

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

In accordance with Regulation 4, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 :

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body’s details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

*St Oscar Romero Catholic School, Goring Street, Worthing, Sussex BN12 5AF
Voluntary Aided 11-16 School*

In respect of an LA Proposal: School and local authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

<i>Stage 1</i>	<i>Publication (statutory proposal/notice)</i>	<i>26th June 2023</i>
<i>Stage 2</i>	<i>Representation (formal consultation)</i>	<i>Four weeks - ends on 21st July 2023</i>
<i>Stage 3</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Local Authority must decide a proposal within 2 months</i>
<i>Stage 4</i>	<i>Referral (if applicable)</i>	<i>If a decision has been made, any referral to the adjudicator must be made within 4 weeks of the decision. If the Local Authority has not decided a proposal within 2 months, it must refer the proposal to the Schools Adjudicator</i>
<i>Stage 5</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>If approved, Sixth Form provision begins September 2024</i>

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

a) *The consultation closes on 21st July 2023*

b) *You can share your views by: Printing/completing a hard copy of the consultation form (Appendix 1) and posting to: School Consultations, West Sussex County Council, Ground Floor, County Hall, West St, Chichester PO19 1RG; or emailing the consultation form (Appendix 1) SchoolConsultations@westsussex.gov.uk*

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The Governors of St Oscar Romero propose to create sixth form provision at St Oscar Romero School for September 2024 (current Year 10), which is currently an 11-16 school. This proposal focuses on growth and specialisation, and aims to create a small traditional, academic sixth form that will have a Published Admission Number of 100 students in Year 12 and 13 (200 in total).

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 11, 12, 14, 15 or 16 of Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

a) The current school capacity calculated on the basis of the Net Capacity form is 723 although this is due to be re-calculated by the Department of Education and needs to take into account the additional six classrooms that were built in 2020. The proposed capacity after alteration is 1200 students aged 11-18

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

*b) PAN of 180 students in each year group from September 2023, although current Year 11 have a PAN of 150. Current numbers are:
Year 7 - 198
Year 8 - 193*

Year 9 - 200
Year 10 - 190
Year 11- 148

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

c) In September 2024 will be the first intake of 100 Year 12 students. This will be followed by a new intake of 100 Year 12 students in September 2025.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

d) All current year groups are full with significant waiting lists

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4 and 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16 of Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

929 students currently on roll

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable as we are a Voluntary Aided School

Additional Site

7.(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

N/A - proposal does not involve a new site.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A – proposal does not involve a new site.

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 12 of Schedule 2

of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A – no boarders

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A – no boarders

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A – no boarders

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A – no boarders

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A – no boarders

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A – no boarders

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

N/A

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

This proposal focuses on growth and specialisation, and aims to create a small traditional, academic sixth form that will have a Published Admission Number of 100 students in Year 12 and 13 (200 in total).

Central to this vision are two guiding principles that would be the foundations of sixth form provision at Romero's: firstly, academic excellence in which our students will get better A Levels (or equivalent) than if they attended another school/college, and secondly, outstanding pastoral care, in which every student is known, loved and nurtured to achieve their God-given potential.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

A number of consultation activities have taken place, prior to the publication of the proposal. This includes;

Meetings with students and questionnaire data

Focus groups with parents

Meetings with the Diocese

Meetings with the Catholic Secondary Headteachers, including Dave Carter – CEO of BOSCO Catholic Education Trust

Meetings with the Local Authority

Meetings with Governors, including 6th form focus group

Meetings with the five main Catholic feeder schools of the Worthing Deanery

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The estimated cost is £2 million. The school is self-funding this and has already saved £1.2 million in the accumulating fund. The governors will be submitting a VASPA bid for 2023-2024 and will explore other options to meet any shortfall. Completing the capital project in two stages is also being considered.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local authority and the Learning and Skills Funding Agency (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

N/A – school is self-funding

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Current age range 11-16, proposed age range 11-18

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

(b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

(d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

- i. *Based on GCSE outcomes 2022, St Oscar Romero Catholic School was the 34th highest performing school in the country, with a Progress 8 score of +1.1 (top 1% nationally). This same rigorous and supportive approach will be applied to our Post 16 offer to secure similar outstanding outcomes. This is especially true for disadvantaged students where the school has a proven track record of achieving exceptional outcomes for these students. Secondly, the sixth form will provide outstanding pastoral care, ensuring that every child is known, loved and can reach their God given potential. Thirdly, collaborative work has already begun with St Philip Howard and St Pauls about how best practice can be shared and implemented to raise standards for all students, including disadvantaged (see proposal for further details).*
- ii. *Dropout rates at Post 16 remain high, including students who are unable to finish academic qualifications. The combination of outstanding pastoral care and a comprehensive transition programme, having known the majority of the students who will join our sixth form for the previous five years, will ensure that all students receive the necessary support to remain in education (see proposal for further details)*
- iii. *One of the challenges of relatively small sixth form colleges, is the ability to offer the full range of appropriate Post 16 qualifications. Discussions have already begun with St Phillip Howard about how certain courses could be delivered by sharing staffing and course delivery across both schools. Additionally, St Oscar Romero Catholic School has huge staffing and curriculum expertise in A-Level Religious Studies and Philosophy which is currently not offered locally.*

