



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bishops Cleeve New Primary School

SCHOOL SPECIFICATION

February 2021

Section A - Introduction

Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (the 'free school presumption') where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an academy.

Gloucestershire County Council has identified the need to establish a new three forms of entry (3FE) Primary School within Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, to open in September 2023.

Reason a new school is required

Since 2007 there has been an increase in birth rates which has, in part, resulted in a sustained growth in demand for school places. This, coupled with additional pupil yield from strategic and non strategic housing, has resulted in the significant increase in demand for primary school places year on year in Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham. Since 2011 this rising demand has been met by working collaboratively with schools in the primary sector to increase their Published Admission Number (PAN). Further analysis of the existing primary school sites has confirmed that they are unable to accommodate further expansion to meet the arising need.

In light of the growing population, school place projections have been kept under regular review and there is now a need to provide an additional 3FE (or 630 primary school places) to meet the demand from the 2023/24 academic year. The new school will grow in two phases, initially opening at 2FE from 2023/24, growing to 3FE approximately 7 years after the school opens (sometime in the range of 2029-2032).

Profile of the Area

Pupil characteristics (January 2020 School Census)

Number of primary schools	5
Total number of pupils	1669
% pupils with EHCP	1.6
% pupils with SEN Support	15.8
% pupils with SEN (EHCP / SEN Support)	17.4
% pupils entitled to and receiving free school meals	10.1
% pupils from Minority Ethnic groups	13.3

Gloucestershire County Indices of Multiple Deprivations (IMD)

The below table lists the percentage of pupils by the Indices of Multiple Deprivations that they live in (1 being the most deprived area).

IMD 1	0.84%
IMD 2	1.20%
IMD 3	23.74%
IMD 4	8.99%
IMD 5	64.75%
NO IMD listed	0.48%

KS2 outcome averages (2019 headline data)

The below table lists the average percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard (average of all 5 schools combined).

READING	79%
WRITING	72%
MATHS	81%
SCIENCE	81%
RWM*	65%

Timeline for provider competition

Start of the Free School competition	Monday 1 st February 2021
Expression of Interest deadline	Friday 12 th February 2021
Application deadline	Friday 26 th March 2021 - 12 noon
Shortlisting	W/C 29 th March 2021
Interviews	Provisional Date: Monday 26 th April 2021
Recommendation sent to RSC for final decision	No later than Friday 14 th May 2021

The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the South West, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will consider the local authority assessments and recommendation before deciding which proposer is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RSC will inform the local authority and the successful proposer of its decision and the local authority will inform any unsuccessful proposers.

Applicant groups

Proposers must be DfE approved sponsors. If you are not already an approved sponsor you will need to apply separately through the formal sponsor approval process.

You should contact the DfE about becoming a sponsor before submitting a proposal and you can find out more information at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sponsor-an-academy>

How to apply (including a link to the application form)

The authority is therefore seeking proposals from appropriate sponsors to open this new school. This school would be deemed a Free School.

Bids must be submitted using the Free School Presumption application form (Annex B: model application form for proposers). All guidance, criteria and forms can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-new-school-free-school-presumption>

All supporting documentation prepared by the Authority can be found at:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolprojects

If you are a sponsor approved by the DfE and would be interested in submitting an application, could you please express an interest by 12th February 2021. Please send any expressions of interest to paul.kear@gloucestershire.gov.uk

LA contact details for further information or to discuss your application

If you would like further information from Gloucestershire County Council or would like to discuss your application please contact:

Gareth Vine, Universal Commissioning Manager on 01452 427547 or by email at: gareth.vine@gloucestershire.gov.uk

NB: the local authority led free school presumption is a different route to the DfE's free school programme.

