



# MURRAY PARK SCHOOL

*Acting Headteacher: Miss R. Somes*  
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4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Derby City Council is consulting on a proposal to expand Murray Park School from September 2019. Attached to this letter is a copy of the Consultation Document setting out further detail and inviting comments on the proposal.

There is an increasing demand for secondary school places in Derby and additional secondary places are now required at Murray Park. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 220 up to a maximum of 330 from September 2019. This means that there could eventually be an additional 550 places available across the school.

This is an exciting opportunity for the school. Derby City Council has approved £8.5 million to provide increased accommodation if the proposal goes ahead. As a larger school, we will have the ability to offer a wider curriculum and a greater range of opportunities to all our pupils as a result of the additional accommodation.

The Governing Board of Murray Park School has given its support to this proposal to increase the number of pupil places at the school.

Please let Derby City Council know your views on the proposal by **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017**. You can comment on the proposal in the following ways:

- by completing the Consultation Response Form which is attached to the Consultation Document and returning it to Derby City Council at the address provided
- by completing the online Consultation Response Form at [www.derby.gov.uk/murraypark](http://www.derby.gov.uk/murraypark)
- by e-mail to [yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk)

A drop in meeting for parents on the proposal will be taking place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July from 4-6pm in Cedar Park Hall at Murray Park School. We look forward to seeing you. This will be an opportunity to discuss the expansion proposals, view the plans for the new accommodation proposed for the school and ask any questions you may have.

Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation document and we look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Somes  
Acting Headteacher





Derby City Council

**Consultation Period: Tuesday 4 July 2017 to Tuesday 15 August 2017**

## **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to increase pupil places at Murray Park Community School**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Derby City Council is consulting on proposals to permanently increase the size and admission number of Murray Park School, Murray Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9LL.
- 1.2 This proposal document tells you the reasons for our proposal and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read through the document and let us know your views and comments on the attached Response Form. The closing date for responses is Tuesday 15 August 2017. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

### **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 There is an increasing demand for secondary school places in Derby, following a significant level of growth in primary school numbers. Additional secondary places are now required at Murray Park, and a number of other schools in the city, in order to respond to this growth.
- 2.2 Murray Park School currently has an admission number of 220, giving a capacity of 1,100 places across Year Groups 7-11. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 220 up to a maximum of 330 from September 2019. The higher admission number would then move through the school gradually, year by year, until reaching all year groups. This means that there could eventually be an additional 550 places available across the school.
- 2.3 There are no proposals to make any changes to school catchment areas as a result of the proposal.

### **3.0 Reason for the Proposals**

- 3.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to make sure that there are enough school places available to meet local needs. The Council also has a duty to increase the scope for parental choice in planning for and securing school places. The Council's aim is for parents to be able to gain a place for their child at their preferred school, although this cannot always be guaranteed.

- 3.2 The reason for the proposal to increase the size and admission number of Murray Park School is to respond to growing secondary school pupil numbers.
- 3.3 With regard to the proposal to increase secondary school pupil places, following growth in primary pupil numbers in recent years, the Council is working with a number of secondary schools to increase places from September 2017, September 2018 and September 2019. In doing so, the Council has considered school sizes and where growth in primary pupil numbers has taken place. As Murray Park School is relatively small compared with most other City secondary schools, it is possible to consider a significant expansion. This proposal has been developed in very close consultation with the school.

#### **4.0 Capital Funding: School Places**

- 4.1 In response to increasing pupil numbers, the Council has been allocated 'basic need' capital funding to create additional school places.
- 4.2 At a meeting on 21 June 2017, Derby City Council approved funding of £8.5 million to increase accommodation at Murray Park School. The proposal can be implemented on the current school site.
- 4.5 If the proposal goes ahead, we will work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work. This is an exciting opportunity for the school. Larger schools have the ability to offer a wider curriculum and a greater range of opportunities to all pupils.

#### **5.0 When will the proposed school expansion take place?**

- 5.1 If approved, an increased admission number will be introduced from September 2019. The proposal is to increase the admission number of the school on a gradual basis up to a maximum admission number of 330. Pupil numbers and projections will continue to be monitored and reviewed, liaising closely with the school over the phasing of the opening of the places.
- 5.2 The proposal is for an increased admission number to gradually feed through the school until reaching all year groups.

#### **6.0 What are the views of Headteacher and Governors?**

- 6.1 Murray Park School has given its support to the proposal to increase pupil places.

#### **7.0 What are the implications for teaching staff?**

- 7.1 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. So, if there is an increase in numbers at the schools, the extra pupils will result in increased funding for the schools to employ the extra staff they need.

## **8.0 Will there be an impact on other schools?**

8.1 School expansion requires careful consideration and needs to be seen in the context of school places in the wider area. Our proposal to increase the number of pupil places at Murray Park School relates to a significant increase in demand for secondary places. There are no proposals to change school catchment areas.

## **9.0 How can I get more information on the proposal?**

9.1 We are very interested in your views and comments on our proposal. Please respond to us by using the Consultation Response Form. Should you wish to discuss any specific aspects of this proposal, please contact:

School Organisation and Provision Team,  
Derby City Council,  
Telephone: 01332 642723  
Email: [yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk)

9.2 A drop in meeting for parents has been arranged for Tuesday 11 July 2017 from 4pm to 6pm, in the Cedar Park Hall at Murray Park School. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss the expansion proposals, view the plans for the new accommodation proposed for the school and express their views.

## **10.0 Let us have your views**

10.1 Your views are very important. Please do let us know what you think and whether you agree or disagree with the proposal by Tuesday 15 August 2017. You can make your views known in the following ways:

- by completing the attached Consultation Response Form and returning it to us at the address provided at the end of the questionnaire
- by using the online consultation response form at [www.derby.gov.uk/murraypark](http://www.derby.gov.uk/murraypark)
- by sending an e-mail to [yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk)

## **11.0 What are the next steps?**

11.1 Local Authorities need to consult and publish a public notice on proposals to expand the premises of a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is less). If the proposal is to proceed, this would be the next step for the Murray Park expansion proposal. Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposals to increase pupil places at Murray Park.

11.2 After the closing date, we will gather all the responses that we have received and report them to the Council Cabinet. Consideration will be given to the responses and a decision will be taken on the proposals. If the decision is to continue with the proposal, a public notice will be published and there will be a further four week statutory consultation period in October/November 2017. We anticipate that a final decision would then be taken by December 2017.

## Proposal to increase pupil places at Murray Park School

### CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

**Do you support the Council's proposal to increase pupil places at Murray Park School as shown in the consultation document?**

I support the proposal.

I don't support the proposal.

I'm undecided about the proposal

**Please give us any comments here**

**Date**.....

**Relationship to the school**.....

For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other (please specify if other)

Please return your response form to:

School Organisation and Provision Team, Derby City Council, The Council House,  
Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS

or email your comments to [yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk)

by **Tuesday 15 August 2017**



**All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will only use this information to help in the decisions made on the proposed expansion of Murray Park School.**