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

The West Sussex Education and Learning Strategy 2023–2025 states clearly that “children, young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in West Sussex are at the centre of the strategy”. Of 16-18 education the strategy foresees that West Sussex County Council will:

“...work with schools and colleges to ensure a broad range of Post-16 courses appropriate to student’s needs and interests that offer value for money. This requires a fundamental review of how Post-16 provision is organised across the county to ensure equality of

access to a diverse range of programmes and qualifications locally.”

Appendices 2, 3 & 4 outline the range of Post-16 provision across West Sussex, including schools with and without sixth form provision. Worthing is unusual in that none of the schools within the town currently offer Post 16 provision.

As outlined in the proposal, Post 16 student numbers are due to continue to rise for the next eight years. Currently, a significant number of students travel out of the area for their Post-16 education. For example, around a third of our latest leavers will take up places at either Collyer’s or BHASVIC. By creating sixth form provision at St Oscar Romero Catholic School, this will meet student demand and preference that currently is not sufficiently met locally.

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

- i. *The school has worked with the Diocese and other secondary schools within the Bosco Trust to ensure that best practice and learning is shared and implemented.*
- ii. *St Oscar Romero has a proven track record of delivering exceptional outcomes in public examinations. In 2022, the school’s Progress 8 figure of +1.1 places St Oscar Romero as the 34th highest performing school in the country (Top 1%).*

This same rigorous but supportive approach would be applied to Post-16 teaching and provision. We do not believe that our students should have to travel significant distances for an ‘academic’ Post-16 provision.

The pastoral care at St Oscar Romero is outstanding. We pride ourselves on being a relatively small school in which every student is known, nurtured and loved. Having a relatively small sixth form of 200 compared to an FE college of several thousand, would enable us to support every student to reach their potential. This is especially important in light of the ever-increasing mental health crisis that exists with many young people.

Being a Catholic school, the strong Catholic/Christian ethos of the school underpins everything we do. Although sixth formers would be distinct from the rest of the school, opportunities for them to be involved in the life of the school would be maximised. This includes leading charity events, volunteering, mentoring and supporting younger students. This not only gives sixth formers a strong sense of identity but also builds self-esteem, resilience and strong moral values.

As a Catholic school, disadvantaged students are always a key priority, something that would be reflected in our Post-16 provision. Currently, both nationally and locally, there is a significant gap of around one full grade between disadvantaged students and their peers. Romero’s has a proven track record when it comes to closing the disadvantage gap that exists. In 2022, the school’s Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged students was +0.7. This means that our disadvantaged students do significantly better than non-disadvantaged students nationally.

Specialism in Religious Education and Philosophy. Religious Education and Philosophy remains a shortage subject and very few Post-16 institutions offer A-Level Religious Education as an option. All students at Romero's study a full GCSE in Religious Education and student feedback confirms that this would be a popular choice at A Level. There is huge expertise and subject knowledge within the department including past experience of teaching A level successfully both in 11-18 sixth form and FE college.

Dropout rates at Post-16 are high. Based on the destination data of 2020 leavers, pupils not staying in education, employment or training remains high at 5% nationally and 6% for Romero's leavers. This will only be addressed by outstanding pastoral care, support and partnership with parents/carers and other agencies. Being part of a relatively small school community enables us to know our students well and provide proactive support as student's transition to Post-16 education.

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

100 in each year group (Year 12 and 13)

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

N/A

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

N/A

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

See 16B above

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

There are 11 Catholic comprehensive secondary schools in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. St Oscar Romero Catholic School is the only Catholic secondary school in West Sussex without sixth form provision. The result of this is that Post 16 Catholic Education does not exist in our area. This proposal would satisfy this need.

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

St Oscar Romero is a Catholic School and provides an inclusive and distinctive faith-based education for its students. Central to this Ethos is the belief that every child has a God given potential that can be reached through hard work, great teaching and outstanding pastoral care and formation.

The school is massively oversubscribed with waiting lists in all years, for example, first preferences for September 2023 were 288 for 180 school places, confirming the huge demand for our school.

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

N/A

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

N/A
