



Archbishop Wake
CE Primary School



Stakeholder Consultation on the Blandford Forum Children's Centre
Nursery joining Archbishop Wake CE Primary School and the Diocese
of Salisbury Academy Trust

Friday 13th September – Friday 25th October 2024



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust
'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'

Introduction

This document has been created collaboratively by the **Trustees, Governors, Leadership, and Officers of Archbishop Wake CE Primary School, Blandford Nursery, Dorset Council and The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust** following initial discussion about the proposal set out below.

You will be aware from our previous correspondence that our collective proposal is for **Blandford Nursery** to join **Archbishop Wake CE Primary School** and become part of the **Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust** from **22nd April 2025**. Before any major decision can be made about the future of a nursery and its associated provision, there has to be consultation with those people likely to be affected by the change. The purpose of this document is to consult with the **Blandford Nursery and Archbishop Wake CE Primary School** community, and all others with an interest in the future provision of education for children in the area.

The outcome of this consultation will provide Dorset Council and the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust with guidance and relevant information to support their decision-making processes. This consultation is a statutory requirement of the process to seek a change to the age-range of Archbishop Wake CE Primary School, and for the proposed transfer of Blandford Nursery. The outcome of this consultation is not binding on any of the parties involved.

This document gives background information and asks for your views. It is really important that we can get your views and responses and ask your help and support in engaging in this consultation. Thank you.

Stakeholders

In discussion with the **Trustees, Governors, Leadership, and Officers of Archbishop Wake CE Primary School, Blandford Nursery, Dorset Council and The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust**, and in line with the **Academies Act 2010**, the stakeholder groups for this consultation have been identified as:

- **parents/carers of pupils at the settings**
- **parents/carers of pupils offered a place at the school for the next academic year**
- **staff working at the settings and any staff due to be employed at the school from the next academic year**
- **Governors and Trustees from both settings**
- **Diocesan Board of Education**
- **the Local Authority**
- **Local schools who might be affected or have an opinion on the change**
- **Parish Councillors**
- **PCC**
- **Local councillors**
- **MP**

Context

Nursery

Blandford Nursery is a 40-place nursery open every day from 8am until 6pm, and part of the Blandford Children's Centre. We take children from 0 to 5 years. All staff are qualified with a minimum NVQ level 2 qualification. We are a friendly and welcoming Nursery offering a range of activities catering for very young babies through to School age. We strongly support children to learn through play experiences in stimulating, fun and interesting environments ensuring they are given the opportunity to build upon these foundations.

Dorset Council

Dorset, a great place to live, work and visit. Dorset Council are highly aspirational for children and young people and are proud to represent their voices. The county is blessed with a diverse and dynamic education community and together we want to create the very best educational opportunities and outcome for all. As a council we want all our children to thrive and have a strong sense of belonging within their own communities; to feel safe, trusted, and welcome within their education setting and be excited about lifelong learning. We want our young people to imagine, work towards, and secure a future that meets their needs, and provides fulfilment.

Local Child, Local School: Belonging. We believe that children and young people thrive when they can access their local early years settings, schools and services. Our ambition is for children and young people to attend their local school where appropriate, where their needs are met. As stated in the Council's Children Young People and Families Plan 2023-33 Best Education for All, "We want our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to be healthy, happy and safe, and able to achieve their potential to lead a fulfilling life. We want them to have, and to expect the same opportunities in life as other children and young people." Our children and young people told us that belonging is acceptance whatever you feel. It is being together and not feeling lonely, it is being part of something – a community. It is having a voice and being heard. Quote "When you belong, you feel safe and there is care" Voice of our LGBTQ+ community. For many young people in Dorset, belonging is their everyday (very positive) reality. We aim to ensure that this is the lived experience for all our children and young people. We want our communities and schools to be inclusive places where all our children and young people feel they belong. We will support all our schools and settings to be inclusive for all our children and young people through thinking therapeutically. We want our children and young people to have the right support at the right time enabling them to have a stable and settled education. We want our children and young people to be able to achieve their goals so that they are prepared for adult life and go on to successful futures. This starts with their earliest educational experiences in high quality Early Years provisions.

