

PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL CONSULTATION

***TO UNITE THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ONTO ONE SITE FROM
SEPTEMBER 2022 FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF AT LEAST 1 YEAR***

OAK HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

APRIL 2022

"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Background

- ▶ Oak Hill Church of England Primary School is a small rural voluntary controlled school providing places for children from 4 to 11 years of age
- ▶ The school serves the rural village communities of Alderton, Dumbleton and their surrounding areas
- ▶ The school operates from two sites approximately 5 miles apart. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 classes are based at the Dumbleton site. Children in Key Stage 2 classes are based at the Alderton site
- ▶ The school offers 15 places in its Reception class each year and has an overall capacity of 105 pupils



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Background

- ▶ Oak Hill Church of England Primary School was formed in 1981 when Alderton and Dumbleton Schools were merged
- ▶ Pupil numbers have been falling at the school over recent years, which reflects challenges identified by the local authority's school places strategy and experienced in other small rural schools
- ▶ The Governing Board of the school has worked actively with the local authority, Gloucestershire County Council and the Gloucester Diocese over a number of years on the challenges of running a school across two sites in a climate of lower pupil numbers
- ▶ This work has focused on securing the school's future viability as part of the local authority's commitment to providing diverse education provision to small rural communities like ours



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Oak Hill in April 2022

- ▶ The school currently has 51 pupils:
 - Reception has 7 children
 - Year 1 has 8 children
 - Year 2 has 9 children
 - Year 3 has 4 children
 - Year 4 has 9 children
 - Year 5 has 6 children
 - Year 6 has 8 children



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What does this proposal mean?

- ▶ If accepted, staff and children at our Dumbleton site would move to the Alderton site from September 2022 for a trial period of at least one year
- ▶ The number of places available at the school will remain the same
- ▶ The school will retain the Dumbleton site
- ▶ The local authority will continue to provide assistance with transport for existing pupils until they transfer to secondary school



What are the benefits of this proposal?

- ▶ The Governing Board, the local authority and the Diocese can develop practical understanding from the trial on how to ensure the future viability of the school as a provider of high quality education and experiences for the children of the rural communities it serves
- ▶ By uniting our school community onto one site we will be able to enhance the experiences and education available to every child at the school now and in the future
- ▶ We will be able to respond more effectively and efficiently to our school's needs, providing equality and opportunity for all
- ▶ We will be able to adapt teaching more effectively to meet the demands of the National Curriculum and to achieve our school's vision that every child leaves us at the end of year six confidently prepared to experience life in all its fullness in the wider world beyond our small rural school community



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What are the benefits of this proposal?

- ▶ We will be able to provide greater stability in the structure and size of our classes to meet the needs of our children at each stage as they move through the school
- ▶ With all our staff and specialist leaders on one site, we will be able to react more immediately to support and respond to any child's needs, strengthening relationships through daily interaction
- ▶ We will be able to be more effective and flexible in how we make the best use of our staff's wide range of skills and expertise across the whole school
- ▶ With all staff located on the same site we can deliver greater cohesion in our planning and provision including focused teaching and interventions to support children across the year groups



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What are the benefits of this proposal?

- ▶ We will be better able to safeguard the long term viability of the school's finances, ensuring we can continue to develop our vision of securing an exceptional school environment where success is measured not just by inspection reports or SATs scores, but by the experiences and overall education children enjoy together during their primary school years
- ▶ We will be able to use our school's budget more effectively and efficiently which will benefit every child through an enriched curriculum and activities
- ▶ Our children and staff will no longer have to commute between two sites on a daily basis
- ▶ With all children attending the same site daily, our school can enjoy a greater level of cohesion between our children, their families and the wider school community including staff and governors



What are the benefits of this proposal?

- ▶ We will be in a position to offer wrap-around care opportunities such as breakfast club and after school club to better support the needs of families
- ▶ Current learning resources including IT will be amalgamated providing a wider range of opportunities for all the children together
- ▶ Our playground and outdoor spaces can be further developed, as can our extra curricular opportunities

