



North
Northamptonshire
Council

Free school presumption competition

**New primary school at: Stanton Cross,
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.**

Specification

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.

North Northamptonshire Council has identified the need to establish a new primary school with Early Years facilities on Stanton Cross in Wellingborough, to open in September 2022.

Reason a new school is required

A Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) is underway to the east of Wellingborough, on a development known as Stanton Cross. Once complete there will be in excess of 3,650 homes. As part of the new infrastructure requirements to meet the needs of the new developments and in accordance with the relevant Section 106 (S106) agreement, a two form entry (2FE) primary school with a children’s centre and related facilities is to be built to serve the local community. The school is scheduled to open in September 2022.

This is the first of two primary schools built to serve the Stanton Cross Development. A further primary school is to be provided as in line with the S106 agreement. This primary school is to be procured and delivered in the later stages of the SUE.

The school will have a capacity of 420 pupils, once fully open, the school build will be funded through S106 contributions. The school will open in a phased manner, allowing it to grow to accommodate new pupils as the housing comes on line. A review of the current build out rate indicates that circa 708 houses will be completed by 2022. The expected pupil yield from 708 houses is approximately 212 pupils.

Pupil profile – Wellingborough Town

Pupil profile	Number or %
Number of primary schools	8
Number of infant schools	3
Number of junior schools	3
% pupils with EHCP	1.1
% pupils with SEND	13.1
% pupils entitled to and receiving free school meals	22.7
BME pupils	48.5

KS2 Outcomes

The below table details how Wellingborough Town schools are performing against the expected Key Stage 2 standard. These figures are based on the latest set of 2020 data, and do not include figures from Our Lady's Catholic Primary due to the school having converted to academy status on the date the information was collected.

KS2 Subject	% of pupils achieving the expected standard
GPS	71.3
Reading	66.6
Writing	72.9
Maths	72.8

Timeline

Timeline of Events	Key Dates
Opening date for submission of proposal	2 nd September 2021
Application deadline	15 th October 2021
Assessment	w/c 18 th October 2021
Recommendation sent to RSC for final decision	On or before 1 st November 2021

The school is expected to be ready for opening in September 2022.

The Regional School Commissioner (RSC) for North-West London and South-Central England on behalf of the Secretary of State, will consider the local authority assessments and recommendations 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.

Contact details and where to send your completed application

The authority is seeking proposals from appropriate sponsors to open this new school. Proposers must be DfE approved sponsors. New proposers, who are not already an approved academy sponsor, will need to be assessed by the DfE through the normal sponsor approval route before submitting a formal application.

Bids must be submitted using the Free School Presumption application form (Annex B) available using the link below.

[NNC Stanton Cross Free School Presumption application form \(Annex B\)](#)

All guidance, criteria and forms can be found at:

[Establishing a new school: free school presumption - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Completed application form must be returned to:

Chris Wickens
Head of School Place Planning and School Admissions
SchoolConsultation.NCC@northnorthants.gov.uk

Postal Address;
Chris Wickens
North Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

If you would like further information or wish to discuss your application, please contact Chris, via email in the first instance.

Email: SchoolConsultation.NCC@northnorthants.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;

[Opening a free school or maths school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Section B - The School

- The school is expected to be ready for opening in September 2022.
- The school will be located on the SUE at Stanton Cross, Wellingborough NN8. Street name and postcode to be confirmed once available.
- It will be a co-educational mainstream sponsored academy primary school for children aged 4 to 11 years, with a total capacity of 420 pupils, once fully open, and operating a full capacity.
- The children's centre will provide an early year's function for children aged 2 – 5 years, in accordance with the relevant S106 agreement. It is expected that the academy trust who are appointed who operate the school, will also operate the

children's centre. The manner in which the children's centre is operated will fall within the remit of the academy trust. i.e. early years' function delivered by the academy trust itself, or procured from a third party.

