



Consultation Report

**For our Proposal to
extend the Age Range of
Ursula Taylor Church of England School
to a Single Phase Primary
Provision for
2017-2018**

CONSULTATION REPORT ON OUR PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF URSULA TAYLOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, CLAPHAM, BEDFORD, BEDS, MK41 6EG TO A SINGLE PHASE PRIMARY PROVISION FOR 2017/2018

This report has been created to record all responses made to the consultation which has run from the 2nd November 2015 until noon on the 11th December 2015.

History of Ursula Taylor C of E School

Ursula Taylor Lower School was built in 1989 as a purpose built lower school. On 1st August 2013 Ursula Taylor Lower School became an Academy and changed its name to Ursula Taylor Church of England School.

Ursula Taylor C of E School has two form entry with a standard admission of 54, although we do admit up to 60. Ursula Taylor has a maximum capacity of 300 and at the current time has 282 on roll. Ursula Taylor School provides education for the lower school age range (4 – 9 years) where children transfer to Middle School, (usually Lincroft Middle) and then Upper School (usually Sharnbrook Upper)

The proposal to extend the age range to convert Ursula Taylor to a primary school will see the age range alter to 4-11 years (Reception to Year 6) This proposed change will require an increase in building size to accommodate four extra classes.

The Consultation

The Governing Body of Ursula Taylor Church of England School have completed a full consultation with stakeholders regarding the following proposal:

From	Action
September 2017	Year 4 pupils remain at Ursula Taylor Church of England School and move into Year 5
September 2018	Year 5 pupils remain at Ursula Taylor Church of England School and move into Year 6

Consultation Documents and FAQs are available on our school website, along with a series of questions asked by stakeholders at the consultation events. Three events were held as part of the consultation process:

9th November 2015 6:30pm – 8:30pm at UTS for Parents/carers and the Wider community

12th November 2015 2:30pm – 3:30pm at UTS for Parents/carers

10th November 2015 3:45pm at UTS for Staff

Responses to our proposal

38 responses were received. 22 were completed online and 16 using the paper format.

15 responses were from staff members/Governors

1 responses from the Parish Council

22 responses from parents/prospective parents

The responses received:

Yes	Don't Know	No
34 89.5 %	2 5.25%	2 5.25%

The following part of the report details the comments made regarding the proposals. The total number of comments do not total 38 as some respondents did not make comments. Where concerns have been raised, a response has been made by the Governing Body.

Yes responses:	
Yes	I believe that this suggested change is very positive and highlights the schools' wish to do the best they can for the children of Clapham. The pastoral support at Ursula Taylor is excellent and demonstrates the level of commitment the staff have towards the children. Ursula Taylor C of e School should convert to a Primary School.
Yes	Having been educated in a Two Tier system and having two nieces currently in Two Tier the Three Tier system has never sat well with me. I feel that a Primary School environment will allow my child to be in an age appropriate environment, i.e. at age 9 not mixing with 13-14 year olds. I feel children are expected to grow up too quickly with the Three Tier. I am pleased to see the proposal for extra sports facilities etc. as I think these are required. I fully support the proposal and if successful I will be one happy parent.
Yes	This will provide a more nurturing environment for longer, particularly my eldest son who has ASD and dislikes change / appreciates support. It is easier and safer for the children to get to and from school when it is in the village. Ursula Taylor is an excellent school and I want the children to stay there as long as possible.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	We agree with the proposal
Yes	It would be better for our pupils to remain at Ursula Taylor Church of England School
Yes	I am in favour of the reduced disruption to a child's education and feel that 9 years old is too young to move from such a positive family/community environment. If acceptable, I consider that there is scope for Year 5 and 6 to help nurture and develop earlier years.
	Governor's Response We agree that there is scope for older children to nurture and support younger children. Many Primary Schools organise and run very effective buddying systems and peer support which mutually benefits all children. We would look toward using examples from local successful Primaries as a basis for developing our own systems.
Yes	I think that the children will benefit from staying under the firm guidance and caring school that UTS provides until the end of key stage 2.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Clearly the two tier structure is already advanced in the area and in order to give pupils the least disruption and best learning opportunity UTS becoming a Primary is desirable. The high quality of teaching and pastoral care of UTS is well suited to a primary school

