

## Section 19(1) Proposal to reduce Somerford Primary School

### School and local education authority details

The proposer is Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP).

General correspondence should be electronic only, addressed to [ppp.consultations@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ppp.consultations@bcpcouncil.gov.uk). Consultation responses should be sent either electronically to this email address, or posted to School Organisation, BCP Council, Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth BH2 6DY.

This proposal relates to Somerford Primary School, Draper Road, Christchurch BH23.

### Implementation date

It is proposed that the admission number of Somerford Primary School is to reduce from 60 to 30 places on a permanent basis from September 2021.

The school capacity will be reduced from 429 to at least 210 from September 2021.

### Objections and comments

Objections and comments regarding this proposal should be sent via email to [ppp.consultations@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ppp.consultations@bcpcouncil.gov.uk). All responses must be received by **23:59 Thursday 25th June 2020**.

### Alteration description

Somerford Primary School currently offers up to 60 school places each year for children aged 4 - 11 (Reception to Year 6) and is based in the Somerford area of Christchurch. It is proposed that the admission number of Somerford Primary School is to reduce from 60 to 30 places from September 2021 on a permanent basis. The capacity of the school will be reduced accordingly to at least 210 places with the vacated accommodation to be repurposed to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. This SEND provision will be operated by a local special school.

### School capacity

The school will reduce in size year on year, so that the overall capacity of the school reduces from 429 to 210 accommodating 30 places in each year across all 7 year groups by September 2027.

The number of pupils registered at the school at October 2019 was 277. The current permanent admission number for the school is 60.

### Implementation

The proposals will be implemented by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council. The implementation of these proposals is subject to current COVID-19 restrictions.

### Additional site

No additional site is required throughout the process to reduce the school capacity.

### Objectives

The key objective of this proposal is to meet the Council's statutory duty of providing sufficient school places. Somerford Primary school has not filled to its Published Admission number for a number of years, and it is not expected that this reduction in capacity will have significant impact on parental preference for a primary school place in the near future. The school is in an

area with a fairly static population of pre-school children with sufficient capacity in other schools in the local area to accommodate these children locally.

## Consultation

Statutory requirements to consult in relation to this proposal are being complied with as per the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendments)(England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and the School Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 1 September 2009).

A list of stakeholders who have been sent consultation packs inviting them to express their views can be found in **Appendix 1**.

## Project costs

It is not appropriate to share anticipated project costs at this stage, due to restricted enclosure. By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

### Condition:

Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under-(a)the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006); (b)the Friendly Societies Act 1974; (c)the Friendly Societies Act 1992; (d)the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978; (e)the Building Societies Act 1986; or (f)the Charities Act 1993

Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992

Information which-(a)falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and (b)is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

## Age range

The age range of the school is currently 4 to 11 years and would remain unaltered.

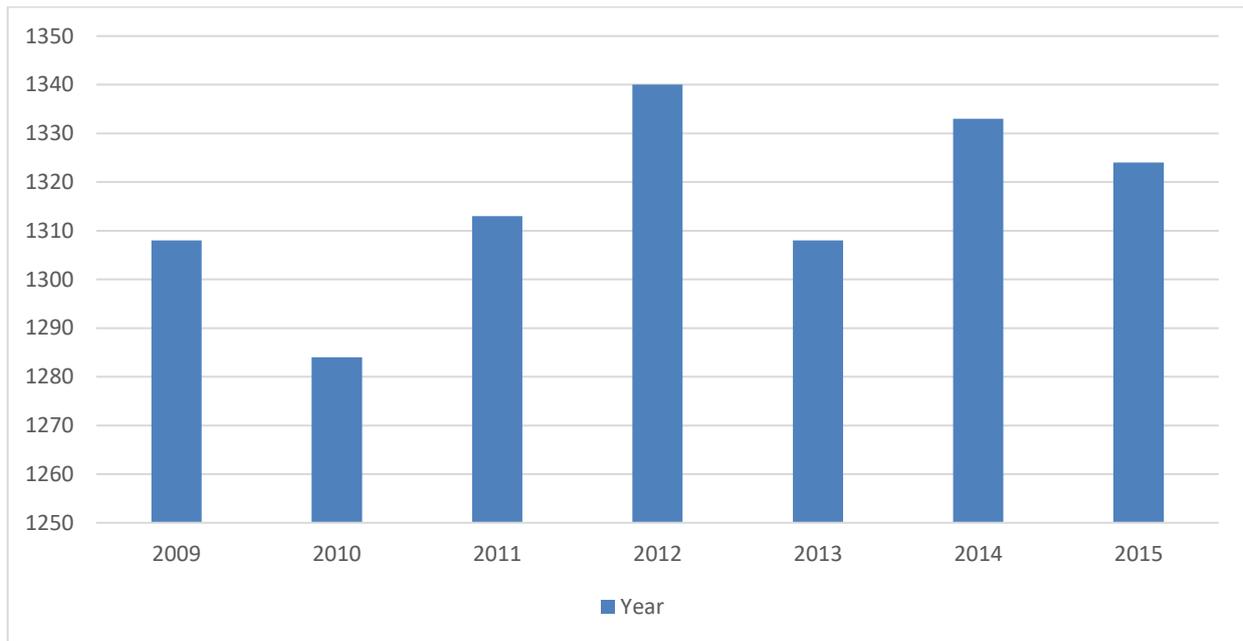
## Need or demand for additional places

There has been an exceptional rise in birth rates in the area (44% between 2005 and 2011). This, coupled with increased migration, led to an increase in the number of Reception age children which peaked in September 2018. Following this, pupil numbers have steadily declined across the BCP area.

