

Proposal to Expand St Peter's CE Primary School, Coggeshall

This proposal provides relevant information in accordance with the *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013*.

School Details

St Peter's CE Primary School
Myneer Park
Coggeshall
Colchester
CO6 1YU

Local Authority Details

Director, Education
c/o School Organisation
Economy, Investment and
Public Health
Sustainable Growth
Essex County Council
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH

Description

The number of children in primary schools in this area of Braintree District has increased over the last ten years as a result of births, families moving in and new housing. Latest forecasts indicate that this increase in pupil numbers will continue, and additional provision is required to balance future supply and demand for local school places.

This table shows forecast demand for Reception places in the area for the next 10 years:

F. Southeast (Feering)

Current PAN: 130
Current Capacity: 895

Reception Place Forecast

Year	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35
+/-	30	14	19	13	9	3	-2	-8	-12	-16
Feering CE Primary, Kelvedon St Mary's CE Primary, St Peter's CE Primary Coggeshall										

The forecasts also indicate that there may be further growth in the area, potentially increasing demand from 2031 onwards above the 105 additional places proposed at St Peter's CE Primary School. The number of children registered with a GP will continue to be monitored, as will the actual numbers of pupils in schools. If pressure on school places continues to rise in line with the forecasts a further expansion may be required at a school in the planning group.

St Peter's CE Primary School is a popular and successful school. A new housing development is underway in Coggeshall, and this will undoubtedly lead to more children in the village. Expanding permanently to 420 places will allow the school to plan more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.

With the full support of the Governing Body of St Peter's CE Primary School, it is proposed to expand St Peter's CE Primary School from 315 places (one-and-a-half forms of entry) to 420 places (two forms of entry) from September 2026. This would enable the school to admit 15 additional Reception children each year from September 2026.

Current Capacity	315	Current Published Admission Number	45
New Capacity	420	New Published Admission Number	60

The school is rated Good by Ofsted. Expanding it will provide more places to meet the growing demand in the local area and will enable more parents to gain a place for their child at a high performing village school.

Work has been undertaken to explore options for expanding and remodeling the school which would include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum.

Consultation

A formal consultation on a proposal to expand St Peter's CE Primary School from 315 places to 420 places on a phased basis was held between 5 February 2024 and 11 March 2024.

A response form was made available online and the consultation document was distributed to parents of children at the school via the school. Copies of the document were also posted to other interested parties by email. Responses to the consultation could be made through the organised meetings and/or via the electronic response form, by letter or email.

A drop-in session for parents, staff and the local community was held on 18 May 2024.

Objectives

The County Council is under a duty to promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in the county to promote diversity and increase parental choice. This is rolled up in the council's vision to "increase educational achievement and enhance skills".

Effect on other schools and educational institutions

The proposed expansion of the school is to meet a forecast deficit of primary places in the area. Therefore, there is no foreseen effect on other schools in the area, as the expansion is proportionate to meet the forecast demand for places.

Funding

The cost of the building work required to enable the school to expand will be met by Essex County Council.

The cost of the project will be funded through ECC's Capital Programme (published March 2024), which identifies £126,000,000 being spent on mainstream education over the next four years to ensure that additional pupil places are being delivered in the areas of need. Details of the Capital Programme can be found at www.essex.gov.uk

Implementation

The school will expand from 1 September 2026.

Details on how to respond to proposals

Within four weeks from the date of publication (8 May 2025) you may make objections or comments in respect of this proposal in the following ways:

By post: Director, Education
 c/o School Organisation
 Economy, Investment and Public Health
 Sustainable Growth
 Essex County Council
 Chelmsford
 Essex
 CM1 1QH

By email: school.organisation@essex.gov.uk