



**Marshlands Primary School  
and Greenhall Nursery  
Consultation Proposals**

**Consultation ends  
at 5pm on the 29 July 2020**

This document can be viewed at

[SEND Local Offer](#)

[www.greenhall.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greenhall.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.marshlands.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.marshlands.staffs.sch.uk)

or contact the school for a copy.

**School Information**

Greenhall Nursery  
Second Avenue  
Stafford  
ST16 1PS

Marshlands School  
Second Avenue  
Stafford  
ST16 1PS

Head Teacher - Joanne Di Castiglione

Head Teacher - Kim Prince

Chair of Governors - Sandra Turner

Chair of Governors - Ian Raybould

## Consultation Proposals

### Summary of proposed changes

It is proposed to make changes to two Staffordshire community special schools:

1. **Marshlands Primary School** – a change of age range from the current Early Years to Year 6 to focus on children in Year 1 to Year 6 by removing Early Years and reception provision and specialising in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 provision.

and

2. **Greenhall Nursery** – a change of designation of types of special education needs and disabilities catered for – to include children with needs in the Early Years Foundation Stage prime areas of learning, physical, communication and language and personal, social and emotional development.

### Why is this consultation taking place?

3. The purpose of this four-week consultation from 1 July 2020 to 29 July 2020 is to gather your opinions on the linked proposals for Marshlands Primary School and Greenhall Nursery, which share adjacent sites in Stafford.
4. Staffordshire County Council, with the support of both school governing bodies, is consulting on proposals to maximise the use of the learning environments in both settings.
5. Marshlands School is oversubscribed, particularly in Key Stage 2. Greenhall Nursery is undersubscribed.
6. It is proposed that all Early Years provision is based at Greenhall Nursery with all Early Years placement consultations being sent to Greenhall. This would increase the numbers of pupils on roll at Greenhall whilst allowing Marshlands to increase capacity for pupils at Key Stage 1 and 2, where there is a demand, enabling pupils needs to be met in the local community and thus preventing the need to place at other non-maintained settings or out of county provision.
7. Early Years is a phase in its own right with a natural transition point at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Greenhall Nursery provides a specialist focus on this area - maximising opportunities for early intervention and ensuring a formal review of the child and their needs take place at the end of this stage, with all stakeholders, including the local authority, to agree on the most appropriate future placement for the child.
8. The governing bodies of Marshlands Primary School and Greenhall Nursery and Staffordshire County Council want to hear the views of parents, local families, school staff, governors, the local community and other bodies.
9. It is important that you make your views known by **29 July 2020**.

## **Background to the proposals**

- 10.** Marshlands is a generic primary special school, which relocated to the current site in Stafford, in September 2014. It currently caters for children with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The numbers of pupils on roll have increased significantly by 41%. For September 2020, however, the predicted number of pupils for the Early Years Foundation Stage is one.
- 11.** Greenhall is a nursery adjacent to Marshlands that caters predominantly for children aged 2 to 5 with physical and/or complex medical needs, including children with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, Visual Impairments, Hearing Impairments and Communication Needs. Historically, it has also catered for children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions, Specific Learning Difficulties and Communication Needs. Greenhall Nursery also has Little Learners, a governor-run nursery that is open to the wider community onsite. This provides opportunities for integration and inclusion as appropriate to meet the needs of all the children. There is no proposal to change Little Learners, a governor-run nursery.

## **School Vision and Values**

### **12.** Marshlands Primary School:

We want all our pupils to come to school with a smile on their face, looking forward to the school day ahead. We believe if children enjoy their work and feel secure, they will achieve success and grow in self-esteem.

We provide smaller classes to enable pupils to be given greater learning opportunities and individual attention. We encourage a caring sharing attitude amongst our pupils and our school is often involved in fund raising and giving to a variety of causes. A big thank you to our parents for all their support in this area.

The school motto is 'Growing Together' so that Marshlands School provides opportunities for every child to achieve their potential.

### **13.** Greenhall Nursery:

We aim to provide high quality, child centered education which will maximise every child's potential. We are dedicated to whole-child development and want to inspire our children to be actively engaged in their learning, to be as independent as possible, to take risks, to learn from and with others and to believe in themselves. We want our children to know they have a 'voice' and to provide them with the tools to use this. We want to give our children the best start – to lay the foundations for later learning.

We work very closely with parents and other agencies to meet the needs of individuals.

Our motto is 'Learning Together, Having Fun!'

## **Objectives of the proposed changes**

**14.** The objectives are to:

- meet the demand for places in both schools
- offer a more focused and specialised curriculum, tailored to the appropriate stages of development in both settings
- increase capacity for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Key Stages 1 and 2.