School

Archbishop Wake CE Primary School is named after Blandford's own Archbishop of Canterbury, William Wake (1657 - 1737). After a long and distinguished career in the church, William provided funding before his death for a school to be opened and educate twelve boys in Blandford.

Archbishop Wake CE Primary School is a loving, caring, inclusive and forgiving community where we respect, appreciate and support each other and our environment. Learning is challenging, exciting and fun. Children are prepared for the changing world in which they live by learning and applying key skills so that they achieve the best possible outcomes and become independent learners for life. They have opportunities to discover, develop and share their talents, know how to keep themselves safe and healthy and understand their rights and responsibilities as a member of the wider community. On leaving our school, children are well equipped to embrace their future and all it holds with faith in God, each other and themselves.

Here every child is an individual and everyone is special. This is a caring learning environment where all our children are encouraged to achieve in a variety of ways and fulfil their own potential. Successes are celebrated and each child's contribution is valued. We aim to provide a wide and balanced range of educational opportunities within a stimulating and purposeful learning environment. We pride ourselves on the happy, caring and positive atmosphere that exists within the school which enables children to grow in self-confidence and develop a respect for the people and environment around them.

Trust

The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT) are a dynamic Trust, working across a range of schools within the Diocese of Salisbury with extensive experience of learning, teaching, leading and managing schools from Nursery to Year 6. Our vision is to develop thriving learning communities within a church school context, that enable children to achieve beyond what they might otherwise expect. We are constantly developing and growing as we seek to meet the needs of our children and young people. We are proud to be a Trust that has provided a home for schools in a range of circumstances, including those who have had the most challenging of times. We are committed to securing long-term and secure early years provision in an education sector that is currently facing many challenges and with many community early years provisions going out of business. The most important part of what we do is help facilitate improvement in our schools such that the children have the very best possible experience as they grow into mature and confident learners with a strong sense of morality and values from Nursery to Year 6 and beyond. On the DSAT website (www.dsat.org.uk) you will get a sense of what we offer to our existing schools and our prospective joiners. Equally, from our school pages (www.dsat.org.uk/schools/) you will get an understanding of all that we offer to our children, families and communities as part of our family of schools.

Proposal

We are seeking to expand the school's provision and enhance the educational offer to our community to create a single school from 0 years, through to 11 years. We strongly believe that bringing the two settings together will enable:

- To provide effective and available nursery provision to the local community whilst at the same time supporting School readiness and cohesion for pupils entering the setting's reception.
- To provide Nursery experience and socialisation to children who currently may have limited experience due to being at home before entering reception.
- To enable the addition of Nursery provision to support parental choice for Archbishop Wake CE Primary School.
- High quality nursery provision will ensure those entering reception do so 'school ready' and the provision is seen to impact on school performance data in the short and long term.
- To provide high quality provision in line with the National and Local Government priority and additional funding to parents for nursery provision.
- Academic progress, support and challenge for all children through a continuum of learning which will know them personally and academically from 0 years to 11 years.
- Continuity of learning experience, and a continuum of knowledge of and provision for every child.
- Shared resourcing and opportunity, including development of the learning environment.
- Taking advantage of the strength of a well-established Trust, (DSAT) which enables the individuality of each setting, but underpinned by infrastructure to enable increased training for staff, greater financial security and assurance, support for school improvement, HR provision, health and safety and safeguarding.

- Increased stability for staff through improving the capacity of both settings together: creating a larger EYFS team; adding capacity for supporting vulnerable pupils through a 'team around the child/family' approach; opportunities for wrap-around care; and, enabling greater opportunities to plan, learn and deliver learning together.
- Shared knowledge, experience, expertise and skills – we can maximise each of these through a continuum of provision and learning to the best advantage for every child.
- Sustainability for the School, ensuring a consistent intake of children year on year.

Why are we considering this?

We are aware of how well-loved and respected both the Nursery and the School are within the Blandford community and we feel it is both our vision and our duty to ensure that both remain secure and sustainable to serve our community for many years to come.

We know that it is imperative that we get Early Years education right for all our children, and want to ensure that we can do everything in our power to enable high-quality, purposeful and inclusive learning that will underpin the learning journey of all children for the rest of their lives.

