



**THE BISHOP OF  
WINCHESTER  
SCHOOL**

## Consultation Document

# **Proposal affecting The Bishop of Winchester School**

Rev Kevin Arkell  
Chair of Governors

July 2009

## **PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER SCHOOL WITH AN ACADEMY**

### **CURRENT POSITION**

The Bishop of Winchester School is currently for pupils aged 11-16 with 750 places available. The school first opened as a church school in September 2004.

Although the achievements at the school have improved in recent years, the level of attainment across the curriculum is not as high as the Governing Body would expect and the school has therefore been monitored by both the Council and OFSTED.

An opportunity has now arisen for the school to be transformed under the Government Academy initiative, with potential new facilities delivered as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

### **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed to close the current Bishop of Winchester School with effect from 31 August 2010 and to establish in its place an Academy offering education for 950 pupils between the ages of 11-19.

This document sets out the proposal to replace The Bishop of Winchester School with the new Academy and should be read alongside other consultation documents produced by the Sponsors for the Bishop of Winchester Academy. These will give you a full picture of how the Sponsors and the Council, with their partners, intend to transform secondary education.

All consultation documents for both the closure of The Bishop of Winchester School and for the proposed new Academy can be found online at [www.bsf-bournemouth-poole.co.uk/have\\_your\\_say.cfm](http://www.bsf-bournemouth-poole.co.uk/have_your_say.cfm)

### **FIRST STAGE - THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The Governing Body, assisted in the consultation process by Bournemouth Children's Services, wishes to consult

- parents/carers, governors and staff of The Bishop of Winchester School
- parents/carers of children in Early Years Settings, and primary schools in The Bishop of Winchester catchment,
- Headteachers and governors of all Bournemouth schools,
- Bournemouth Borough Council and its neighbouring local authorities,
- Diocesan Boards
- Other interested parties.

**A public meeting will be held at The Bishop of Winchester school at 6.30pm on Monday, 14 September 2009. At this meeting there will be an opportunity to ask questions of representatives of the local authority and the Sponsors of the proposed Academy.**

You are invited to complete the Response Room enclosed at the back of this document. This document can also be accessed via the following website [www.bournemouth.gov.uk](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk) or [www.bsf-bournemouthpoole.co.uk/have\\_your\\_say.cfm](http://www.bsf-bournemouthpoole.co.uk/have_your_say.cfm).

Parents/carers are asked to complete one form only, irrespective of how many children they might have attending the school or setting. Forms must be returned by **Wednesday, 30 September 2009** at the latest to:

Children's Services  
Bournemouth Borough Council  
Dorset House  
20-22 Christchurch Road  
Bournemouth BH1 3NL  
Tel: 01202              Fax: 01202

Email: [academy@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:academy@bournemouth.gov.uk)

At the end of the consultation period written responses will be summarised in a report to the Governors which will make a decision on how best to proceed. All views expressed will be taken into account, but it should be emphasised that the Response Forms do not represent a ballot.

### **THE NEXT STAGE**

If the Governing Body decides to go ahead with the proposal, Public Notices will be published in the local newspaper and at the school. There is then a period of six weeks during which time formal objections/comments may be submitted to the Governing Body.

### **OUTCOME**

At the end of the Public Notice period, the matter will be referred to the Governing Body which has the power to approve the proposal or not. The Governing Body will see all the responses received.

### **OPTIONS**

The following options are under consideration:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Option 1 | To replace The Bishop of Winchester VA School with effect from 31 August 2010 and to establish in its place an Academy offering education for 950 pupils between the ages of 11-19 from 1 September 2010. |
| Option 2 | No change   |
| Option 3 | Any other new option which may arise during the course of consultation.   |

## **REPLACING THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER SCHOOL WITH A NEW ACADEMY**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **Why replace The Bishop of Winchester School? Why not leave it as it is?**

Although The Bishop of Winchester School has been targeted for improvement and has made progress we think there is more that can be done to help its pupils do better. There has been enormous effort by staff and governors but the school requires further support to continue this improvement.