- The school will be built as a 2 FE school and opened in a phased manner, from the lower year groups up. The school is expected to have variable numbers in each year, which may affect class organisation and mixed age classes may be required during the initial years.
- The primary school is to be opened with an initial PAN of 30 in reception for the first year of operation, organically growing in each subsequent academic year. The increase to a substantive PAN of 60 is to be agreed between the academy trust and the local authority when demand dictates.
- The sponsor will be required to conform to the Admissions and Admissions Appeals Codes of Practice and participate in the Authority's co-ordinated scheme for admissions and In Year Fair Access Protocol.
- Once a sponsor is appointed, an Admissions Policy will be determined by the academy, in discussion with the local authority. The academy sponsor will be responsible for preparing and submitting this to the DfE. All proposals need to ensure they take account of the need to serve the local community on Stanton Cross and take into consideration the criteria in operation for other schools in the area. The sponsor will also be responsible for ensuring all school information is entered onto Get Information about Schools (GIAS). The school will be expected to make appropriate educational provision for all learners for whom a mainstream placement is considered appropriate, including those with additional needs (SEND).
- The school will be expected to promote sustainable methods of transport for attending school, for both pupils and staff. It will need to complete and maintain a school travel plan which promotes walking/cycling/scootering to school where appropriate.
- The school is expected to be fully inclusive and address the needs of all pupils and parents.
- It will be for the school to determine any community/shared use facilities.

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 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 looked after children, those with Special Educational 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
- 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 structures

Section F - Funding and Costs

- The school and adjoining children's centre is expected to cost in the region of £9.6 million to build and furnish. This is fully funded through Section 106 funds.
- The new school and children's centre will be built to current and relevant DfE Building Bulletin guidelines and will be of sufficient size for a 420 place primary school.
- The school will be leased from North Northamptonshire Council to the successful sponsor on a 125-year lease.
- The DfE currently provides £25,000 for legal expenses to the successful sponsor.
- North Northamptonshire Council will provide a one off lump sum for start-up costs, prior to a school opening, of £90,000. This is to be used towards costs for:
 - Funding salary costs prior to opening e.g. head teacher and finance support;
 - Recruitment and other related costs;
 - Any other incidental costs

No further funding will be available over and above this amount prior to the school opening on 1st September 2022.

- Pupil growth funding is available from the first year of operation to support the school whilst it is 'new and growing' and until the school has reached maturity i.e. has operational year groups in Reception to Year 6.

Section G - 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 local authority must also consider whether the new school would impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and identifies positive implications for age and disability, with a neutral impact on the other identified protected characteristics. These are set out in more detail in the Equality Impact Assessment which can be found on the North Northamptonshire Council Website using the link below:

[New primary school at Stanton Cross SUE Wellingborough consultation Equality Screening Assessment.pdf \(citizenspace.com\)](#)

The table below shows capacity available in Wellingborough Town primary schools and their expected intake in September 2021. This data shows there will be sufficient primary school capacity within Wellingborough for children moving into the new housing. Overall there are 438 surplus spaces within the primary phase of education in Wellingborough Town. It is anticipated as children and families move into the development prior to the new Stanton Cross Primary School opening, a number of these school places are expected to be taken by children moving into the first phases of housing.

School	PAN	Capacity – based on PAN	Number On Roll	Places unallocated for Reception 2021
All Saints VA Primary School and Nursery	30	210	210	0
Croyland Primary School	60	420	421	0
Olympic Primary School	60	420	337	23
Freemans Endowed CE Junior Academy	60	240	237	n/a
Oakway Academy	90	660	561	28
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School - Wellingborough	60	420	401	19
Park Junior School	60	240	244	n/a
Redwell Primary School	90	630	633	0
Ruskin Infant School	60	180	153	17
Ruskin Junior School	90	360	294	n/a
St Barnabas C.E Academy	60	180	178	3
The Avenue Infant School	60	180	180	0
Victoria Primary Academy	60	420	410	16

School	PAN	Capacity – based on PAN	Number On Roll	Places unallocated for Reception 2021
Warwick Academy	60	420	283	38

Details on how to apply can be found in the **Contact details and where to send your completed application** section A of this document (page 3).



Appendix 1 - Site Plan for Stanton Cross Primary School

