



**Proposal to relocate St. Leonard's Primary School  
onto the site of the former Kingston Centre, Fairway,  
Stafford**

**Consultation Ends**

**19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 4pm**

**For a copy of this document please visit  
[www.st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)**

**Mrs H Spearing  
Headteacher**

**Mr Karl Lawton  
Chair of Governors**

If you would like this document in another language or format, e.g., large text, please contact

School Organisation Team at

[SOTconsultations@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SOTconsultations@staffordshire.gov.uk)

or write to

St. Leonard's Primary School

St. Leonard's Avenue

Stafford

ST17 4LT

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

### PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

1. Staffordshire County Council is responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient school places in the county. Discussions have been ongoing with the school to determine how to provide additional school places as a result of a housing development within its catchment area since 2019.
2. There is expected to be increased demand for primary school places as a result of local housing developments of around 800 dwellings within and in close proximity to the school catchment area. The level of development cannot be accommodated within the existing capacity of the school and the school cannot be expanded on its current site. The Kingston Centre provides an opportunity after remodelling and building work to accommodate the relocated school.
3. The County Council and the Governing Body of St Leonard's Primary School want to hear the views of local families, local community, school staff, governors and parents and other bodies on the proposal to:
  - Relocate the school onto the former Kingston Centre site
  - Enlarge the school on the new site incrementally from 1 FE to 2 FE.
4. It is important that you make your views known by **19<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm**

### WHY ARE MORE SCHOOL PLACES NEEDED?

5. The County Council is committed to providing the best possible start for young people, which means ensuring that every child who needs a school place in their area has one available.
6. The school will be unable to meet the expected demand for school places from the two housing developments unless further capacity is provided. This additional capacity cannot be provided within the existing school site given its Grade II listed status.
7. The two housing developments which are proposed to provide 776 new homes in the local area are jointly expected to increase the demand for school places by 23 places per year group once all the homes are built. This would result in an additional 161 pupils across the school.

## **ST LEONARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

8. St Leonard's is a popular primary school in Stafford. It was inspected by OFSTED in September 2019 and assessed as a "Good" school.
9. The current Published Admission Number (PAN) is the number of Reception places available. St Leonard's currently has a PAN of 30 and can accommodate 210 reception to year 6 pupils.
10. The school are unable to accommodate additional pupils without adding to the existing accommodation to provide additional general teaching capacity, the Grade II listed status of the building and the size of the school site means this is not possible.
11. The school has a remote playing field some distance from the school which prevents its more frequent use.

## **HOW WOULD THE SCHOOL BE IMPROVED?**

12. The proposal is to relocate and enlarge the school onto the former Kingston Centre site which has formerly operated as a school, then an office and training venue and more recently is being used as a vaccination centre.
13. The school would be able to move into more modern accommodation better suited to the delivery of the curriculum.
14. There would be on-site playing fields which would be accessible at all times, unlike the current school field. This would further help the school to provide the physical, emotional and social benefits that outdoor sports give pupils.
15. The school would enlarge in line with the demand for places from the housing developments from its current 1 FE (210 reception to year 6 places) to 2 FE (420 places). It is expected that growth will increase incrementally from 1 FE to 1½ FE (315 places) and then to 2FE.
16. The build and refurbishment work to provide the appropriate accommodation and ancillary spaces at the Kingston Centre will be funded by developer contributions, any receipt realised from the sale of the current school site and playing field and a contribution from the Basic Need Capital Programme. Staffordshire County Council would seek Section 77 consent and planning permission for the building project.
17. Work would start as soon as the necessary permissions are in place. The County Council, school, and contractors would work together to minimise any disruption, such as completing some works during school holidays.

## HOW WILL THE SCHOOL GROW?

18. Once the build work is complete, the school will be able to relocate and begin to admit additional reception pupils with an increased admission number. Consideration will also be given to providing additional places within other year groups based on demand.
19. It is currently expected that the build work would be complete to enable the relocation to take place for September 2023, with an increased intake admitted in the 2023/24 academic year.

## HOW WILL IT AFFECT THE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL?

20. Pupils at the school would not be affected and would stay until they completed their primary education. Current pupils who will be in year 4 and below will attend the school on the relocated site from September 2023.
21. There will be no substantial changes to the way in which children are taught as a result of these changes. Pupils will continue to be taught in set classes, with a teacher and teaching support.
22. As numbers increase some classes may become mixed age year groups. Both year group curriculums will be taught within this year group and teaching will be focused on the children's abilities and needs.
23. Pupils will have access to an on-site playing field.

## HOW DO I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GOVERNING BODY?

24. Please send your views (as below) by 4pm on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021
  - **Email** your views to [SOTconsultations@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SOTconsultations@staffordshire.gov.uk)
  - **Write** to St Leonard's Primary School, St Leonard's Avenue, Stafford. ST17 4LT
  - **Attend** the public consultation event
25. The public consultation event on this proposal will be held at St Leonard's primary school on **28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 between 2:30 and 4:00 pm**
26. All the views received will be considered by the County Council and the Governing Body.