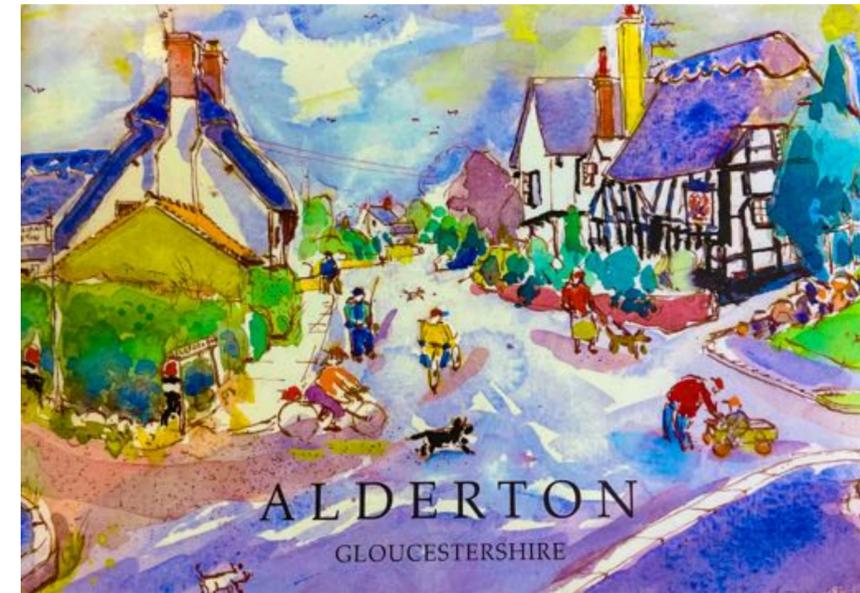


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Why Alderton not Dumbleton?

- ▶ Mr Greaves and the Governors have secured a commitment from GCC to undertake essential maintenance and significant improvement work at Alderton. The work will go ahead whatever the outcome of this consultation and will be completed by the end of August 2022.
- ▶ Dumbleton is a very small school site, with only 2 classrooms plus a small area for staff with multiple uses including a small kitchenette, storage, boiler, photocopier and a small work space. Dumbleton has outdoor space but no scope for modifications or improvements
- ▶ Alderton already has 3 good sized classrooms plus other dedicated learning spaces including small group space, a library and a dedicated Thrive space. There is a good sized school hall including full PE stores and apparatus plus outdoor playground areas and access to an outdoor playing field. There is dedicated car parking, staff room and work space plus the school's admin team is based on site
- ▶ Alderton is therefore the only viable one-site option



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How will the children be accommodated on the Alderton site?

- ▶ Reception class places for September 2022 are allocated by GCC on 19 April 2022 and must be accepted by 26 April. Early indications are of a number lower than our allocation of 15 places. A reasonable estimate is 4-8 children
- ▶ From September 2022 the year group sizes are expected to be:
 - Reception - approx 4-8 children (*To be confirmed*)
 - Year 1 - 7 children
 - Year 2 - 8 children
 - Year 3 - 9 children
 - Year 4 - 4 children
 - Year 5 - 9 children
 - Year 6 - 6 children

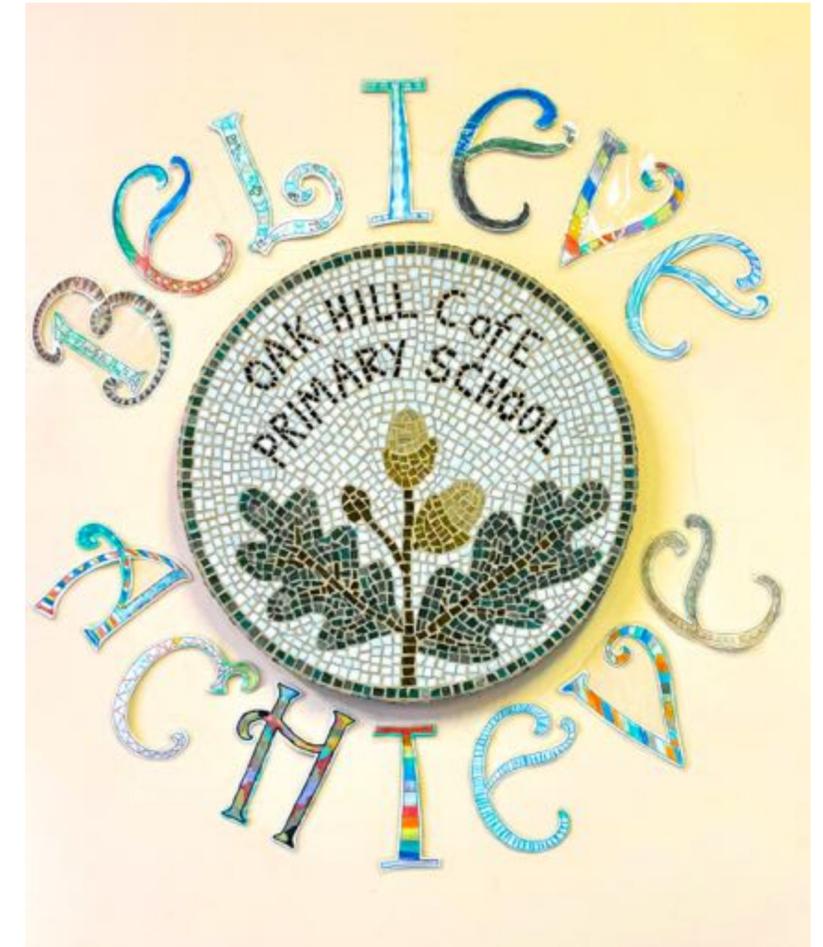


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How will the children be accommodated on the Alderton site?