Yes	As a parent and member of staff I support the decision to become a Primary School
Yes	We feel this will be an excellent approach for our daughter
Yes	I support the proposal for Years 5 and 6 to remain at Ursula Taylor. It is vitally important that the structure of Bedford schooling becomes aligned with the rest of the country. I believe that UTS have appropriate plans in place to manage this change.
Yes	Primary is better for all
Yes	I feel that this is the right move forward for the school and all its pupils. It is time we moved with the times and became 2 tier. I feel that the children will be better looked after emotionally/pastorally/socially and will be better prepared, more mature and ready to move school (once) at the end of Year 6. I hope suitable and experienced staff will be appointed. I believe some changes will be made to deal with older children – toilets, sanitary bins for the girls etc. Perhaps the behaviour guidelines need to be looked at or adapted for older children.
	<p>Governors' Response.</p> <p>If the decision is made to convert to Primary, all policies, procedures and systems will be reviewed to ensure they are suitable and appropriate for the Primary age range and environment. The Head teachers have committed to working collaboratively to ensure that we are demonstrating best practice in all our schools.</p> <p>Staff recruitment will have the highest priority. We strive to appoint the best staff possible and this will continue to be the case when appointing new staff members for any age range change. All teachers at UTS are Primary trained with some having previous experience of teaching and working within upper Key stage 2.</p>
Yes	Conversion to primary offers a stable environment for our children to complete the education to the end of KS2. A lot has been detailed about provision of sports facilities and opportunities, which is encouraging. However, I think it is equally important to ensure there is access and diversity on the provision of music and arts education and little has been covered about this. Not all children are keen sports people. There are as equally important lessons about co-operation and team work to be learnt through musical performance. Will Year 5 and 6 be offered opportunities to learn a variety of musical instruments? If pupils have to wait until secondary school to begin instrument lessons when they have lost 2 years of training that they currently benefit from now. This is a significant amount of time in learning an instrument. Will a school band/orchestra/music group be considered? Playing as a group and learning about all the sections/elements of an orchestra provides many benefits and opportunities and a chance to nurture talent. Finally, it was discussed in a consultation meeting about the problems in erecting a fence on the boundary of the school. With the increase in pupil numbers and the age and size of the pupils at the school, I am concerned that the current front wall will not provide sufficient safeguarding for all the pupils at the school. Please let parents know if there is anything we can do, individually or collectively, to assist the school in pressing for changes and upgrades to the fencing.
	<p>Governors' Response</p> <p>Music opportunities for Year 5 and 6 will be considered alongside all curriculum decisions for Year 5 and 6. Currently all children in Year 2, 3 and 4 are offered opportunities to learn an instrument, with Year 4 having a specialist Music Teacher for whole class weekly percussion lessons. We envisage continuing to offer a school choir and have been in discussions with other local schools seeking to become Primaries about possibilities of employing a specialist music teacher to work across schools. As a Governing Body we have focussed largely on Sports provision in our consultation, as this has been an area of greatest concern, however we feel that</p>

	<p>music is enormously beneficial for our children and we are committed to providing the best opportunities we can.</p> <p>Fencing</p> <p>Previously the fence at the front of the school has been problematic in terms of planning permission. As a Governing Body we have discussed the front wall and will be looking at this again to see if something can be installed to increase our children safety and site security.</p>
Yes	I feel Primary schools offer a far better level of pastoral care to children in Years 5 and 6 if they remained in a 'lower school' setting rather than a 'middle school' setting. Having taught in both Primary Schools and Lower schools, I don't see a disadvantage to children staying for another two years in a Primary setting just as long as the expertise of Year 5 and 6 staff is exceptional and resources are in place.
Yes	Primary schools work well providing the correct/right environment for children of Year 5/6 age.
Yes	Children find the upheaval from moving on unsettling. I hope reducing this disruption will be a good move for the children and help them to grow at a steady pace and help them to grow in confidence.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	I fully support the proposed change. The school is in a good position to take advantage of the tremendous advantage becoming an all-through Primary presents. The change will bring tremendous advantages to the children.
Yes	I feel starting at Lincroft at age 8/9 is far too young and so I would like my child to stay on at UTLs for years 5 and 6 too.
Yes	<p>Concerns:</p> <p>Will you meet the timescale?</p> <p>How will the school meet the requirements of Sex Education?</p> <p>How will the school recruit suitably qualified and experienced staff for the new age groups? There are rumours of a 'stitch up' to take unwanted staff from Lincroft.</p> <p>How will the school increase music and sport to offer a wider range of challenges?</p>
	<p>Governors' Response</p> <p>Timescales -. Once the decision to convert / not convert has been made by the Governing Body and also by the Bedford Executive, we will be able to be more formal regarding build dates. A significant amount of planning has already taken place, as well as surveying our current site. Information will be provided to parents when appropriate.</p> <p>Sex and Relationships Education – All children in Foundation – Year 4 currently receive SRE through their Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education lessons. This will continue to be the case as the children move into Year 5 and 6 and the curriculum expectations change. All curriculum areas will be subject to a full review and planning phase in readiness for any changes to be made.</p> <p>Recruitment – The recruitment of high quality staff will be a priority. Whilst we have spoken at Headteacher and Chair of Governor level about the possibility of sharing staff, and working collaboratively, this does not mean we will have to employ anyone. We will be advertising for and recruiting the best possible staff we can.</p> <p>Music and Sport – The national Curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities and music and sport and we will ensure all children have the full experience that the</p>