Somerford school lies within the East Christchurch Primary Planning area. This includes all schools within the Christchurch area east of the River Avon. These primary schools are:

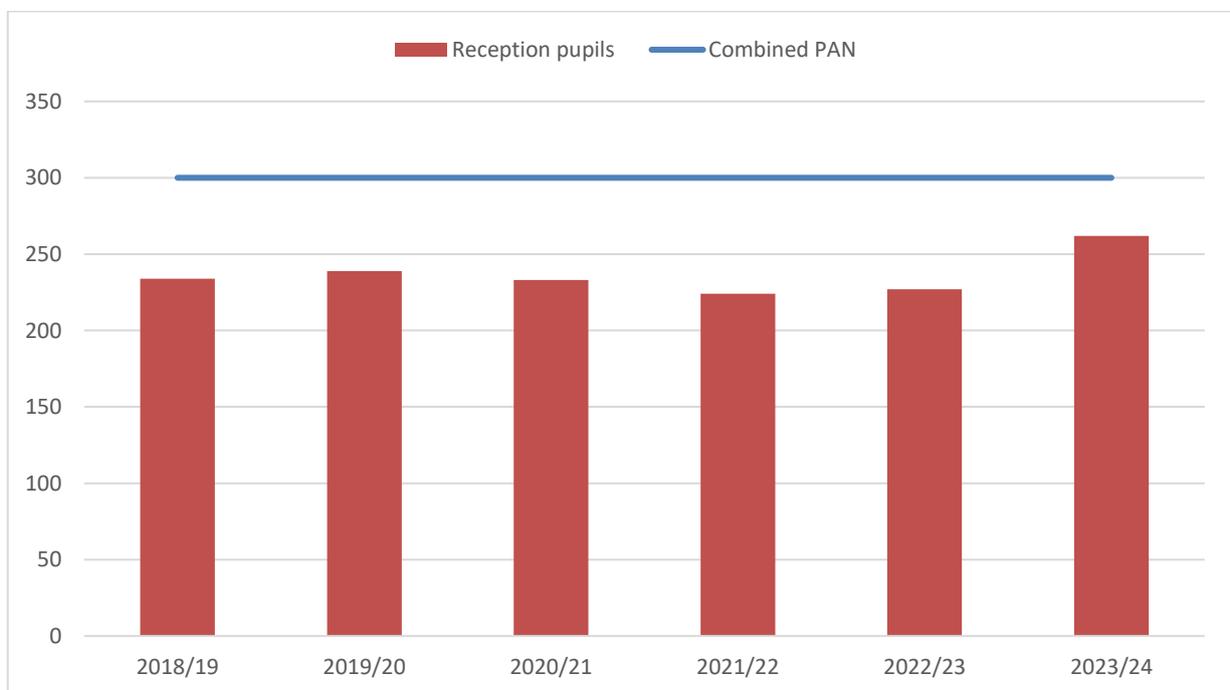
- Somerford Primary School
- Mundeford Community Infants' School
- Mundeford Junior School
- Burton Church of England Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Christchurch
- Highcliffe St Mark Primary School

The total number of pre-school children in the Christchurch East planning area is as follows:



**Chart 1: Population of 0 to 4-year-olds in the East Christchurch primary planning area**

The latest school pupil forecasts show that the overall number of pupils forecast in the planning area is fairly static. There were 23 Reception pupils at Somerford Primary as per the October 2019 census. The number of on-time offers for September 2020 where Somerfield Primary school was expressed as a preference was for 18 pupils, well below the relevant PAN for this year of 60. The combined places available for Reception at schools across the East Christchurch planning areas is 300, referred to as the ‘Combined PAN’ in the graph below.



**Chart 2: Current and projected pupil numbers in the East Christchurch primary planning area**

## Deadline and how you can respond to the consultation

Copies of this proposal can be obtained from: [ppp.consultations@bccouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ppp.consultations@bccouncil.gov.uk), or [www.bccouncil.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.bccouncil.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

Within seven weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by using the online survey which is linked to below:

[https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/SURVEY\\_PREVIEW.asp?k=158806419000](https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/SURVEY_PREVIEW.asp?k=158806419000)

You will need to select which school consultation you are responding to. You can respond to as many of the consultations as you want to; however, you will need to submit a separate response for each.

If you are having trouble accessing the online survey, you can request a response form to be emailed to you. Please contact [ppp.consultations@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ppp.consultations@bcpcouncil.gov.uk) for support with this.

The deadline for responses is Thursday 25th June 2020.

## Appendix 1

### Consultation Forms and Responses

Consultation Documents and Response Forms have been made widely available to:

- Families of all pupils of Somerford Primary School
- Families of all pupils attending the Linwood satellite ('Woodford') at Somerford Primary School
- The Governing Body of Somerford Primary School
- School staff at Somerford Primary School
- Head Teachers across the BCP Council area including those of Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools.
- Head Teachers of Schools outside of the BCP council area at which the LA places children in neighbouring authorities.
- Local Member of Parliament
- Trade Union representatives
- Local Children's Centres

Consultation response forms are also available on the BCP Council website with a link from the school's website. A press advertisement in the local paper advised how the consultation form and response form could be obtained.