- ▶ We are therefore planning for 47-51 children in total across all year groups from September 2022
- ▶ Having reviewed the needs of all children alongside the benefits of moving to one site, we will be operating with three classes from September 2022
- ▶ Class One - Reception & Year 1 (*11-15 children t.b.c.*)
- ▶ Class Two - Years 2 & 3 (*17 children*)
- ▶ Class Three - Years 4, 5 & 6 (*19 children*)



How will the children be accommodated on the Alderton site?

- ▶ Class One - Reception & Year 1 will be located in the ground floor end classroom. This currently unused classroom will be fully renovated and equipped specifically for our younger children including an easily accessible, dedicated, free-flow outdoor, covered learning environment to the rear of the school buildings
- ▶ Class Two - Years 2 & 3 will be located in the first floor classroom
- ▶ Class Three - Years 4, 5 & 6 will be located in our largest classroom on the ground floor
- ▶ Our dedicated Thrive Room on the first floor will continue to be used daily for support and interventions
- ▶ Our computer area will be fully remodelled and renovated to provide an additional small group work space and an open plan learning area outside of Class Two
- ▶ Our school library will continue to be used for small group work and interventions
- ▶ Our whole school outdoor areas will be remodelled and renovated, including improved boundary fencing plus screening; improvements to playground areas



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Additional Information

- ▶ School funding is based on the number of children actually enrolled in a school not the number of places available
- ▶ **Do all stakeholders have to agree with the proposal?** All stakeholders (staff, parents, children, governors, prospective parents, diocese, parish councils etc) do not have to agree with the proposal but this is a consultation for our whole school community and all feedback will be considered.
- ▶ **If the proposal goes ahead, who will decide if the trial has been a success?** As with this consultation, all stakeholders would be invited to contribute their views on the trial at review points and its conclusion. Both the local authority, Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester Diocese will also be part of review process plus other external professionals the school works with as part of its ongoing improvement and developments. A final decision on whether the school operates from one site or two will be taken by the local authority after a final period of formal consultation.



Implementation Plan

- ▶ Local authority funded and managed maintenance & improvement works to be completed by end of August 2022
- ▶ Outdoor area to the rear of the school at Alderton to be improved and enhanced to provide free flow outdoor education provision for younger children
- ▶ Enhancements to both internal and external areas of Alderton site to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for every child
- ▶ Resources audit at both sites including teaching resources, furniture, IT equipment etc
- ▶ Clearance and removal of outdated and inadequate resources from both sites
- ▶ Removals will take place from Dumbleton to Alderton
- ▶ Classrooms at Alderton renovated to meet the needs of proposed class structures



How do I tell you my views?

- ▶ You are invited to attend a drop in session at Alderton on Wednesday 27 April in the school hall between 5pm to 7pm
- ▶ You can also give us your comments by completing the attached response form
- ▶ You can also download a copy of this document and the response form from our [school's website](#)
- ▶ Alternatively, you can [click here](#) to use our online consultation response service
- ▶ **COMPLETED RESPONSES MUST REACH US BY FRIDAY 6 MAY 2022**



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What happens next?

- ▶ Information event - **5pm - 7pm on Wednesday 27 April in the Alderton School Hall**
- ▶ Consultation Ends - **Friday 6 May 2022**
- ▶ Final decision on the proposal to consolidate the split sites for a trial period of at least one year - **By Friday 13 May 2022**
- ▶ Works undertaken at Alderton - **July and August 2022**
- ▶ School begins to operate from one site - **September 2022**
- ▶ Mid-point review of trial - **Spring Term 2023**



School Consultation Feedback Form

Proposal to unite the school community onto one site from September 2022 for a trial period

***Required**

1. Email *

Stakeholder type

2. In what capacity are you completing this form? *

Mark only one oval.

- Parent or Carer
- Pupil
- Staff Member
- Governor
- Prospective Parent
- Parish Council member
- Other stakeholder

Do you support the proposal to unite the school community onto one site from September 2022 for a trial period?

3. Do you agree *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please provide any additional comments you may wish to make regarding this consultation in the box below.

4. Comments:

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