

Bishop Thornton Church of England Primary School Proposal to Transfer to a New Site

Prescribed alteration statutory proposal

School and LA details

Statutory proposal published by the Governing Body of Bishop Thornton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Colber Lane, Bishop Thornton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR.

North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The Governing Body of Bishop Thornton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School intends to transfer Bishop Thornton CE Primary School to a new site at Burnt Yates, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3EJ (the former premises of Burnt Yates Church of England Primary School) on 1 September 2019.

The Governing Body consulted publicly on these proposals between 5 March and 30 March 2019. A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1. The consultation period ran from 5 March to 30 March 2019 and included a parents' meeting. There have been 94 consultation responses received. On 1 April 2019, the Governing Body reviewed the responses to the consultation and voted unanimously to approve the proposal (Appendix 2).

The percentages of responses are as follows:

Do you consider it desirable that Bishop Thornton C. of E. Primary School should move to the vacant Burnt Yates site?

<u>Parents</u>	<u>Future Parents</u>	<u>Governors</u>	<u>Bishop Thornton village (exc. parents)</u>
Yes - 72% Undecided - 12% No - 16%	Yes - 100%	Yes - 100%	Yes 88% No - 12%
<u>Shaw Mills village (exc. parents)</u>	<u>Burnt Yates village (exc. parents)</u>	<u>Others</u>	
Yes - 100%	Yes - 100%	Yes - 93% No - 7%	

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

Bishop Thornton's staff and Governors have been invited to consider a move to Burnt Yates' vacant school building by the Trustees of the Admiral Long Trust.

The vacant Burnt Yates school building and grounds would enable and provide:-

- more space and facilities for children and teachers, to enhance the learning experience
- spacious outdoor facilities, with a garden, sports field, woodland and wildlife areas and disabled access including an outdoor toilet
- a designated Early Years outside learning space for physical development and exciting learning opportunities along with child-friendly storage provision
- an outdoor classroom for children of all ages
- all teaching areas at ground level providing disability access for children and visitors alike
- a school hall with greater flexibility of space for indoor activities
 - A space for dance, gymnastics and indoor PE sessions with equipment in place
 - A dining facility saving classroom dining and valuable teaching time each day
 - Drama opportunities would be enhanced within the hall area, with space for whole school activities, Collective Worship, productions and events
 - A large indoor space for play during break time on wet days
 - Opportunities for family and community events
- a class 1 teaching space which is self-contained, with no interruptions from 'through traffic' for the kitchen or toilets
- a classroom for the younger children with a folding partition enabling separate learning areas for all abilities and ages
- extensive indoor space providing areas for 1:1 and small group learning, quiet time and support for individual needs
- meeting room space for personal and confidential meetings and for staff breaks
- opportunity to develop on-site wrap-around care
- more space for and safer off-road parking

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

Burnt Yates building has the same admission limit as Bishop Thornton: 8 reception children per year, with a maximum school size of 56.

The catchment area previously served by Burnt Yates CE VA Primary School became a joint catchment area for Bishop Thornton CE and Ripley Endowed CE VC Primary on the closure of Burnt Yates CE School on 31 August 2018. It will be for the County Council to determine

whether this catchment area needs to be reviewed in the future, should this proposal be approved.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

The Trustees own the building at Burnt Yates and a substantial endowed fund and over previous years have provided grants for the Burnt Yates school building, and resources for the children. The Trustees have made it clear that they would like to continue to provide these benefits to Bishop Thornton School and its children if the school moves into their premises. The school has the offer of these improved premises for no capital cost to the Local Authority.

The financial implications of the move are difficult to forecast precisely. School finances are largely driven by pupil numbers. The Local Authority expects the School to grow gradually towards 40. This is due to house building and previous local school closures. A modest increase in pupil numbers would help in terms of friendship groups and peer-relationships between children, helping them both socially and academically. The new premises would provide a much better setting for these increased numbers, involving enhanced educational provision in return for a modest increase in running costs, thereby resulting in improved value for money.

There are likely to be additional transport costs as the route between Bishop Thornton village and Burnt Yates school has been assessed as unsafe. If the school site is moved to Burnt Yates, pupils living in Bishop Thornton and Shaw Mills will be eligible for free home to school transport. This will be until the end of year six. The estimated additional cost of transport is currently estimated to be approximately £15,200 per year. Home to School transport costs are met by the County Council. However, there could be additional home to school transport costs if the school stays at its present site, from future pupils joining the school who may be eligible. Assuming the expected growth in pupil numbers, and taking into account probable increased transport and premises costs, the move can be expected to deliver good value for money.

Implementation plan

The full timetable for the proposal is set out below.

