



Statutory notice for the proposed closure of Westcott Church of England School

Open date: 8 May 2024

Close date: 4 June 2024

Name: School Commissioning

Email: westcottceconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

It is with deep regret that the Governing Board of Westcott Church of England (CE) School, with the support of Oxford Diocesan Board for Education (ODBE) and the Council, is publishing a statutory notice to close Westcott CE School.

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of schools) Regulations 2013 that Buckinghamshire Council intends to discontinue the following maintained community school with effect from 31 August 2024:

Westcott Church of England School, High Street, Westcott, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP18 0PH

The Governing Board of Westcott CE School, together with the ODBE and the Council, have considered the responses to the recent consultation on the future of Westcott CE School. The consultation ended on 13 March 2024. As it did not provide any viable options to support the school remaining open, we are publishing this statutory proposal for closure.

The main factors leading to the closure proposal are:

- low current and projected pupil numbers and a surplus of places in the local area
- falling number of births in Westcott village (c. 2 children a year based on birth figures over the last six years)
- Ofsted judging the school to be inadequate in June 2022

- as a result, the Department for Education (DfE) informed the school that they must become an Academy and join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) but no suitable MAT sponsor can be found
- on the 30 April 2024 the DfE revoked the academy order on the basis that the school would not be viable as an academy, so allowing a statutory notice to be published proposing the closure of the school
- increasing deficit budget resulting in the school becoming financially unviable
- the lease on part of the school site ends in 2032 and the landowner has confirmed that they do not intend to extend the lease beyond its expiry date

This Notice is an extract of the full proposal. A copy of the full proposal is available to download at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/westcott-ce-school-statutory-notice. Alternatively you can request a copy via email westcottceconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or by post: The School Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire Council, 1st Floor, Walton Street Office, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UZ.

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this notice, any person may submit a representation.

Related documents

Before you submit any representations, please have a look at the following documents. These are available at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/westcott-ce-school-statutory-notice:

- Statutory notice for the proposed closure of Westcott Church of England School
- Statutory proposal for the closure of Westcott Church of England School
- Summary of comments made in the first stage consultation to close Westcott Church of England School

How to make a representation

You can submit a representation in the following ways:

- Complete the online survey at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/westcott-ce-school-statutory-notice
- Complete, and return, the printed version of the survey below
- Email us at westcottceconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

- Write to us at The School Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire Council, 1st Floor, Walton Street Office, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UZ

If you have any questions about this activity, please email us at westcottceconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Please submit any representations by 11:59pm on Tuesday 4 June 2024.

What happens next

Westcott CE School Governing Board, together with the Council and the ODBE, will consider all the responses we receive.

The Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, will take the decision on the final outcome within 2 months of the end of the representation period.

If the decision is taken to close the school, it is proposed that this would take effect on 31 August 2024.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Statutory notice for the proposed closure of Westcott Church of England School - Printed consultation survey

1. Do you agree with the proposal to close Westcott Church of England School?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

2. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a parent or carer of a student at Westcott Church of England School
- I work at Westcott Church of England School
- I am a Governor / Trustee for Westcott Church of England School
- I am a student at Westcott Church of England School
- I live near Westcott Church of England School
- I work at another local school in the area
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council

Other (please give details below):

3. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Letter from school
- School staff briefing
- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council or Town Committee
- Other (please give details below):

4. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question 6)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

5. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer, or you can skip all the questions by clicking 'Continue' at the bottom of the page.

6. What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

7. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

8. Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

9. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long-term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

10. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean

- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on Tuesday 4 June 2024. You can:

- email it to westcottceconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to The School Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire Council, 1st Floor, Walton Street Office, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UZ