	curriculum offers. This coupled with our programme of extra-curricular activities will provide the Year 5 and 6 children with an experience in line with other Primary Schools. In order to achieve this, we have been considering a number of possibilities, including employing specialist PE and Music teachers to work across a number of schools.
Yes	We think it's right for our county to match the rest of the country so that our 'Middle School' teachers have more options.
Yes	I'm confident that the pastoral care UTS can offer the children will be better than they currently receive at Lincroft. I'm also reassured by talking to Mrs Morrall that the move to change to Primary status is led by wanting to ensure the children receive the best education and care.
Yes	The Parish Council fully supports the proposal that from September 2017, Year 5 pupils should remain at Ursula Taylor Church of England School and move into Year 6 from 2018.
Don't Know responses:	
Don't Know	
Don't Know	
No responses:	
No	I am strongly against it. I don't think there is the space or the outstanding facilities that Lincroft have. I would be very disappointed if my child has to stay at Ursula Taylor from year 6. I am not happy about it. No no no
	<p>Governors' Response</p> <p>As a Governing Body we have been very clear that we do not have the facilities that parents have come to expect from Lincroft. We have committed to ensuring the best possible use of our grounds and also to seek opportunities for use of local facilities such as the King George VI playing fields. We are also in discussion with Lincroft and Sharnbrook about the possibility of our children using their facilities, such as the sports hall or science labs.</p> <p>A vast majority of Primary Schools do not have large Sports Halls and designated Science labs. The whole of the Year 5 and 6 National Curriculum is deliverable to a high standard in a school without the facilities that Lincroft has. As a Governing Body we will be completing a full curriculum review and purchasing equipment that is required.</p>
No	I believe the school should remain a lower school. I believe my 2 daughters will fall behind what they would gain from Lincroft middle school in Year 5 and 6. Ursula Taylor cannot provide the same opportunities. I know this first hand as I have 2 sons who schooled through Lincroft. As a primary school, Ursula Taylor cannot provide the same opportunities, facilities for Science, sports (no athletic field, proper football/rugby pitch, cricket or tennis) or performing arts. I don't agree with mixing the age range of 4 year olds with 10, 11 years olds. Schools in Northampton were some of the first to change to 2 tier system and many of them are now under-achieving and under special measures as quoted by another concerned parent.
	<p>Governor's Response</p> <p>We feel that it is very important for children to only have one point of transfer at the end of Year 6 rather than the two they experience within Three Tier education. At Ursula Taylor we currently provide opportunities for Science, athletics, football, rugby, cricket and tennis. Our school field is large enough for a multi-purpose pitch to be marked up and also our playground is large enough for netball, tennis etc. We will</p>

	<p>offer the full range of Science, PE, Performing Arts experiences that children in Year 5 and 6 experience.</p> <p>Our Ofsted grading at the current time is 'Good' with Outstanding features and an Outstanding grading for our Church School inspection. If, as a Governing Body we make the decision to convert to Primary status, every effort will be made to secure the best possible standards of education and pastoral care for all of our children.</p>
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The Governing Body of Ursula Taylor Church of England School would like to thank all respondents for their responses and also thank the parents/carers who attended the consultation events.

The Governing Body of Ursula Taylor Church of England School will be meeting at an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 7th January at 6pm to review the responses to the consultation and make a formal decision whether to seek to convert to Primary Status or not. Following this decision, the Local Authority will be informed of the GB decision which will form part of a proposal being heard by the Executive later in January. Following a decision by the Executive, this report will be published on our school website and emailed to all respondents who have requested a copy.