Initial Public Consultation by Governing Body 5 Mar – 30 Mar (4 weeks)

Including meetings with parents and local community

Full Governing Body meeting to decide whether to proceed w/c 1 April

Easter holiday: Monday 15 April 2019 to Friday 26 April 2019

Publication of Statutory Proposals/Notice by Governing Body: Thursday 2 May

Representation period (formal consultation) 2 May to 30 May (4 weeks)

Decision by Executive (or if there are no objections to the statutory proposals, by the Executive Member for Schools) 25 June 2019

Proposed transfer of Bishop Thornton CE School to Burnt Yates by 1 September 2019

A statement explaining the procedure for responses: support, objections and comments.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal on 2 May 2019, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 30 May 2019. Any responses received by this date will be published anonymously in a report to the County Council's Executive.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Consultation document

Appendix 2: Minute of the Governing Body decision, 1 April 2019

Appendix 1

BISHOP THORNTON C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROPOSAL TO MOVE PREMISES TO OCCUPY VACANT SCHOOL PROPERTY AT BURNT YATES

Bishop Thornton Church of England Primary School has been invited to move to the vacant school premises, formerly Burnt Yates Primary School. We would very much like to know the views of parents and other interested members of the community, as we recognise that this is a significant proposal.

Why is the School making this proposal?

The vacant Burnt Yates school building and grounds would enable and provide:-

- more space and facilities for children and teachers, to enhance the learning experience
- spacious outdoor facilities, with a garden, sports field, woodland and wildlife areas and disabled access including an outdoor toilet
- a designated Early Years outside learning space for physical development and exciting learning opportunities along with child-friendly storage provision
- an outdoor classroom for children of all ages
- all teaching areas at ground level providing disability access for children and visitors alike
- a school hall with greater flexibility of space for indoor activities
 - A space for dance, gymnastics and indoor PE sessions with equipment in place
 - A dining facility saving classroom dining and valuable teaching time each day
 - Drama opportunities would be enhanced within the hall area, with space for whole school activities, Collective Worship, productions and events
 - A large indoor space for play during break time on wet days
 - Opportunities for family and community events
- a class 1 teaching space which is self-contained, with no interruptions from 'through traffic' for the kitchen or toilets
- a classroom for the younger children with a folding partition enabling separate learning areas for all abilities and ages
- extensive indoor space providing areas for 1:1 and small group learning, quiet time and support for individual needs
- meeting room space for personal and confidential meetings and for staff breaks
- opportunity to develop on-site wrap-around care
- more space for and safer off-road parking

Bishop Thornton's staff and Governors are considering a move to the former primary school building at Burnt Yates at the invitation of its owners, the Trustees of the Admiral Long's Foundation. Whilst other parties have expressed an interest in occupying this building, Bishop Thornton School is the Foundation's first choice and has therefore been given the first option on it.

Obviously this would be a big decision for the School family and so the Headteacher and the Governors have, since the offer was made, conducted significant research into the viability of such a move, including consulting with the Local Educational Authority and the Church of England Diocese before feeling able to come to parents with this proposal. We now think that this is a very attractive proposition to put before parents and the wider community. Understandably you will have questions and we hope that the following will provide some answers.

Q1: Does this mean Bishop Thornton School would close?

A: No, this is not a school closure. The School would move and continue to exist in exactly the same way, with the same head teacher, teachers, staff and governors, but just on a different site.

Q 2: But would it be the school for Bishop Thornton village?

A. Yes, it would still be the school for Bishop Thornton, as well as for Shaw Mills and Warsill, as it is already, and now also for Burnt Yates all of which are already in Bishop Thornton's extended catchment (though Burnt Yates catchment is also currently shared with Ripley Endowed CE). The School already serves these areas and would also continue to attract children from further afield, just as it does now.

Q 3: Would the move into a larger building mean that numbers will grow a lot?

A: Not really, and definitely not in the first few years. The Burnt Yates building has the same admission limit as Bishop Thornton: 8 reception children per year, with a maximum school size of 56. The Local Authority expects the School to grow gradually towards 40, whether it moves or not. This is due to house building and previous local school closures. A modest increase in pupil numbers would help in terms of friendship groups and peer-relationships between children, helping them both socially and academically.

Q 4: This is a lovely, small, friendly school; how will you keep the school as it is now? Wouldn't we lose the family feel of the current building? Many parents and children love Bishop Thornton for the way it feels more like a home than a school.

A: The School is its people, and that warmth and specialness will stay with our wonderful teachers and staff wherever they go, as they generate the ethos of the School.

Q 5: Isn't the Burnt Yates building much bigger and more 'school-like'?

A: Yes - but it comes with all the positives we have already mentioned, and an admission level no larger than ours. It is still a quirky building with an intimate feel and a definite personality. By most standards it is still a very small village school and it can acquire those same happy associations that people have for the Bishop Thornton building.

Q 6: Wrap-around Care

A: Mrs Sonia Virr plays a pivotal role in the life of many parents and the School, so the Headteacher and Chair of Governors have discussed various options for her continued involvement if the move were to go ahead. Mrs. Virr has welcomed the proposal to move and she has confirmed that she would like to continue to work with the School.

Q 7: Transport - It is not easy for me to get to Burnt Yates to take my child to school. Will there be any help with transport arrangements?

