

Fulbrook Middle School

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Consultation on our

Proposal to Extend the Age Range of

Fulbrook Academy

to a 9 - 16 extended secondary school

From 2020-2021

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Consultation on our proposal to extend the age range of Fulbrook Academy, to a 9 - 16 extended secondary school, from 2020/2021

1. Context

It is the collective vision and remit of the Governing Bodies and Head Teachers from Fulbrook, Swallowfield Lower School, Aspley Guise Lower School, Husborne Crawley Lower School, Woburn Lower School and Ridgmont Lower School (known as the Fulbrook Pyramid) to provide the best quality education in our local schools, for our local families. Over the last year, we have been reviewing opportunities for closer collaboration and, in September 2018, we agreed to work more closely together to provide an 'All Through' education provision from 2 to 16 years. The proposed provision will be distinctive, with an ethos and values reflecting those important to local people and with high levels of achievement at its heart.

In order to achieve this, Fulbrook now needs to follow some key formal procedures in order to become an extended secondary (9-16) school.

In the past year, we have seen changes to school transport serving our area, making it difficult and/or more expensive for the young people of Woburn Sands to travel to our designated destination schools. In addition, significant and continuing housing development in the Leighton Buzzard area, is putting pressure on capacity at these destination schools.

Discussions with parents and carers of existing and future pupils of Fulbrook, as well as with other interested stakeholders, have resulted in overwhelming support of the proposal to offer high quality education, for pupils up to the age of 16 years, in our local communities.

Central Bedfordshire Council continues to work with schools across the county, to review places and plan for the impact of demographic changes across the area. As demonstrated by the Council's 'Schools for the Future' programme, it is vital that we have the right schools, in the right places, delivering the best education. The pressures on secondary provision in our destination schools, coupled with the difficulty our pupils face in getting transport to those schools, gives a clear indication that extending our age range is needed.

2. What does the change in age range mean?

There will be a phased approach to becoming a 9 - 16 school. From 2020, the Year 8 pupils will automatically continue through the school, into Year 9, unless they opt to apply to another school. No application will be required from Fulbrook pupils, who wish to stay at the school. Year 5 admissions will remain unchanged.

By September 2022 Fulbrook will have seven year groups from Year 5 to Year 11 (ages 9 - 16). Please see the diagram below.

It is envisaged that one or more of the Pyramid's lower schools may be required to retain their Year 5 pupils from September 2023, reducing the Year 5 admission number to Fulbrook at that point.

Date	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
Sept 2020	113	112	120	110	111			566
Sept 2021	117	113	112	120	110	111		683
Sept 2022	109	117	113	112	120	110	111	792
Sept 2023	66	109	117	113	112	120	110	747
Sept 2024	39	66	109	117	113	112	120	676

Table 1. Change of Fulbrook pupil population 2020-2024

3. Why change the age range?

The Governors and Head Teachers of the schools in the Fulbrook Pyramid have looked at this in detail. The Head Teacher and Business Manager at Fulbrook have met with Head Teachers in schools that have made the same type of change to their age range, in order to learn from their experiences. In summary, the reasons for changing the age range are:

- to improve standards, by reducing transition points and increasing collaborative and co-ordinated work with Swallowfield, Woburn, Aspley Guise, Ridgmont and Husborne Crawley Lower Schools, delivering a cohesive 2 -16 education model for the local community;
- to assist with the growing pressures on our destination schools as a result of the housing development in the Leighton Buzzard area;
- to alleviate the pressure on pupils having to travel to Leighton Buzzard;
- Fulbrook's capacity and desire to deliver high quality secondary education up to GCSE;
- the multiplicity of arrangements, across the local boroughs, which has created a system that is confusing for parents and carers;
- dwindling numbers of middle schools nationally, resulting in difficulties with recruitment (limited career options for staff);
- teachers are no longer trained for the middle years and see themselves as either primary or secondary practitioners.

4. What changes are needed?

4.1 Accommodation

The school buildings are currently set up to accommodate 440 pupils, consisting of:

- 14 standard classrooms
- 2 science labs
- 1 art classroom
- 1 design technology classroom
- 1 food technology classroom
- 1 IT suite
- 1 library
- 1 gym
- 1 hall
- 1 pastoral hub
- 2 learning lodges
- 1 small group classroom

Some adaptation will be needed, to create additional capacity and to meet the needs of the modern curriculum. This includes a sports hall, a music and performance area (converted from the current gym), an additional science lab and six additional standard classrooms. Both current science labs will require upgrading.