Further information about how to establish a new school via the DfE's free school programme route can be found at: [Setting up a free school - GOV.UK](#)

Where to send your completed application

An electronic copy and two paper copies of the completed application form, along with any supporting documentation should be sent by the deadline date to:

Paul Kear
Education Planning Manager,
Commissioning for Learning,
Gloucestershire County Council,
Shire Hall, Westgate Street,
Gloucester GL1 2TP

e-mail: paul.kear@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01452 328680

Process the LA will follow when assessing proposals

As per the DfE guidance on the commissioning of new Free Schools, the process will be managed by the LA, in consultation with the Gloucestershire RSC team and following a short-listing and bid assessment process, the Council will provide a report to the DfE with the recommended sponsor(s) and the reasons for the recommendation. The recommendation/decision will then be referred to the Regional Schools Commissioner (Head Teacher Board) for agreement. The final decision rests with the Regional Schools Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

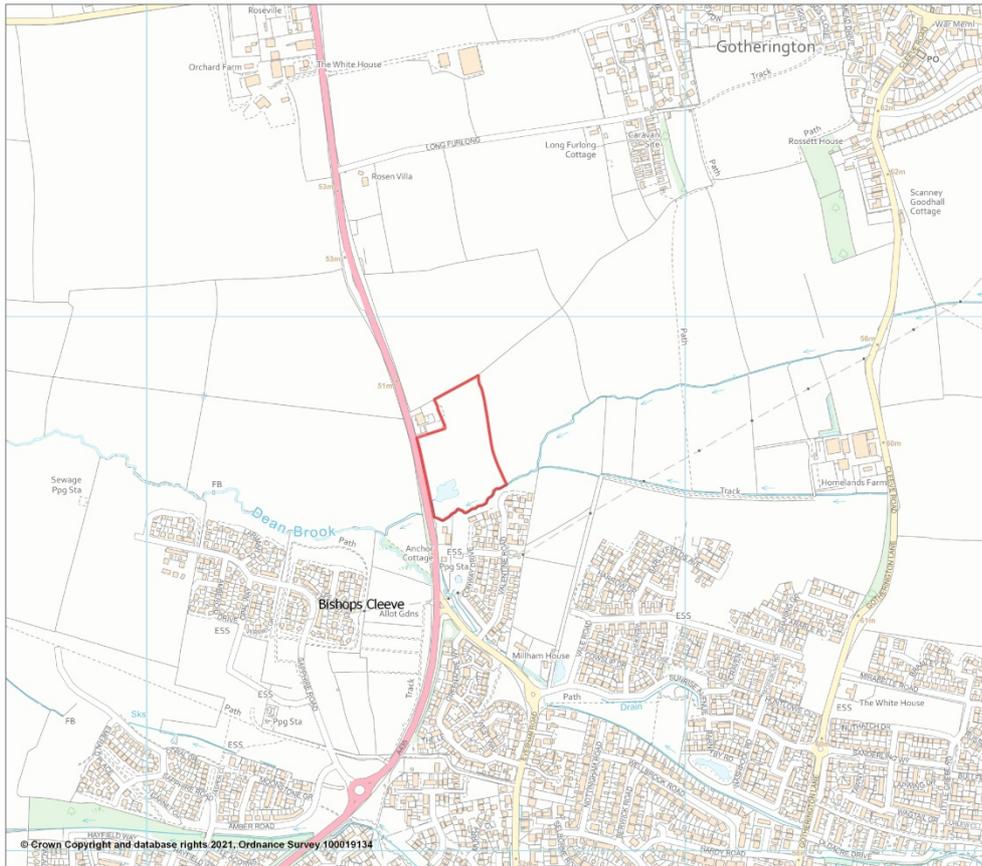
Section B - The School

Opening Date

The new school will grow in two phases, initially opening at two forms of entry from 2023/24, growing to three forms of entry approximately 7 years after the school opens (sometime in the range of 2029-2032), which will be kept under review.

Where is the school to be located

The school be located on land adjacent to Old Farmers Arms, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve – GL52 8SA



<p>Title: Acquisition for New Primary School</p>
<p>Notes/Legend:</p> <p>Land adjacent to Old Farmers Arms, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve</p>


<p>Asset Management and Property Services</p> <p>Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG Tel. 01452 328835 www.gloucestershire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Drawn by: Blee SCALE: NTS @ A3 DATE: 02/02/2021</p> <p><small>Drawing No: 01 PROJECT: VV452 - project 01813: Bishops Cleeve, New Primary/Bishops Cleeve-001.gpp</small></p> <p><small>You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form</small></p>

Pupil Capacity

When fully open and operational the maximum capacity will be 630 pupils.

Proposed Admission arrangements

The school will be built as a 3FE school and will be opened on a phased basis. The school could have variable numbers in each year, which is likely to affect class organisation and therefore mixed age classes are expected during the initial years.