A: Assistance with transport has been discussed with the Local Authority and their statement of responsibility is as follows:

"We provide free school transport to the catchment school or nearest school to your home if it is over the following walking distances:

- *two miles for children under eight years of age;*
- *three miles for children aged over eight; or*
- *where the route to the catchment or nearest school is not safe to walk accompanied by a responsible adult."*

We have requested that the road between Bishop Thornton and Burnt Yates be assessed by the Council Highways Department as to its safety and we will continue to consult with the Local Authority on the question of transport, appreciating that this is a very important issue. Any views expressed by parents will be helpful to our discussions.

Q 8: What do the Burnt Yates Trustees do, and what is their attitude concerning the move?

A. The Trustees are fully in favour of the proposal and have shown their 100% support by welcoming all our pupils to use the facilities most Thursday afternoons.

They own the building and a substantial endowed fund and over previous years have provided grants for the Burnt Yates school building, and resources for the children. The Trustees have made it clear that they would like to continue to provide these benefits to Bishop Thornton School and its children if we move into their premises.

They accept that we are our own school, and that we would move into the Burnt Yates premises with our own identity.

Q 9: Do the Headteacher, Teachers and Teaching Assistants think the move would be a good thing?

A. The Headteacher and Teaching staff have been part of the conversation regarding a premises move right from the beginning and greatly welcome the opportunity to expand their ideas and creativity within the more flexible space that the building at Burnt Yates would allow.

We realise that this is a significant proposal for us all to consider, but as pupil numbers grow we have to reflect on what is in the best interests of our whole school community, not just now but also in 10+ years time. It is not difficult to see that the plot on which the present Bishop Thornton School sits is already fully developed, and the paddock used for summertime play is only available for use by the School due to the kindness of its current owners.

In making this proposal the School leaders are seeking to give our School and our children the best opportunities going into the future. It is extremely unlikely that we will ever have another opportunity such as this on our doorstep again and the Governors feel that it must be fully explored by everyone, with an open mind and an eye to the future of this beloved School.

What will happen next?

The four week period of consultation following this meeting, during which we hope as many of you as possible will comment on the proposal, is in preparation for a Statutory Consultation process.

The obvious time for the School to move would be during the summer holiday, so the timetable for consultations and the formal process (outlined below) is designed to be completed during the summer term. Should the move be approved, the children will then have opportunities to visit and use the new site before the school breaks up for the summer.

We would like comments on the proposal by 30th March 2019. Comments received from this consultation will be considered by the Governing Body during the week commencing 1st April 2019, at which point they will decide whether or not to proceed to the period of Statutory Consultation.

If the School decides to progress to Statutory Consultation, there will be a formal consultation period of 4 weeks and the final decision will be made by the Local Authority on 25th June 2019.

How do I make my views known?

Your views are important and we very much value your opinions. Please complete the attached comments sheet and return it to the Office at the School or return via email to admin@bishophthorntoncofe.n-yorks.sch.uk

Comments should be returned by 30th March, 2019

An Invitation

Everyone associated with the School and its children are warmly invited to visit the Burnt Yates premises on Friday 8th March between 9.00 and 10.00am to see more fully what the site has to offer.

If you have any further queries, these should be addressed to Mrs. E. Bedford (Headteacher) and/or Miss Caroline Smith (Chair of Governors)

Appendix 2

BISHOP THORNTON CE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

MEETING MONDAY 1st APRIL 2019 at 10.45 am

Governors present: Miss Smith (Chair –Foundation), Mrs Bedford (Headteacher), Mr Whitaker (Vice Chair – Foundation)
Mrs Connor (Co-Opted), Mr Roberts (Parent Governor), Mrs Stevens (Parent Governor), Mrs Ward (Teacher Governor)

Others present: Mrs Jennings (Clerk)

There were no apologies for absence.

MINUTES

	ITEM
1	<p>Proposal to Move the School from its current Premises to Occupy Vacant School Property at Burnt Yates (the Proposal)</p> <p>This meeting followed on from a Meeting of the full Governing Board that morning, called for the purpose of considering the Proposal to move the School from its current premises to vacant school premises at Burnt Yates</p> <p>The School had conducted a consultation which had run from 5th to 30th March, in which the Proposal, with relevant information, was put to Parents and the wider community.</p> <p>At the earlier meeting that morning the Governors had carefully considered all the responses which had been received from the consultation, (a significant percentage of which were in favour of the proposal), together with helpful information received from the Local Authority, and the implications of approving or rejecting the Proposal on pupil outcomes. Potential logistics of the move were also discussed.</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting was to make a decision on the Proposal.</p> <p>The Chair put the Proposal to a vote.</p> <p>The Governors voted unanimously to approve the Proposal.</p> <p>A copy of this Minute will be sent to the Local Authority together with copies of all the comments received by the School and any other information requested by the Local Authority to prepare the documentation to take the matter onto the next stage.</p>