

**Consultation on our Proposal for
Meppershall Church of England
Academy to become a Split Site
Primary Academy from
September 2023**

CONSULTATION ON OUR PROPOSAL FOR MEPPERSHALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, HIGH STREET, MEPPERSHALL , BEDS, SG17 5LZ TO BECOME A SPLIT SITE PRIMARY ACADEMY FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

The Purpose of the Consultation Document

The purpose of this document is to provide information on a proposal for Meppershall Church of England Academy to become a split site Primary Academy. This will mean that the school's Year 5 & 6 cohorts will be educated on the Henlow Academy site in purpose built accommodation.

Background

Meppershall is a small Church of England school set in the heart of a village community. The school has strong links with the village church and follows the educational vision set out by the Church of England which embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children. We genuinely value the development of the whole child and work to prepare them to become well-rounded learners.

Our school embarked on an exciting new stage of its development in joining Poppy Hill Church of England Multi Academy Trust in April 2021. As part of this Trust we work alongside Henlow Church of England Academy to open up a wealth of opportunities and expertise to enhance the learning opportunities of all pupils.

The school has made the transition from Lower to Primary, however it does not have the physical capacity to accommodate its Year 5 & 6 students. It has only been through the link with Poppy Hill that we have been able to educate these students on the Henlow Academy site for the last two academic Years. For this reason, the Trustees of Poppy Hill MAT have decided to consult with parents and other stakeholders for Meppershall Academy to formally become a split site Primary school with Years 5 & 6 permanently educated, in purpose built accommodation, on the Henlow Academy site. This arrangement will provide future security for the school and ensure the continuing development of teaching and learning.

Before responding to this consultation process, you might find it helpful to attend one of our consultation meetings.

Contextual position

There is much change within the local area, with a significant number of schools being Academies and a general move towards a two-tier system of education. Meppershall Academy sits within the Henlow 'pyramid' of feeder schools to Henlow Academy which also includes Raynsford Academy, Clifton All Saints Academy, Derwent Primary and Langford Village Academy. All of these schools made the transition to become Primary schools in September 2021 and, where required, additional accommodation for their new Year 5 and 6 cohorts was provided. Within this context, it is of great importance that Meppershall Academy is able to align with the immediate local area and maintain its Primary status, retaining Years 5 & 6 with appropriate accommodation.

This consultation is taking place in a co-ordinated approach with the Local Authority in order to devise an approach that secures provision within an expanding area, where there is likely to be a need for additional school places at all phases.

Proposal

We believe that our children in Years 5 & 6 deserve high quality education in a setting that is designed to meet the learning needs of the Key Stage 2 child and lead them, seamlessly, into the subsequent Key Stages as they progress from Year 6 at Meppershall to Year 7 at Henlow.

The change proposed would provide an appropriate accommodation for students alongside a security for parents and the future of the school. The educational provision will be diverse and designed to meet the needs of all children with additional resources available on the Henlow site such as sports facilities and specialist teaching facilities in both science and design for example.

To summarise, our objectives are:

- To ensure strong links continue to flourish across the primary age range on both sites
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain the nurturing and well-being of children by ensuring that all experience a broad education. This is underpinned by understanding the role and purpose of Christian values in their lives.
- To offer children in Years 5 - 6 an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets their needs and supports them to achieve their full potential.
- To provide permanent and appropriate accommodation for Year 5 & 6 students on the Henlow Academy site.
- To align Meppershall Academy with all other Primary schools within the Henlow pyramid and continue to support a change to two tier education in the wider area.

You are invited to meetings as part of this consultation – please see the attached schedule.

Accommodation

To make this change possible, we will need to build on the front of the Henlow Academy site. Accommodation required includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Room	M ²	Function
Classrooms (2 x 57m ²)	114m ²	Teaching
Group Room (2 x 12m ²)	24m ²	Teaching
Hall	80m ²	General
Hall Store	16m ²	General
Office	15m ²	General
WC (2 x 15m ²)	30m ²	General
WC (DDA)	3m ²	General
Store (2x 3m ²)	6m ²	General
General Store	6m ²	General
Plant Room	20m ²	Technical
Total Circulation	80m ²	Circulation
Outdoor Space	TBC	Outdoor Space

Curriculum

At Meppershall Academy we believe that a curriculum is everything a child experiences in school, whether planned or unplanned. We have a strong commitment to providing the best possible chance for every child to thrive by engaging in learning both within and beyond the classroom.

Our curriculum is designed to develop the academic, the physical and what is becoming the increasingly important emotional well-being of children. We help them acquire strategies which develop resilience and enhance mental health.

