



CONSULTATION ON THE EXPANSION OF LYDE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are consulting with the community on a proposal to expand Lyde Green Primary School by setting up a second site for the school on Honeysuckle Road, alongside the existing site on Willowherb Road. This proposal will allow us to continue providing sufficient school places for all primary-aged children living at Lyde Green as the village continues to grow.

Our innovative proposal means that there would be a single primary school for the Lyde Green community, bringing the advantages that can be offered by a large school that has the resources to meet the needs of all local children. At the same time, the two sites will mean that children will continue to experience a warm and friendly environment in which everyone knows each other.

The expanded school would admit 120 pupils each year, with 60 children in each year group on each site. This will enable the school to gradually grow from its current capacity of 420 to 840 in total, with 420 children eventually being educated on each of the two sites.

Under our proposals, Lyde Green Primary School would continue to be run by the existing team of leaders, staff and governors, which will be gradually expanded as the school grows. The provision would be the same on both sites, so that the experience is the same for children in all classes across the school. Every child would continue to be educated in a class of 30 children with a dedicated teacher, and children would be based on the same site for the whole of their primary education. However, there would be regular opportunities for children to come together with others in their year group across sites, for example through a rich programme of extracurricular activities, events and visits.

We believe that these proposals offer the Lyde Green community the additional primary school places that are urgently needed, building on the successes of the existing school and providing a great education for every child in Lyde Green into the future.

With the support of the local community, and the approval of the Department for Education, we hope to implement the new arrangements from September 2022.

We are keen to hear the views of parents, prospective parents, members of the local community and partner organisations. **Our consultation will run from Monday 17th May to Monday 28th June 2021. You can respond to the consultation by emailing your views, comments and questions to consultation@cset.co.uk or writing to CSET, Partnership Centre, Mangotsfield School, Rodway Hill, Bristol, BS16 9LH.**

Background

Lyde Green Primary School was opened by CSET in 2015, initially in temporary accommodation on the Downend School site, and moved into purpose-built accommodation on Willowherb Road in 2016. The school was originally built to accommodate 420 pupils (60 in each year group), plus a further 12 places in the specialist Access Centre.

Lyde Green Primary School is very popular with parents in the local community and has grown rapidly ahead of original plans in its first six years. Lyde Green was inspected by Ofsted in 2018 and judged 'Good' in all categories.

CSET is a charitable trust that oversees four secondary and three primary schools in South Gloucestershire, including Lyde Green Primary and neighbouring Downend and Mangotsfield secondary schools.



School Places

CSET has worked closely with South Gloucestershire Council since 2013 to secure sufficient school places for the new community at Lyde Green. CSET offered temporary accommodation on the Downend School site, enabling Lyde Green to open ahead of schedule in 2015. Since the permanent school buildings opened at Willowherb Road in 2016, the school has grown ahead of expectations (see Appendix 1). CSET agreed to admit three consecutive 'bulge' classes in 2019, 2020 and 2021 to ensure that the growing population of reception-aged children at Lyde Green could attend their local school.

As a result, Lyde Green Primary School has now reached the limit of its physical capacity. In the short term, we have addressed the shortfall of classrooms by using empty Key Stage 2 classrooms to provide accommodation for additional Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes. As the oldest children move into Year 6 this September, we are securing additional temporary accommodation at Willowherb Road to ensure that each class has a dedicated classroom. However, to continue providing the places needed in future years, a permanent expansion of the school is required.

It is anticipated that from 2022, 120 places a year will be required for Reception children in Lyde Green. As the Willowherb Road site is only designed to provide 60 places a year, CSET has worked with South Gloucestershire Council to secure a second site for Lyde Green Primary School, on Honeysuckle Road, which will have space to provide a further 60 places a year.

'One School' on 'Two Sites'

Our proposal is for a single school operating over two sites, as this provides the places needed with the advantages of greater scale but retaining the family-feel of two smaller sites.

The school would be overseen by the existing school leadership team, led by Headteacher Mark Jackson and Deputy Headteacher Wendy Westwood. As the school grows onto a second site, we will appoint a second Deputy Headteacher, in order that there is a dedicated site leader who will provide day-to-day leadership for children and parents on each site.

Organisationally, Lyde Green would be registered as a single school, so regulators such as Ofsted would consider both sites jointly as part of the same school. There would be a single Local Governance Committee for the school, accountable to the CSET Board of Trustees.

We propose that the school will have a single curriculum, and assessments, resources and teaching techniques will be replicated across both sites. This will enable us to provide a high quality educational experience to all children across the school.

Most staff, such as teachers, will be based on one site for most of their work, but they will come together for training and staff meetings. This will extend the professional development and network opportunities available to our staff, helping with recruitment and retention, whilst ensuring that children continue to work with adults who know them well.

Under our proposals, class teachers will continue to have their own class and classroom for the whole academic year. As a result of this, neither children nor teachers will have to routinely move between the sites. However, we will make the most of the opportunity for children to take part in activities across the whole school, given that it is only a few minutes walk between the two sites. Examples of this would include:

- Special assemblies and events
- Curriculum activities and projects
- Wider-curriculum opportunities such as plays and concerts
- Enrichment activities such as sports and music clubs
- Trips and visits, including a residential for Year 6 pupils
- Curriculum intervention, such as SEND support and booster classes
- Community programmes such as the Out of School Club and PTFA

This illustrates how the resources available to a larger school can be utilised to provide an even richer experience for the children of Lyde Green.