Reconfiguration of the front of the premises will be required to enable an in/out school bus 'drop off' area and additional staff/visitor parking facilities.

It is important to note that this proposal does not affect the leadership and governance of any of the schools within the Fulbrook Pyramid.

4.2 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 2 and 3 curricula are already taught with a subject specialist approach. The subjects we teach, and shall continue to teach in Key Stages 2 and 3 (including Year 9), are the traditional national curriculum subjects. Our curriculum would aim to provide excellence in these traditional curriculum areas, whilst leaving plenty of space for other options in Key Stage 4, such as product design, computing, art, drama, music, additional languages, PE as an academic discipline as well as statutory PE, media studies, catering and business/economics. In constructing our final curriculum offer, and considering any additional subjects, we shall have as a rationale:

- The contribution of a subject to a pupil's development in terms of knowledge, skill and personal fulfilment;

- The ‘currency’ of a subject in terms of its future attraction to higher education and/or employers.

See the tables below for the Key Stage 4 draft curriculum model.

Key Stage 4 Core Curriculum

Subject	Number of lessons a week (each lesson 50 minutes)
English	5
Maths	5
Science (Combined and Triple Science)	5
Physical Education	2
PSHE	1
Total	18

Key Stage 4 Options Curriculum – draft model

Subject (Pupils select four subjects from the list below to total 12 lessons per week)	Number of lessons a week (each lesson 50 minutes)
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History, Geography, Religious Education, French, Spanish, Computing, Art, Drama, Music, Media Studies, Physical Education, Business/Economics, Catering, Product Design, Health and Social Care/Child Development

Table 2. Draft KS4 Curriculum Model

We are currently developing links with school and college based post-16 providers and shall ensure that our work with these partners grows, with opportunities for our pupils to work with students and teachers of advanced level courses. We shall ensure that our pupils have access to high quality and impartial advice and guidance once they reach the transition to post-16 learning. Fulbrook already has an established careers programme and links with local businesses, which will be further developed.

At Fulbrook the current staff team already includes a high number of graduates in their subject specialism and a cohort of teachers with relevant secondary training and

experience. Further training will be given to ensure all teachers have the most up to date knowledge of GCSE teaching.

There will be a need for additional recruitment to the secondary phase as our secondary provision develops and grows. Fulbrook has a significant partnership with the University of Bedfordshire, as a partner school in School Direct teacher training (both primary and secondary) with placement opportunities for trainee teachers, as well as other Teacher Training providers, leading to quality recruitment of newly qualified teachers. Development of these partnerships will create further recruitment opportunities, as well as possible shared recruitment and training with other schools.

Development of existing teachers is underway and will be enhanced as the curriculum is developed. Subject leaders are investigating exam-board specifications for GCSEs and will be accessing training provided by these exam boards over the coming two years.

We have almost three full school years before GCSE courses begin and we shall use these to ensure that every member of staff (teaching and support) is fully prepared for the change. Any additional staffing needs will be met with equally high-quality and suitably-trained or experienced colleagues. We see developing an all-through education model as an exciting draw to attract the best teachers and support staff to work with us.

Through a combination of training, development and recruitment we are confident that we will be able to build upon the existing high levels of staff expertise and dedication, to create an excellent team of KS2, 3 and 4 staff.

4.3 Pastoral

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. By the time our pupils reach secondary age, both they and their families will have strong relationships with the leaders and staff at the school.

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 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 progress through their secondary education.

Fulbrook has an excellent record of promoting and improving good behaviour and care for others. The school has a very effective pastoral programme and good relationships with parents and carers, as well as with outside support agencies. In dealing with an

increasing age range, we shall ensure that our staff are fully trained in some of the issues, which can become preoccupations for older pupils as they reach and go through the later teenage years. We shall ensure that pupils have access to high quality support and care and we shall have the advantage of relationships with parents and families, which will have been developed from a very early age. We already have a small and effective team of additional professionals, who work effectively with pupils requiring additional pastoral support, beyond our excellent form tutoring programme.

