



Monday 3 October 2022

Dear Parents / Carers, Pupils, Staff, and other interested parties,

## **Proposed Expansion of St Ann's School - Consultation Letter**

### **Background**

The proposal for expansion of St Ann's School has been prompted by Ealing Council in response to a further significant rise in pupils born in the last 10 years seeking special school places in the borough. There has been a specific rise in pupils with severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties, many of whom also have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Students who attend St Ann's may also have complex medical conditions, severe communication disorders, bi-modal sensory impairment, high personal care and postural management needs and challenging behaviours. Mandeville and Castlebar Schools have been expanded in response to this rising demand in the primary phase age group and plans are now required for the secondary phase to ensure a suitable level of provision.

### **The Proposal**

The governing body of the school and the Council are seeking views on a proposal to expand the school to 128 students aged 11 to 19 including Sixth Form. The increase would be phased over five years starting with extra places in Year 7 in 2023 and ending in 2028 when the school would typically have up to 16 students in each year group, year 7 to year 14. The proposed expansion will require investment in new school buildings on the St Ann's site. This will be funded by the Council.

To enable the school to expand it is proposed to provide additional classrooms and specialist learning spaces, and extra teaching and non-teaching staff would be recruited. In developing the plans further, the school will seek to maintain as much as possible of the external play space on site and the works would also include fencing and landscaping. The accommodation would be built to government requirements and guidelines.

Planning permission for the building works is required and there will be a separate consultation with local residents and other interested parties. The new accommodation has been carefully designed and located to optimise the possibility of students remaining on site during the build period.

## **Why expansion?**

### **The views of the school and governing body**

St. Ann's has a borough wide catchment and provides secondary school education for young people aged 11 to 19 who have the most severe learning disabilities. We have three cohorts of students, those with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, (PMLD), those with complex Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and those with an additional diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). All of these young people have life long disabilities and are functioning at the earliest developmental levels. They require input from a highly skilled multidisciplinary team and specialist facilities to meet their learning, therapeutic and care needs but with an increasing roll St Ann's will need additional space to deliver a consistently high quality education and maintain health and safety requirements

Governors accept the need for an expansion on the existing site to meet the needs of students who are already attending primary phase special schools in the borough. There are disadvantages as well as some advantages to expansion and we summarise below some of these. We recognise that this list is not exhaustive and have left space on the attached questionnaire for you to add your views.

### **Advantages**

- St Ann's is located near the centre of the borough which ensures that no Ealing child has too far to travel to access the school. Additional spaces will ensure that more students can benefit from the school's central location.
- The provision of additional space and specialist facilities will further enhance the quality of teaching and learning and better prepare students for adult life
- Better separation will be achieved between students who are physically and medically very vulnerable and those who are physically strong, very active and unpredictable, whilst allowing for whole school inclusion activities when appropriate.
- Health and Safety requirements will be better met
- Additional places will be available for secondary aged students with SLD/PMLD/ASD living within Ealing all of whom would benefit from input from St Ann's highly skilled and experienced multi-disciplinary team
- Job creation and greater career progression opportunities for members of staff. The expansion of the school would provide further teaching posts and other related roles by 2023.
- Increased financial flexibility and resourcing for the school.
- The attractive appearance of the school and grounds will be maintained through the expertise of the borough architects

### **Disadvantages**

- The school size will increase, but this will happen incrementally over five years. St Ann's curriculum is highly personalised and responsive to the complex special needs of each young person and we will continue to maintain the strong ethos of the school and preserve a "family" feel
- An increased school population would result in more cars and minibus vehicles accessing the site each morning and afternoon. More staff may need to park in adjoining streets.
- Some external play space will be lost both during and after the build. St Ann's students require frequent opportunities for physical recreation and need a lot of external space to meet this need.
- It will be challenging to remain on site during the building works whilst ensuring high quality teaching and learning and ensuring everyone's health and safety during the building programme.

- Some disruption in the local area may occur during the building works which would need to be managed very carefully.

### Who are we consulting?

We are consulting parents/ carers, pupils, staff, associated professionals, and other interested parties.

### How to have your say

Detailed information on the proposals expansion proposals can be accessed **on St Ann's website**

**Please return any comments to the school by midday on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Boxes for comments will be placed in the school office reception area. Alternatively, please post to:**

*St Ann's Expansion  
Springfield Road,  
Hanwell W7 3JP*

### What happens next?

**3 October 2022** consultation starts;

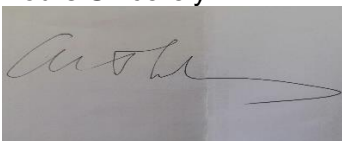
- Consultation Meetings at St Ann's School  
**Virtual – Thursday 20 October 2022 10.30am-11.30am**  
**Google Meet joining info**  
**Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/cgu-sxsk-hde>**  
**Or dial: (US) +1 682-730-2585**  
**PIN: 279 170 830#**

**On Site - Thursday 20 October 2022: 3.45pm-6.30pm**

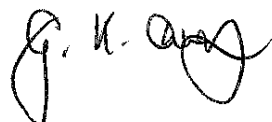
- **14 November 2022** deadline for responses to the consultation  
Governors consider consultation responses and decide whether or not to proceed. Update for parents on progress.
- December 2022 / January 2023 statutory notice to be published in local paper, with a further 4 weeks to comment on the proposals
- February 2023 Ealing Council Cabinet will determine the proposal
- Preparations begin for Autumn 2023 implementation.

**Please take time to complete the attached questionnaire so that we can get your feedback. In order for us to collate your responses, please return the questionnaire to school by midday on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

Yours Sincerely



Tom Lindsay  
Education Planning Adviser  
Ealing Council



Gillian Carver  
Head teacher  
St Ann's School

## St Ann's School Expansion - Feedback Form

Please indicate your views on the proposal to expand St Ann's School to 128 pupils 11 - 19 including sixth form from September 2023 by ticking the most appropriate box.

An expansion at St Ann's School would mean we could:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
Improve Special Educational Needs (SEN) facilities for students:						
Help meet the growing demand for this type of provision:						
Support pupils with SEN in the area:						

### To what extent do you support the proposed expansion of St Ann's School?

- Completely
- Very much
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all
- Don't know / Can't say

Please add other comments on the proposal (continue overleaf if necessary):

**For your views to be counted, you must provide your full name and address. Only one response per person will be accepted. We will not pass on your personal information to a third party. Your views will be treated as strictly confidential.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

I am a:

Parent/Carer       Member of Staff       Local Resident   
Governor at School       Prospective Parent       Other, specify  \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the questionnaire to school by midday on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Boxes for completed forms will be placed in the school office reception area. Alternatively, please post to:**

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Springfield Road,  
Hanwell W7 3JP*