Admissions

We do not propose to vary the [CSET Admissions Policy](#) other than by expanding the number of places available from 60 to 120. Places in Reception and for mid-year admissions will continue to be based on the published criteria. All allocations will use the address of the current school at Willowherb Road in cases where the geographic considerations criteria is used due to oversubscription.

Once children have been allocated a place at Lyde Green, we propose that children would be grouped into one of four classes, with two classes on each site in each year group from Reception to Year 6 once the school reaches full capacity.

As we envisage both sites having identical provision, it should not make any difference to parents which site their child attends, other than that some families will live closer to one site than the other. Nevertheless we will need to establish a fair process, as we will be required to have exactly 60 children per year on each site due to class size regulations.

We propose asking new parents who are offered a place at Lyde Green from September 2022 to state their site preferences through a Site Preference Form. In the event that we cannot accommodate every parent's preferred site, we will give preference firstly to siblings and secondly based on distance from the home address. This will enable us to keep all children from the same family together, with as many as possible attending their nearest site.



The Honeysuckle Road site

South Gloucestershire Council has worked with developers to secure land for a second primary school site as well as a secondary school, on Honeysuckle Road. A building has been designed, with input from CSET and the leadership team at Lyde Green, and planning permission was recently granted with construction due to commence this summer.

The new building has been carefully designed so that it can be used in the same way as the existing school, enabling us to provide the same educational experience across both the school sites. Although the layout of the school is slightly different due to the geography of the site, and some design features will reflect changes in construction methods in recent years, the look and feel of the school will be very much the same across both sites.

Earlier in the year, the Department for Education confirmed that funding has been approved for a secondary school at Lyde Green. The secondary school will be adjacent to the new primary site on Honeysuckle Road. CSET has worked closely with South Gloucestershire Council and SGS Academy Trust to develop plans for the new primary and secondary provision.

Although the primary and secondary schools will be run separately, we will make sure that there are strong links between the schools, so that the unique identity of the Lyde Green community is reflected across all the education settings in the village. As the secondary school is adjacent to the new primary site, and only a few minutes walk from Willowherb Road, there will be many opportunities for children to collaborate across year groups, especially as older primary children prepare to join the secondary school at age 11.

The new primary phase will provide additional school places for children aged 4-11 and is being supported by £8.5m investment made through this year's Council budget. The new building has been designed to the low-carbon Passivhaus standards, which will substantially reduce energy consumption, not only reducing the school's running costs, but will also support the objectives of the Council's Climate Emergency declaration made in 2019.

We are very fortunate that all children in Lyde Green will be able to attend modern purpose built schools that will provide a fantastic learning environment from childhood through to adulthood.



Frequently Asked Questions

What will the legal status of the school be?

All children will be part of the same school, Lyde Green Primary School, whichever site they are based at. Lyde Green is overseen by CSET, a charitable trust which runs a number of state schools in the area through a funding agreement with the Department for Education.

Who will approve the new arrangements?

Following this consultation, CSET will submit an application to the Department for Education, requesting permission to expand Lyde Green Primary School onto a second site. If approval is received, South Gloucestershire Council and CSET will work together to ensure the new building is ready for the new arrangements to take effect from September 2022.

Why have one school rather than two separate schools?

Lyde Green is a very distinctive community, located right on the edge of Bristol and bordered by the motorway to the north and ring-road to the south. This means it is particularly important for Lyde Green families to be able to secure a school place within Lyde Green rather than relying on neighbouring schools. The current school is very popular with parents, and so the local need is to grow the existing school rather than provide a different type of education. At the same time, the two sites are very close together, and so it makes sense to provide a unified education as this will enable us to use our resources to enrich the educational experience for children, rather than duplicating provision at two different schools.

In addition, we have been able to expand the existing school ahead of a second building being commissioned, and will be able to commission new places quickly by having the second site as part of the existing school. This means that we can make the much-needed places available at least a year ahead of the timescale that would be required to open a completely separate school.

Will children at the existing school be able to transfer to the new school?

Our intention is that children who are currently at Lyde Green will complete their primary education at Willowherb Road, and the Honeysuckle Road site will be phased in over seven years starting with a Reception intake in 2022.

That said, for the last three years we have admitted 90 children rather than 60 each year, and we know that these additional classes include a number of 'eldest' children from families that live near the Honeysuckle Road site. If there was sufficient interest from these parents, we would consider the feasibility of some children moving from the Willowherb Road to the Honeysuckle Road site in our three-class year groups, as this might be more convenient for some families. We are interested in the views of parents on whether there is interest in exploring this option further, although we want to emphasise that we would not ask any parents of children currently on roll to transfer to the new site unless they were happy to do so.

Appendix 1 - Growth of Lyde Green Primary School

The tables below show the growth of Lyde Green Primary School from 2015 to 2021, based on the Planned Admission Number, excluding the Access Centre.

Original Planned Growth of Lyde Green Primary School (from 2013 projections)

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2015	30							30
2016	30	30						60
2017	30	30	30					90
2018	30	30	30	30				120
2019	60	30	30	30	30			180
2020	60	60	30	30	30	30		240
2021	60	60	60	30	30	30	30	300

Actual Growth of Lyde Green Primary School

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2015	30							30
2016	30	30						60
2017	60	30	30					120
2018	60	60	30	30				180
2019	90	60	60	30	30			270
2020	90	90	60	60	30	30		360
2021	90	90	90	60	60	30	30	450