We strongly believe that we can provide that continuity of learning for all children, grounded within a strong community, building this together for an exciting future together as one school. The ethos of, 'Best start in life' is one shared by both nursery and school and we believe that developing this shared vision will bring significant benefits to children from 0 years through to 11.

In addition to the educational benefits, we are seeking to ensure this provision enables a cohesive approach to working with, and alongside families – building stronger relationships and trust between home and school – enabling flourishing for all.

Impact and Aims

As set out above, we believe that there are significant educational, ethos and values-based, community, staffing, sustainability, financial, and developmental benefits for all children and for our community in moving forward with this proposal.

The Trustees, Governors, Leadership, and Officers of Archbishop Wake CE Primary School, Blandford Nursery, Dorset Council and The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust are highly committed to the long-term futures and success of **Blandford Nursery and Bishop Wake CE Primary School** and believe that this can be best achieved by a joint commitment to developing **0 – 11 years** provision for outstanding learning and education in the community.

Next Steps

At the close of the consultation period the **Trustees, Governors, Leadership, and Officers of Archbishop Wake CE Primary School, Blandford Nursery, Dorset Council and The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust** will consider the responses and will create a response document that will be shared with stakeholders. This document will, having considered all responses, set out the final decision of the collective partners as to whether or not to submit an application to the Regional Director of the Department of Education (DfE) for a 'significant change' application. The consultation documentation, responses and outcome will be shared with the Regional Director as part of the process. As stated at the opening of this document the consultation, whilst a requirement, is not binding and final decisions on the application to transfer Blandford Nursery will be made independently by the partners to this consultation stated above.

If this proposal is accepted and approved by the DfE Regional Director we will write to you with more detail about what it looks like for pupils, staff and governance particularly when a nursery or school joins an Academy Trust. Again, if the proposal goes ahead, there would be a separate TUPE consultation for all staff affected by the change.

Consultation

We hope that our reasons for this proposal and consultation are clear, and we would like to seek your views on the following areas, please:

Key Questions

- Do you support the proposal for **Blandford Nursery** to join **Archbishop Wake CE Primary School** and become part of the **Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust**?
- What positives would you identify from this proposed change?
- Do you have any concerns about the proposal?
- If you do not support the proposal, what is the basis for your objection?
- Have you any further comments you would like to share with us?

Meeting/Drop-in Session

To support the consultation process we are providing a face-to-face meeting/drop-in session for anyone who may like to attend including: parents, carers and guardians; staff of the Nursery and the School; employees of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust; other key stakeholders involved in the consultation.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th October** at **3.30 – 4.30pm** in the main school hall.

If you would like to attend please email office@archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk

Indicative Timeline

Stage	Date	Process	Action
1	13/9/24	Publication	The proposal will be published on 13/9/24 for 6 weeks until 25/10/24 A copy of the proposal has been sent to all stakeholders identified Responses are made only through the methods set out in the consultation document and must be received by 4pm on 25/10/24
2	13/9/24	Consultation	The consultation period will run from 13/9/24 – 25/10/24
3	20/12/24	Decision	Following the representation period, a decision will be made by the Department for Education's South-West Regional Director and the Advisory Board. The proposal can be: - Accepted - Rejected - Or accepted with modifications by the proposer The decision will be published within one week of the decision and; - published on the same sites as the consultation - sent to the parent/carers of every registered pupil - and sent to the collaboration partners
4	22/4/25	Implementation	If approved, the new arrangements are due to be in place by 22/4/25 If the proposal is accepted the local authority, nursery and the school will work together to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently.

Stakeholder Engagement – how do I respond?

Responses can be made:

- via this online form link <https://forms.office.com/e/OLqt6bh7bH>
- by emailing consultations@archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk or
- in writing to **Archbishop Wake Church of England Primary School, Black Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8SW.**

Please note, all responses must be received by **4pm on Friday 25th October 2024.** Thank you.

A copy of this consultation document can be accessed through

<https://www.dsat.org.uk/consultations/>

Our sincerest thanks for your consideration of, and participation in this important consultation. Your views are extremely important to us, and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Mr Daniel Carter
Headteacher



Mr Mark Lacey
CEO, Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust



Ms Alice Deacon
Dorset Council