



Headteacher: Mrs S Lewis



St. Mary's C of E (Aided) Junior School
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1st November 2016

Dear Neighbour,

The governing bodies of St Mary's School and Downs Way School have some exciting news to share with you. Over the last two and a half years both schools have been developing well under the shared leadership of Sarah Lewis our Headteacher. Having reflected for some time on the effectiveness of our joint working arrangements we have concluded that we would like to come together as a single school.

Both schools have a clear and shared vision for the future of primary education for north Oxted, which builds on the educational improvements we have already seen in both schools. A clear common ground has emerged with each school remaining deeply committed to serving the locality, and ensuring high quality educational provision into the future.

We also have strong links with the other local schools and are clear that whatever we do should not disadvantage other children in the area as numbers steadily rise. We believe the only way to do this equitably would be to expand by one form of entry at junior level from 2018 (which will match the increase in infant provision which is already in place).

Our proposal is therefore to create a Church of England Primary School, with provision from age 4-11. This school will have 2 classes per year group in the infants and 4 classes per year group in the juniors. This will allow all children in 'Downs Way' to move into the juniors as well as increase the number of places available to other children in the locality wishing to access St Mary's school at year 3.

This first phase of our consultation process will be to consult on the changes in education provision. If in taking into account the responses to this stage of consultation Surrey County Council, Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and the Governing Bodies decided we should proceed, the next stage of the process is a formal 4-week 'Representation' period, including the publication of statutory notices.

A separate planning application (with its own consultation process) will also be run subsequent to this education consultation. Please note that any comments made concerning the proposed building and impact on traffic, school facilities, energy the local community and access will be addressed at this later stage.

Our letters to parents explaining our rationale in more detail, together with the Educational Consultation Document, ECD can be found on our schools' websites. The ECD is also available on Surrey County Council's website. Feel free to join us at either of the meetings we have arranged to explain the educational consultation further, answer questions and gather views about the educational impact of these changes. These will be held on 16th November - at Downs Way School at 2.30pm and at St Mary's School at 7.30pm.

Yours faithfully,

Catharina Stibe Hickson
Chair of Governors
St Mary's School

Susan Gibbin
Chair of Governors
Downs Way School