**15.** The change of age range would enable Marshlands to deliver to larger numbers of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children by ceasing to enrol pupils into Early Years provision.

**16.** Greenhall will maintain its specialism in supporting the needs of children with physical disabilities and complex medical needs due to the high level of staff expertise within this area. The change of designation would enable Greenhall to support more pupils with a broader range of special education needs and disabilities (SEND) in Early Years, maximising the utilisation of its facilities, site and staff expertise.

## **Benefits of the proposed changes**

**17.** The change would enable Marshlands to focus on pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 growing its capacity to ensure it can meet local needs and demand without needing to expand its facilities.

**18.** Greenhall Nursery would focus on providing Early Years provision to a broader range of children in recognition of the increasingly complex profile of needs of pupils requiring support. This change would better utilise its excellent facilities and staff competencies. This would maximise the Early Years resource. Children's placements will be reviewed at the transition point at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage with all stakeholders reflecting on the most suitable placement moving forwards, thus enabling the principle of early intervention to be maximised.

<b>Effects of the proposed changes</b>	
For pupils:	<p>Early Years children would attend a specialist early years provision at Greenhall Nursery.</p> <p>Children attending Marshlands school would be provided with more space as the school gains more capacity.</p> <p>Marshlands School would be able to increase provision in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, meeting local needs and reducing the requirement to seek placements in independent settings.</p> <p>Both schools group and differentiate according to needs of pupils: this will not change.</p> <p>Both schools work together to effectively support the transition of pupils moving from Greenhall Nursery to Marshlands School: this will not change. Greenhall Nursery also work with a range of other schools to support transition: this will not change.</p> <p>The two school sites are based next to each other so there is no difference in terms of travel and transport.</p>
For the school and staff:	N/A. There are no contractual implications or changes to terms and conditions as a result of these proposals. There will be no reduction in staffing. Staff in both settings have the necessary qualifications to educate and care for children of all ages, needs and abilities.
For other local education settings:	N/A
For other special schools:	None
<b>Other Impacts</b>	
Financial implications:	Education provisions are next door to each other so there are no cost implications for transport.
Environmental and community considerations:	None
Health and Safety and safeguarding issues:	None

**Who is consulting on the proposals?**

19. The proposer is Staffordshire County Council, with the support of the governing bodies of Marshlands Primary School and Greenhall Nursery.

**Who is being consulted?**

20. Consultation includes the parents of pupils attending both settings, staff and governors of both settings, local education and early years settings, special schools, Clinical Commissioning Groups, SENDIASS, Voice for Change Parent Group, trade unions, local councillors and local MPs.

**What happens at the end of the consultation process?**

21. The county council will consider all responses and decide whether to amend the proposals, stop the proposed changes or ask the county council's Cabinet for approval to move to the "Publication Stage" in September 2020.

Stage	Action (and indicative dates)
1. Publication	Publication of a statutory notice (September)
2. Representation	Following publication, the representation period would allow a further 4 weeks for the receipt of comments and objections (September/October)
3. Decision	The County Council's Cabinet is the decision-maker (October/November).
4. Implementation	1 January 2021

**What is the proposed implementation date?**

The formal implementation date would be 1 January 2021.

**How to have your say**

You can complete the response form below or send us your views.

- **Email** Staffordshire County Council [send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk)
- **Write** to Staffordshire County Council, SEND Commissioning Team, Families First, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH

During term time:

- **Email** [headteacher@marshlands.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@marshlands.staffs.sch.uk) or [headteacher@greenhall.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@greenhall.staffs.sch.uk)
- **Write** to Headteacher, Marshlands Primary School, Second Avenue, Stafford ST16 1PS or Headteacher, Greenhall Nursery, Second Avenue, Stafford ST16 1PS.

The closing date for responses is **5pm on 29 July 2020**.

## Response Form

Consultation on an age range change at Marshlands Primary School  
and change in designation at Greenhall Nursery

Name:				
Address:				
Postcode:				
Email:				
Please put a cross in the relevant box below. I am:				
Parent	School Governor	School Staff member	Local Authority Staff	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. Do you support the proposal to change of age range at Marshlands Primary School?				
Yes			No	
2. Do you support the proposal to change the designation of Greenhall Nursery?				
Yes			No	
3. Please state any comments below:				

You can complete this response form or send us your views.

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- **Post** to Staffordshire County Council, SEND Commissioning Team, Families First, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH
- During term time, you can email [headteacher@marshlands.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@marshlands.staffs.sch.uk) or [headteacher@greenhall.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@greenhall.staffs.sch.uk) or write to Greenhall Nursery, Second Avenue, Stafford. ST16 1PS or Marshlands Primary School, Second Avenue, Stafford. ST16 1PS.

**Please reply by 5pm on 29 July 2020.**