Although there has been an improvement in the numbers of pupils attending the school, this needs to be maintained. As funding given to the school is mainly based on pupil numbers, the school's budget has reduced in line with pupil numbers falling. The school has found that it doesn't have enough money for extra staff or resources, making it very difficult to improve standards.

The council has a legal duty to take action when schools are in difficulties but cannot give the school extra funds to recruit new staff or buy new resources. Both Bournemouth Borough Council and the Governing Body are committed to keeping a secondary school at The Bishop of Winchester School and think that the best course of action is to replace it with a new Academy from September 2010.

#### **Why will a new Academy be better than The Bishop of Winchester School?**

Academies will provide a new kind of secondary education. Each Academy will be sponsored by an organisation who bring with them skills, knowledge and resources. Academies will transform how and what our children learn and will be equipped with state-of-the-art teaching materials, technology and resources.

This Academy will offer a wide-ranging and flexible curriculum that specialises in Enterprise and Innovation and Mathematics

We believe that the Academy will improve pupils' motivation, give them more confidence in their abilities and help them gain the skills and qualifications they need when they leave school. It will also develop a new 6th Form, providing opportunities for young people to stay in learning as the age of participation is raised to 18.

Finally, the Academy and its facilities will be open to the local community, with extended opening hours ensuring everyone will be able to access it when they need to.

For more information about the proposed Bishop of Winchester Academy, please refer to the separate consultation document produced by the lead sponsor, The Diocese of Winchester.

#### **If The Bishop of Winchester closes will its current pupils be guaranteed a place at the Academy that replaces it?**

Yes - there will be enough places at the new Academy for all Bishop of Winchester pupils.

Parents and carers do not have to send their child to the new Academy unless they wish to however as they can ask that their child attend any other Bournemouth secondary

school or Academy. If there are vacancies, their child will be given a place. If there are no vacancies, their child's name can either go onto the waiting list for this school or their parents and carers can appeal for a place.

**If The Bishop of Winchester closes how will this affect parents and carers whose children are due to transfer to secondary school in September 2010?**

The Academy will be part of Bournemouth Borough Council's co-ordinated admissions arrangements and parents and carers will be able to apply for a place in the normal way.

**Will parents and carers have to pay for their child to go to the Academy?**

No - Academies provide free secondary education for all pupils.

**If The Bishop of Winchester School closes what will happen to the pupils with special educational needs?**

The new Academy will be a fully inclusive school that provides education and support for children in line with all other schools in Bournemouth. This includes the continuation of the Complex Communications Disorders Unit (CCDU)

**If The Bishop of Winchester closes, what will happen to the staff?**

The governing body of the new Academy will be responsible for appointing staff. Once appointed, the Principal Designate will develop and get governing body approval for a curriculum plan, a timetable, a teaching staff structure and a support staffing structure, to ensure curriculum delivery and the effective operation of the Academy.

Existing Bishop of Winchester school staff that have corresponding roles in the new Academy will transfer to the new Academy under the "Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment" regulations (TUPE).

**If an Academy replaces The Bishop of Winchester School, will children still be entitled to free travel passes and free school meals?**

Pupils attending Academies will be entitled to free travel passes and free school meals in exactly the same way as those attending secondary schools.

**What happens next?**

The new Academy cannot open until The Bishop of Winchester School has been formally closed. To bring this about the Governing Body has to follow a legal process to ensure that interested parties can make comments or register objections before the final decision is made.

**Further information**

If you need any more information about any aspect of the proposals, please contact Bournemouth Children's Services on (01202) 456375

The Department for Children, Schools and Families also provides information about Academies at [www.standards.dcf.gov.uk/academies/](http://www.standards.dcf.gov.uk/academies/)

**Thank you for taking time to read this leaflet and the other consultation literature.**