Fulbrook places huge value on the development of individual talent, enthusiasms and interests across and beyond the traditional curriculum. Opportunities for more able and talented pupils at each stage will be extended, with the possibility of greater student leadership, sporting, artistic and creative opportunities for all. Extra-curricular provision and out-of-class learning will continue to feature strongly. This important area of the offer will develop further, as we recognise the vital role it plays in enabling young people to discover new passions and interests. It also helps to develop independence. We plan to develop our range of trips and visits to suit an older age-range, as well as provide similar opportunities to those offered by larger, established schools, including initiatives such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our older pupils will have opportunities to lead activities with younger pupils and to take part in work experience opportunities, which will be extended through our good community partnerships with local businesses and other organisations.

5. How will school admissions be managed?

Currently, the Governing Board, as the admission authority, determines the school's Admission Policy and arrangements and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The only change to our admissions policy will be in terms of the age range, moving to a provision for ages 9 - 16 from 2020 (when we shall keep our first Year 9 cohort). Further changes may be made in the future, should one or more of the lower schools decide to make changes to keep their Year 5 and 6 pupils.

We are also consulting on our admission arrangements. The full document "Consultation on Fulbrook's admission criteria" is available on the school website, with details on how to respond to that consultation.

6. What are the arrangements for the consultation process?

The consultation will run from Monday 3rd December to Monday 21st January (seven weeks). During that period, we shall consult with and want to hear the views of:

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Milton Keynes Council

- Parents of every registered pupil at the school
- Pupils
- Parents of potential pupils in our catchment area
- Staff who work at the school
- Our local communities and our current site users
- All other schools – feeder and destination
- 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 9th January (from 18:30 to 20:00) and on Saturday 12th January (from 10:00 to 16:00). It is at these drop in sessions where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to pose questions. There is also the opportunity for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals.

Having received stakeholders' views, the Governors are required to formally decide on the age range change. If it proceeds, it must then publish what is known as a statutory proposal because the age range change is for more than two years. There will be a further short period for representations to be made. The agreement of the Local Authority and the Regional Schools Commissioner (DfE) is required before we can proceed.

The full timetable follows, but processes from January 2019 onwards will only be taken forward if the Governors decide to proceed, based on the feedback from this consultation process.

Consultation Timetable

Event	Timescale
Consultation Process	3 rd December 2018 – 21 st January 2019
Consultation Drop-ins	Wednesday 9 th January: School Hall 18:30-20:00 (parents and carers) Saturday 12 th January 2019 the School's Year 5 Block 10:00-16:00 (parents, carers and the wider community)
Analysis of responses and preparation of Consultation Report	22 nd -24 th January 2019

Governors consider responses to consultation and determine proposal for the extended age range.	January 2019
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.	February 2019 The Local Authority The parents of every registered Fulbrook pupil Anyone else we deem appropriate
Governors to submit a full business case to the Regional Schools Commissioner	February 2019
Publication of statutory proposal	February 2019
Representation period	February 2019 – March 2019
Regional Schools Commissioner decision	March 2019
Implementation	The Governors will inform the Secretary of State for Education of the decision.
Final Implementation of Proposals	1 st September 2020

Table 3. Consultation Timetable

7. Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Q1 - When will the fully extended school site be open?

A – Subject to obtaining all the required consents, it is proposed that the school site will have all additional buildings and conversions completed by September 2021.

Q2 – What impact will the building programme have on current students and their use of the school site?

A – There may be some minor restrictions on movement around the site. However, we shall ensure that delivery of the curriculum and the provision of recreational space will be subject to minimum disruption during the building programme.

Q3 – Are there sufficient funds to develop the site appropriately for this significant increase in students and staff?

A – The school is reliant on the Local Authority including this project in its 'Schools for the Future' programme, under which there are funds from Central Government in respect of recognised increased 'basic need', as well as from S106 monies paid by housing developers to the Council for education provision.

Q4 – With extra students on the same site, will the experience of school life for Fulbrook students become more cramped?

A – The school has considered carefully how and where buildings can be located to reduce the impact on recreational space. There will be an incremental and phased approach, increasing by one year group, per year, over three years.

Q5 – How will this proposal impact on staffing?

A – An advantage of extending our age range is the opportunity to increase the number of specialist teachers to develop the curriculum to GCSE. The phased approach to the extension will enable development of current staff and recruitment of new staff, in a strategic manner, which will see teachers in place in good time to provide the GCSE curriculum and which will impact positively across the whole school.

Q6 – Have alternative solutions other than the extended age range at Fulbrook been considered?

