the Secretary of State for Education of the decision.
Final implementation of proposals	1 st September 2024

Table 2. Consultation Timetable