The sponsor will be required to abide by the Codes of Practice on Admissions and Admissions Appeals and participate in the Authority's co-ordinated scheme for admissions and In Year Fair Access Protocol.

Once a preferred sponsor has been identified discussions will take place to agree an Admissions Policy and a proposed Admission Number for the opening of the new school. Please note that the preferred sponsor will need to prepare and submit this to the DfE promptly once notified. Please refer to the external guidance on admissions for further information of requirements:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389813/Free_School_Admissions_Guidance.pdf.

All proposals should ensure they take account of the need to serve the local community and reflect the need for community cohesion. The determined admissions criteria should take account of the criteria in operation for other schools in the area.

Type of School

Sponsored Academy

Age range 4 – 11.

Gender

Mixed

Nursery Provision

Pre school facilities will not be included in the initial opening of the school. The design of the school will incorporate a pre school provision, to be delivered at a point when it is required.

Out of hours provision

To provide sufficient support for working parents, out of hours' provision is a key priority for Gloucestershire County Council. Whilst there will not be dedicated accommodation provided for these facilities, it would be anticipated that there will be the potential for these to be provided within the main school building.

Provision for children with additional needs

The school will be expected to make appropriate educational provision for all learners for whom a mainstream placement is considered appropriate.

Proposals will be expected to demonstrate their ability to meet the following:

- Ensuring that every pupil makes progress and reaches their full potential.
- The provision of additional value for the families and local community.
- A proven track record in delivery of high quality educational outcomes and in closing the gap in achievement for children with additional needs.

It is expected that the school will contribute to Gloucestershire County Council's High Needs Strategy to raise attainment of children with additional needs. This will include ensuring an inclusive learning environment in which all pupils, including those with additional needs are supported and enabled to make maximum progress. This will include adherence to the statutory SEN framework, having due regard to the SEN Code of Practice. The school will be expected to ensure timely identification and assessment of needs, appropriate intervention and the efficient monitoring of the progress of pupils with

additional needs. In meeting such needs, the school will be expected to engage with parents/carers and work in partnership with them in the best interests of the progress of all learners.

Community use/share facilities

Whilst there will not be dedicated accommodation provided for community use, it would be anticipated that there will be the potential for community activities to be accommodated within the main school building for core activities such as evening and weekend sports and hire of hall and facilities for community use.

Transport Arrangements

The school will be accessible through walking and cycling routes from the community it serves. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the planning process for the build project. The appointed sponsor will then be required to develop a School Travel Plan encouraging safe travel to school which promotes walking and cycling.

Character/Ethos of the School

It is expected that the school will:

- Be welcoming to pupils of all faiths/world views and none. The school will be able to address the needs of all pupils and parents.
- Have a strong educational vision and a curriculum delivery based on high standards for attainment at all key stages
- A commitment to excellent outcomes and high quality of teaching and learning
- Be able to work in partnership with wider services (e.g. social care, health, police, and other schools) to enable each child to progress and succeed.
- Plan for appropriate engagement with the local community and parents

Impact and Equalities Assessments

As prescribed by section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the local authority must assess the potential impact of any new school on existing educational provision in the area.

The table below shows the existing schools in the planning area (916-1310), the net capacities and their current and projected rolls. This shows that the overall primary pupil numbers in the planning area are increasing and there are insufficient places to accommodate the increased pupil numbers expected from the development.

Based on 2020 pupil forecasts –

School	PAN	NC	NOR OCT 2020	Pupil Forecast for 2023/24
Bishops Cleeve Primary Academy	90	630	612	612
Gotherington Primary Academy	30	212	210	208
Grangefield Primary School	60	420	367	420
Tredington Community Primary School	18	126	83	116
Woodmancote Primary School	60	420	411	420
Unplaced Pupils				58
Pupils from new housing development				83
Totals	258	1808	1683	1917

The local authority has also completed an initial Impact Assessment and a Due Regard Assessment and these confirm that there are no negative impacts for equality issues which will result from these proposals.

Details of the site/building, including details of ownership

The school site will be of sufficient size to accommodate a 3FE school. See the site/location map above.