A – Central Bedfordshire Council has been discussing its ‘Schools for the Future’ project with the Fulbrook Pyramid Schools and the Leighton Linslade cluster of schools (also known as Learning Community 2). There has been a consultation running for the expansion of Vandyke Upper School due to the levels of house building in Leighton Buzzard. However, when considering the principles set out in Central Bedfordshire Council’s Schools Organisation Plan 2017-2022, the expansion does not address issues for pupils in this area. The principles are set out below and Fulbrook’s proposal addresses eight of the nine principles:

- 1) Local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.
- 2) Create schools that are of appropriate size to be financially and educationally viable.
- 3) Support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools.
- 4) Further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities.
- 5) The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0-19 and reduce the negative impact of school transfer points.
- 6) To support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA).
- 7) To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use.
- 8) To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice.
- 9) To support vulnerable learners in Area Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision with mainstream schools.

Q7 – How will the increase in numbers of students and staff impact on the school’s immediate neighbours?

A – Traffic management plans will be a key element in the process of gaining permission for the building programme from the planning authorities. Fulbrook would look to reconfigure the front of the school to create an in/out drive through for buses; additional parking for staff and visitors will also be created.

Q8 – How will the leadership and governance of the Fulbrook Pyramid schools be affected?

A – There are no plans within this proposal to change the leadership and governance of any of the schools within the Fulbrook Pyramid.

Q9 – How will the school manage Year 5 pupils on the same site as Year 11 pupils?

A – This is successfully managed in other extended secondary or all-through models. For example, staggered breaks and lunchtimes, if deemed necessary, can be implemented.

Q10 – May my child leave at the end of Year 8 to go to one of the upper schools?

A – There will still be parental choice. Pupils may leave the school to join another school at any time.

Q11 – Would the delivery of the GCSE curriculum be introduced to pupils in Year 9?

A – It is likely that – at least for the first couple of Year 9 cohorts – the GCSE curriculum would be introduced during the final year of KS3 (Year 9). This is the approach of many upper and secondary schools.

Q12 – Is there a need for secondary provision in Woburn Sands?

A – Increasing numbers of families and members of the local community are of the opinion that there is a need. Difficulties with transport to Leighton Buzzard and increasing pressures on capacity at destination schools, leads us to believe that extending Fulbrook would provide a good alternative. There is a desire from local families to have a local school for local children.

Consultation on our proposal to extend the age range of Fulbrook Academy to a 9 – 16 extended secondary school from 2020/2021

Please take the time to read our consultation document and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us.

All responses must be received by noon on Monday 21st January 2019.

Please answer the following question:

Should Fulbrook Academy become a 9-16 extended secondary school, with the first Year 9 cohort being able to remain at the school from September 2020?

YES	DON'T KNOW	NO

Comment (Please give the reasons for your answer if you wish)

1. Please tell us who you are. We intend to analyse responses, according to stakeholder group, and are required to complete an Equality Impact Assessment, under the 'Making significant changes to an open academy' guidance from the Department for Education.

Please tick all the boxes that apply in the list below:

Tick	Stakeholder Group
	Parent of a student(s) currently attending the school
	Member of the Governing Body at the school
	Member of staff who works at the school
	Parent of a child in a local lower school, primary or early years provision
	Governor or Head Teacher at a neighbouring school
	Member of the local community
	Representative of the Local Authority
	Other (please specify)

Gender

Male		Female		Non-binary/third gender	
Prefer to self-describe				Prefer not to say	

Age

Under 16 yrs		16-19 yrs		20-29 yrs		30-39 yrs	
40-49 yrs		50-59 yrs		60-69 yrs		70+ yrs	

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes		No	
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To which of these ethnic groups do you belong?

Asian or Asian British		Chinese		White British	
Black or Black British		Mixed		Other ethnic group	

If 'Other ethnic group', please specify _____

What is your postcode? _____

2. We shall respect any desire to remain anonymous (no one will be publicly identified in the report on the consultation), but if you are content for us to know your name (or names, if this is a joint response), please enter it/them here:

3. If you would like us to send you a copy of the final consultation report, please provide an email address here:

Please return the completed questionnaire to:

consultation@fulbrookmiddleschool.org.uk

Alternatively, please hand deliver or post to the school:

Chair of Governors, Fulbrook Academy, Weathercock Lane, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8NP.

All responses must be received by noon on Monday 21st January 2019, please.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Data Protections Act 2018

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Fulbrook Academy for the purpose of analysing feedback to the consultation on the proposed extension of age range to Fulbrook Academy. The information collected may be disclosed to Governors of the school and its partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes. Information classification: Protected when complete.