



# Consultation on the proposal to expand Crestwood School

## Consultation Document

**Consultation on:** Consultation on the proposal to expand The Crestwood School, maintained secondary school

**Summary:** Dudley Council has a statutory duty to provide each child in its area with a school place. All local authorities must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area promote diversity and increase parental choice.

If Dudley Council do not act and increase the number of school places available there will not be sufficient places for each child, especially in some areas of the Borough. A population bulge over the past 8 years has resulted in the authority increasing places in the primary sector. It is now imperative that a similar increase takes place in the secondary sector to ensure sufficiency of places.

The Council has worked with the Invictus Trust, namely The Crestwood School in order to look at increasing places to meet this demand.

**Deadline:** All responses must be received **by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Responses to:** **CONSULTATION RESPONSES**  
Executive Support Team - People  
c/o The Council House  
Priory Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 1HF  
[Children.services@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Children.services@dudley.gov.uk)

*Your responses will be co-ordinated by this team.*

*Any responses will be provided by the appropriate responsible officer for this consultation.*

All responses may be published. A large print version, and translation into other languages is available on request to the above address.

**Consultees:**

- Action for Children
- Action for Disabled People and Carers
- Black Country Chamber of Commerce
- Centre for Equality & Diversity
- Chairs of Governors
- Children Young People and Families Group
- Children's Centres
- Children's Trust Executive Board
- Church of St Augustine of Hippo
- Community Centres
- Councillors
- Directorate Staff
- Dudley Association of Governing Bodies
- Dudley Community Partnership
- Dudley Council Directorates – Corporate Board
- Dudley Council for Voluntary Service
- Dudley Primary Care Trust
- Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board
- Dudley SENDIAS
- Dudley Voices for Choice
- Dudley Voluntary Youth Organisations
- Further Education Colleges
- Green Light Muslim Youth Forum
- Headteachers
- High Oak Youth Group
- Libraries
- Maintained nursery schools
- Members of Parliament
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Neighbouring Local Authorities Directors of Children's Services
- Parents/carers of pupils in maintained, private and voluntary sector nurseries
- Private and voluntary sector nurseries
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission
- Select Committee for Children's Services
- Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
- Unions and Professional Associations
- West Midlands Consortium Service for Travelling Children, Schools and Families (WMCESTC)
- Worcester Diocesan Board of Education
- Youth Centres

## The Crestwood School Place Planning Consultation

### **Introduction**

Dudley Council is consulting on proposals to expand a number of the secondary schools in the Brierley Hill Place Planning area due to an increase in demand for school places. Dudley Council has worked with The Crestwood School in order to look at such proposals. The Council are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards and ensure fair access to educational opportunity. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area promote diversity and increase parental choice.

This is the first phase of expansion proposals for the secondary sector. It is expected to continue as Dudley has experienced increases in the number of primary children as the birth rate continues to rise. This bulge in population increase is now pushing into the secondary sector. We are consulting to implement these proposals from September 2020. The changes are explained in the following sections.

### **Proposals**

We are proposing to permanently enlarge The Crestwood School from September 2020. A similar project is also planned for The Wordsley School from September 2020.

School	Age Range	Current Published Admission Number	Proposed Published Admission Number	Total increase in places
The Crestwood School	11-16	750	1050	300

(Please note that the school will increase in numbers gradually over a 5 year period. There will be an increased PAN from Year 7 onwards from 150 to 210 September 2020.)

### **What changes are we proposing?**

We are proposing to expand The Crestwood School by two forms of entry and increase capacity so that it becomes a seven form entry school. This increase will take place year on Year until the increased PAN for the school is reached. The table above details the current and proposed PAN for the school. As a result of increasing the PAN at the school to enable it to take more children, additional space will be required. This is discussed in more detail in a later section.

### **Why do we want to do this?**

Dudley Council has a statutory duty to provide each child in its area with a school place. All local authorities must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area promote diversity and increase parental choice. As a result of this duty Dudley monitors closely both the numbers of school places available and the demand for those places.

In recent years Dudley has seen a sustained increase in the birth rate which has impacted upon the Councils need for an increase in primary school places. A phase of primary school expansions has now

concluded to meet the growing primary need, however this increase is now starting to be felt in the secondary sector. The Council's projection data estimates that this trend is set to continue for some years yet. If they do not act and increase the number of school places available there will not be sufficient places for each child, especially in some areas of the Borough.

**Why have this school been chosen?**

To decide which schools should be expanded the Council set out a number of criteria including whether the school was in the right geographical location, whether it was popular with local families, whether it was easy to add more capacity and whether it was well placed to provide a good education to additional pupils. The Crestwood School is in an area that has seen a significant increase in birth rate and has enough space for additional classrooms; and we believe they will be able to accommodate the extra pupils without an adverse effect on standards.

**Why was this not proposed sooner?**

The increase in birth rate has been rapid and has followed a prolonged period of decline. Although Dudley has been aware for a while that additional places would be required and has continued to monitor the situation, we have to wait each year for the government announcement on specific funding for councils to spend on providing additional school places. It is therefore essential to begin consultation on school enlargements now so that we can ensure there are sufficient school places for September 2020 and onwards.

**How will this affect pupils at the school?**

Pupils will notice some changes but these are likely to be limited. The school will grow by up to 60 pupils per year from 2020 so the change in pupil numbers will occur gradually over the next 5 years and will not impact on current year groups. With the additional pupils, the school might decide to organise the school slightly differently but as always that will be for the Head Teacher/Trust to decide.

**How will this affect staff?**

Staff will generally be unaffected; there might be a need to increase staff and a larger school might offer more opportunities for professional development.

**Will there be changes to the school buildings?**

Yes, the proposed increase in places means we will have to do some significant work at The Crestwood School to provide extensions. The Council will ensure that the new classrooms are built in line with government standards and that construction methods used will not disrupt pupils' learning and all users remain safe.

**Why are we consulting on these proposals?**

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. At the moment we are entering the consultation stage during which we want to hear views on the proposal from pupils, parents, staff, local community, all schools, neighbouring authorities, local councillors, members of parliament and professional associations.

**What will happen if the proposals are rejected?**

If a decision is taken that a particular school should not be expanded then the school will continue to operate at its current size. The additional places will have to be provided at another school but this is likely to mean that some parents will have to travel further to take their child to school; this will possibly leave this school open to an increase in admission appeals, which can result in larger class sizes.

**Comments on the consultation on the proposal to expand The Crestwood School**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

Executive Support Team - People

c/o The Council House

Priory Road

Dudley

West Midlands

DY1 1HF

[Children.services@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Children.services@dudley.gov.uk)

**Name:** ..... **Organisation:** .....

**1. Do you agree with the proposal to expand The Crestwood School?**

**Yes**                       **No**                       **No opinion**

**Comments**

**Additional Comments:**

