



## Proposed expansion of Hatchell Wood Primary

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### Why are you not building a new school?

There are a number of issues to consider before establishing a new school:-

- Any new school must be approved by the Department for Education. The Department are very clear that creating a one form entry school would only be approved in exceptional circumstances i.e. where there are no possibilities to extend schools locally.
- A new school would be an academy and run by a new Trust following a formal application process, requiring its own leadership team and Local Governing Body.
- There would be significant additional ongoing costs to a new school which are already in place at Hatchell Wood for example, leadership and ancillary support.
- A one form entry school, with a single teacher responsible for the planning and delivery of the curriculum to a year group in addition to other responsibilities across the school, does not have the support of a year group team.
- We also believe that the leadership and support available from an existing school with a proven track record would give a better experience than attending a single form entry school. Moving to a three form entry would mean each year group will have 3 teachers who will be able to plan and



deliver the curriculum and a greater pool of staff will provide for a greater sharing of responsibilities and providing specialist support.

## **New Build**

### **Who will be doing the works?**

Wilmott Dixon have been contracted to carry out the new build. The City of Doncaster Council have worked successfully with Wilmott Dixon on a number of projects including Bader School, Danum Gallery Library and museum and Carr Lodge Academy.

### **Where will the new building be placed?**

The new building will be placed alongside the current building (to the right-hand side of the building) on an unused area of the school.

### **What will the school look like?**

It will be a single storey building and will be similar in shape to the current building so that they complement each other.

### **How will the building be built?**

It will be a traditional build with a steel frame.

As part of the Contract with Wilmott Dixon, they are required to demonstrate social value in the community, maximising local spend by utilising supply chains and local contractors.

### **How will the two buildings be linked?**

There will be an internal linked corridor.

### **Will the new build be energy efficient?**

Yes, it will be designed to be energy and thermally efficient. An assessment will be carried out to see how this will be delivered.

### **Will there be additional parking?**

There will be an additional staff parking area to cater for the increased numbers.

### **How will you ensure that children and staff are safe during the build?**

The site will be segregated with any works affecting the current building taking place when school is not in session. There will be a separate access road during the period of the build works

## **Timeframe**

### **When will the new places be available?**

There will be initial modifications to the current building for September 2024 to allow for additional reception children in the first instance.

We estimate that the new build will be complete and handed over to the school by September 2025.

## **Provision**

### **How many extra children will there be?**

Eventually there will be an extra 30 pupils per year group in the main school, so 210 in total.

### **Will this affect the amount of green space available?**

The Department for Education has a set formula for green space. An assessment has been carried out that evidences that once the new build is complete the school will still have sufficient green space.



**Will there be more playground space for them?**

The early years and Key Stage 1 children will be provided with appropriate outdoor space to meet their needs.

**What year groups will be catered for?**

The intention is to add pupils from Reception upwards so that in September 2024 an additional 30 places will be added. The following year an additional year group of 30 places will be added in 2025 and so on until the school has 3 classes in each year group.

This will be kept under review with the school and may allow additional pupils to be admitted earlier as the school continues to grow.

**Will additional places be available in all year groups at the same time?**

Despite being oversubscribed, there is currently insufficient demand for all year groups. Growing in this way allows the school to plan its staffing and resources to support all pupils as they join the school. This will be kept under review as the school continues to grow.

Parents of other year groups who are unsuccessful will be offered the right to an independent appeal.

**Will there be any mixed age classes or increased class sizes as the school grows?**

This will depend on the number of children that we have in each year group as the school grows in the future. This will be carefully monitored and planned for. If there is a need to have mixed age classes, the school will ensure that the quality of education and the experiences of the children will be just as good as they are now. Many schools in the country are experienced at working with mixed age classes and the school managed successfully with them in our last period of growth.

**Will there be provision for nursery pupils?**

The school intend to open their own nursery on site and this will be delivered as part of the new build for September 2025 and so designed specifically for Early Years pupils.

**Will the inclusion and SEN support in school continue to be strong with increased numbers of children?**

Yes. As the population of the children grows, the provision will be adapted according to need.

**What would be the impact on the existing building?**

An additional classroom will be provided for September 2024 for the additional reception class, the SEND facilities will be enhanced and the staffroom will move to a central position within school.



## **General**

### **How much will the extension cost?**

The extension will cost significantly less than a new 1 form entry school of a similar size which would be estimated to be in the region of £12- £15 million.

Expanding Hatchell Wood represents good value for money when compared to building a new school.

The statutory walking distance, accompanied by parents/carers as necessary, is 2 miles for children under 8 and 3 miles for those aged 8 and over.

### **What about consulting the local community?**

The initial public meeting on 24 January will be in addition to a series of public meetings delivered jointly by Wilmott Dixon, the City of Doncaster Council and the school, its Governors/Trust representatives. This will be around the planning process where people will be able to comment on the build and how we can minimise disruption locally.

### **Will the catchment area change?**

The Academy Trust is responsible for setting its own admission policies and this includes catchment areas. However, the catchment area has already been extended to cater for the Warren Park development.

The school is located central to its catchment area in Cantley. For example it is no more than approximately 1.2 miles from the school to any part of its catchment area. This includes the furthest point of the Warren Park development.

