

St Peter's CE Primary School, Coggeshall, Braintree

Consultation on a proposal to enlarge the premises of the school
and increase its capacity to 420 places from September 2025

February 2024



Essex County Council

Introduction

The County Council must ensure that there is a school place every year for each child in Essex. In doing so we want to take every opportunity to allow more parents to send their child to their preferred school and to support schools to increase the educational achievement and life chances of all young people.

There is predicted to be continued pressure on school places in Coggeshall. Additional primary school places will be required from 2025 onwards. We have been working with the schools in the area to find solutions to meet the additional need. Whilst meeting the increased demand for places has been made harder by the restraints on public expenditure, providing sufficient school places remains a high priority for the County Council.

In response to this growth in the demand for primary school places we are seeking your views on a proposal to expand St Peter's CE Primary School permanently from 315 places to 420 places, making it a two forms of entry primary school. We show in this document why we consider it necessary to provide new school places in this part of Essex from 2025 onwards.

I invite you to let me have your views on this proposal. All the views expressed will be taken into account by the Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability when he decides whether to publish a statutory notice about the expansion.



**Clare Kershaw Director,
Education**

BACKGROUND

The number of children in primary schools in this area of Essex has increased over the last few years because of births, families moving in and new housing. Latest forecasts indicate that this increase in pupil numbers is ongoing and additional provision is required to balance future supply and demand for local school places.

Pupil Forecasts and Deficit of Primary School Places

Essex County Council (ECC) has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children living in the county. In order to do this we monitor birth rates, new housing developments and patterns of parental preference across groups of schools. This information is used to forecast pupil numbers and to ensure there are sufficient school places across the county.

The following table shows a forecast for the availability of Reception places over the next ten years in the planning group Braintree Primary F: Southeast (Feering), as shown in ECC's "10 Year Plan – Meeting the demand for school places in Essex - 2023 to 2032". This planning group also includes Feering CE Primary School and Kelvedon St Mary's CE Primary Academy:

Braintree Primary F: Southeast (Feering)

Current PAN: 130

Current Capacity: 895

Reception Place Forecast

Year	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
+/-	23	26	7	-3	-9	-12	-16	-20	-24	-28
Feering CE Primary, Kelvedon St Mary's CE Primary Academy, St Peter's CE Primary										

Number on Roll (NOR)

Year	NOR
23/24	876
24/25	868
25/26	926
26/27	972
27/28	1,008

Project Pipeline

School	Year	Description	Places
St Peter's CE Primary	25/26	½ form entry expansion	15/105
Feering CE Primary	28/29	Small expansion	5/35

At present there are 130 Reception places available amongst the three schools in the planning group with a total capacity of 895 places. The forecast suggests that from September 2025 onwards this will not be enough places for all children who will need a school place and from September 2026 there will be a deficit of Reception places (shown in red). In partial mitigation of this the addition of 15 Reception places at St Peter's CE Primary is shown in the

'Project Pipeline'.

St Peter's CE Primary School is a popular and successful school, with the immediate demand for its places amplified by the new 300 dwelling housing estate within walking distance of the school.

Expanding permanently to 420 places will allow the school to plan more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.

How Can You Make Your Views Known?

ECC is seeking the views of all interested persons about the proposal to expand St Peter's CE Primary School. At this stage no decision has been made on the expansion proposal and all the views received will be considered prior to a decision being taken as to whether to go ahead with the proposal.

This consultation is about whether you think an expansion at St Peter's CE Primary School is needed, given the predicted increase in the number of local children needing a school place.

A drop-in session has been arranged at the school to provide an opportunity for parents, carers, staff, and members of the local community to ask questions and comment on the expansion proposal. The public drop-in session will take place between 3:00pm and 6:00pm, on 12 February 2024, at St Peter's CE Primary School.

If the expansion is approved additional accommodation will be needed at the school. To ensure that the local community understands the new building's potential implications, the County Council will undertake a pre-application exhibition at the school once design work on the new accommodation is sufficiently advanced. Parents/ Carers and members of the local community will be given the opportunity to review the latest draft proposals and to provide feedback prior to submission to the County Planning Authority as a full planning application, should the expansion go ahead.

The proposed expansion and decision process is outlined below.

You are invited to respond to this consultation using the following electronic survey form:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/stpeterscoggeshall>

You may also send feedback and comments to:

School Organisation Team
school.organisation@essex.gov.uk
County Hall
Market Road Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

All comments received through these mechanisms or made directly to council officers or members will be collected and included in the analysis of feedback received.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the consultation process or the expansion proposal you can call or email Mark Pincombe, School Organisation Officer, on 03330 131151 and Mark.Pincombe@essex.gov.uk. Alternatively you may contact the chair of

governors of the school, via the school office.

School Expansion Proposal

It is proposed to expand St Peter's CE Primary School permanently from 315 places to 420 places by building new accommodation at the school, making it a two forms of entry primary school. This would enable the school to admit 60 Reception children each year, an increase of 15 each year over the current intake. The intention is that school will grow incrementally over time with successive intakes of 60 increasing the number of children at the school by 15 each year, until the maximum of 420 pupils on roll is reached.

Admissions

The admissions criteria and priority admission area for the school would not change as a result of the proposed expansion.

Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements would remain in line with the home to school transport policies of Essex County Council. The school will review and update its existing Travel Plan and will work to encourage sustainable methods of travel to school such as walking, scooting and cycling.

Building Work

Initial work has been undertaken to explore options for expanding the school which include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum. The new building will include new classrooms, a studio space, group space, and staff accommodation, as well as storage and toilets.

Site surveys, and detailed design work, are being undertaken which will lead to a proposed design for the additional accommodation. Once the design for the new accommodation is sufficiently advanced, ECC propose to undertake a pre-application exhibition at the school. Parents and members of the local community will be given the opportunity to review the latest draft proposals and to provide feedback. ECC will consider all comments received prior to submitting a detailed planning application to the County Planning Authority. A summary of the pre-application consultation responses will also accompany the submitted planning application.

Funding

The County Council has made provision in its Capital Programme for the proposed school expansion. The Council publishes its capital programme at www.essex.gov.uk.

What happens next?

At the end of this consultation period the Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability will consider all feedback and views expressed by interested parties during the consultation and will make a decision on whether to proceed with the school expansion proposal. The governing body of the school will also consider the feedback from this consultation and decide if it still wishes to support the proposal.

Timeline

The consultation period will run from **5 February 2024** to **11 March 2024**. Below is the expected timeline for the decision process:

5 February 2024	Consultation commences – consultation document can be viewed: https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-organisation-and-place-planning/consultations-and-statutory
12 February 2024	Drop-in session for parents/ carers, staff and the local community to be held at the school between 3pm and 6pm
11 March 2024	End of consultation period
April 2024	Decision by ECC on whether to publish a Statutory Notice
May 2024	Publication of Statutory Notice (if decision above is to proceed with the expansion process)
June 2024	End of four-week period for representations
July 2024	Decision taken by Essex County Council on the expansion proposal
* September 2025	St Peter's CE Primary School expands to become a 420-place primary school

* This stage will apply only if the proposal is approved by the County Council.

All written comments should be received by ECC by **11 March 2024**. ECC handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your responses to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed amalgamation and not for any other purpose. We will not give information

about you to anyone outside the County Council.

The information contained in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk. Please call 03330 131071.

Published February 2024