Work will be commencing imminently on the design of the new school. Depending on what stage the design process is at, will determine whether the successful sponsor will have an opportunity to contribute to the design of the permanent school building once appointed. The new school building will meet all current DfE Building Bulletin guidelines and will be of sufficient size for a 630 place school.

When completed a 125 year lease will be granted to the successful sponsor.

Funding and Costs

1. The School will be built as a result of an increase in birth rates, coupled with additional pupil yield from strategic and non strategic housing. The total capital cost of the new school will be met from Schools Capital Basic Need Grant and Section 106 Developer contributions.
2. The DfE currently provides £25,000 for legal expenses to the successful sponsor.

3. Start up costs prior to a school opening from the LA. A one off lump sum of £50,000 will be payable to the school from the DSG Growth Fund. This is intended to be used towards costs such as:
 - Funding salary costs of the designated head teacher, admin and finance support prior to opening.
 - Any temporary accommodation costs while awaiting new build.
 - Recruitment and interview related costs.
 - Any other incidental costs.

It will be up to the approved Trust how to use these funds. No further one off funding prior to opening will be payable and any unspent funds can be retained by the school.

4. Gloucestershire County Council agrees to guarantee the revenue funding for 120 primary pupil places for a period of 7 years or when the school reaches 90% of its NOR capacity whichever is the sooner. During this period, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will provide funding for 120 pupils to the school directly after recouping the funding for that many pupils from the LA.

Please note that the DfE has only confirmed local authority involvement in calculating school budgets up to and including 2021/22. The guarantee will only therefore apply if the LA continues to be involved in calculating school budgets in the future years. Once the school reaches 120 pupils funding will continue in accordance with the “LA Growth and New Funding Policy (November 2018)”.

5. When a new school opens the revenue funding will be allocated by GCC in accordance with the “LA Growth and New Funding Policy (Nov 2018)” and in line with the schools determined Admissions Policy. For a period of 7 years or when a school reaches 90% of its NOR capacity whichever is the sooner, the LA will apply to the ESFA to vary the pupil number on roll (NOR) in the “Authority Proforma Tool” (APT). The APT NOR is used as the basis for schools’ budgets.

The varied NOR will (subject to ESFA approval) be used in the APT instead of the previous October census NOR that is normally used for schools.

For further information on how the revenue funding will be calculated please see Gloucestershire’s “LA Growth and New Funding Policy” (November 2018) which can be found at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/school-office/finance/funding-reporting-and-accounting-guidance/scheme-for-financing-maintained-schools/>

Application from Sponsors

(Free School Presumption Guidance Annex C)

Section C – Vision

Applicants should take account of the relevant criteria in Annex C of the free school presumption guidance.

As a minimum, please ensure you include the following:

- A strong educational vision and a curriculum delivery model based on high standards of attainment for each key stage.
- Plans for appropriate engagement with the local community and parents during the pre-opening period and any on-going engagement.
- Excellent support facilities to meet the needs of all children, including children in care and those with additional needs, etc.
- A commitment to excellent outcomes and high quality of teaching and learning.

Section D - Education Plan

Applicants should take account of the relevant criteria in Annex C of the free school presumption guidance.

As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- An ambitious, broad and balanced, deliverable curriculum plan which is consistent with the vision and pupil intake. This could include a curriculum table and pupil build up chart.
- Strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets.
- A staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels; with a focus on outstanding teaching (including strategies for effective performance management). This could also include an organogram and staff build up chart taking into account the proposed admission arrangements at opening.
- The needs of all children are fully provided for and how the school will be fully inclusive.
- Details of enrichment and extended services, for example, breakfast clubs, sports clubs, homework clubs and music/art clubs.
- The school's approach to: PHSE; the Prevent Duty; safeguarding and welfare; and promoting fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs).

Section E - Capacity and Capability

Applicants should take account of the relevant criteria in Annex C of the free school presumption guidance.

As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- The resources you would draw on and/or deploy to support the development of the new free school by the opening date
- Clear evidence that you have the range of skills and abilities necessary to set up and

then run a school effectively, including: managing school finances; leadership; project management; marketing; human resources; safeguarding; and health and safety

- How the school would be organised and what the governance arrangements would look like, including a diagram of the proposed governance structures

Gloucestershire County Council contact details and where to return the completed application forms can be found in “Section A Introduction” above