We provide a curriculum where connections are made between individual subjects and where children's interests shape the learning experiences we provide. The curriculum is sequential, building on previous knowledge and skills so that they become embedded in children's long-term memory and can be

transferred to different contexts. We plan opportunities for them to be creative, to experiment, to explore and, vitally, to make mistakes from which they will learn and grow.

How will school admissions be managed?

Currently, our admissions are managed by the Local Authority (CBC). Places are allocated based on the admissions criteria, which take into account various factors such as catchment area, whether there are siblings at the school, whether the child is 'looked after' and attendance at feeder schools.

It is unlikely that the proposed changes will require a change in the admission arrangements for Meppershall Church of England Academy. However, the Trustees will consult on the Admissions Criteria for Henlow Church of England Academy to include students currently attending feeder schools within the Trust.

The current admissions criteria for Meppershall Church of England Academy are:

1.	Looked after children or children who were previously looked after; but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement or special guardianship order
2.	Children who are eligible for pupil premium or service premium funding
3.	Children who at the time of application have their home address within the ecclesiastical parish of Meppershall and will have a sibling attending the school at the time of entry.
4.	Other children who at the time of application have their home address within the ecclesiastical parish of Meppershall.
5.	Very exceptional medical grounds
6.	Other children who have a sibling who will be attending the school at the time of entry.
7.	Children living outside the area as defined in category 3, one or more of whose parents/guardians have, at the time of application, shown commitment to the Church of England or another Christian Church by attending a service at least once a month for the Year prior to an application being made. Applicants in this category need to ask their priest or minister to complete the relevant section of the application form.
8.	Any other children

What are the arrangements for the consultation process?

The consultation process will run from Monday 17th April 2023 – noon Wednesday 10th May 2023. During that period, we want to hear the views of:

- Parents of current students
- Parents of potential students
- Staff who work at the school
- Our local communities, including pre-school groups and Early Years Providers, and our current site users
- All other schools within Central Bedfordshire Local Authority
- Neighbouring Local Authorities, the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses, the NHS Health Authority and other stakeholders

In order to engage in meaningful and informed consultation, we will be holding a number of consultation events to engage with all stakeholders, as well as providing the opportunity for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals. All of this evidence will be collated into a Consultation Report that the governors will consider prior to deciding whether to make a submission to the Secretary of State. What follows is the full timetable, but processes after June 2023 will only be actioned if the governors decide to proceed based on the feedback from this consultation process.

Event	Timescale
Consultation process	Monday 17th April 2023 – noon Wednesday 10th May 2023
Consultation Events:	Thursday 20th April 2023 : Hall 15.45 - 16.45 (parents – held @ Meppershall) Wednesday 26th April 2023 : Theatre 1430 - 1530 (parents – held @ Henlow) Wednesday 26th April 2023 : Theatre 1800 – 1900 (wider community - held @ Henlow)
Analysis of responses and preparation of Consultation Report	15th May – 26th May 2023
If Governors decide to proceed, proposals will be submitted to the Regional Schools	June 2023

Commissioner for consideration and then final approval by the Secretary of State	
Decision by Secretary of State via the Regional Schools Commissioner	Anticipated July/August 2023
Final Implementation of Proposals	1 September 2023

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR MEPPERSHALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY TO BECOME A SPLIT SITE PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2023

Please take the time to read our Consultation document and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us. Please email completed questionnaires to consultation@henlowacademy.org.uk, hand in at the school office or send by post to:

Mr P Huntley, Chair of Trustees, Henlow Church of England Academy, Church Road, Henlow, Beds SG16 6AN

Or enter your feedback via the school websites:

www.meppershallacademy.org.uk, www.henlowacademy.org.uk , or www.poppyhill.org.uk and click on the Consultation tab.

Alternatively, you can complete the online form by using this link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuJkGu1mO2nP-7vJOG0bPDXX-Vt93XI_6edGt2kN17R3M8QQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

All responses must be received by noon on 10th May 2023 please.

PROPOSAL

Should Meppershall Church of England Academy become a split-site Primary Academy from September 2023?

Yes	Don't know	No

Comment (please give the reasons for your answer if you wish)

Please tell us who you are.

We intend to analyse responses according to stakeholder group.

Please tick all the boxes that apply in the list below.

Parent of a student(s) currently attending Meppershall Church of England Academy

- Member of the Governing Body at Meppershall Church of England Academy
- Member of staff who works at Meppershall Church of England Academy
- Governor, including Headteacher, at one of our traditional feeder Schools
- Member of the local community
- Representative of the Local Authority
- Representative of a Diocese
- Other (please specify)

We will respect any desire to remain anonymous (no one will be publicly identified in the report on the consultation) but if you are content for us to know your name (or names if this is a joint response), please enter it/them here:

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If you would like us to send you a copy of the final consultation report, please provide an email address here: