

Have  
**your**  
say...

on the proposed  
transformation of  
**Sandy Secondary  
School**

This consultation is open from  
18 November 2020 to 30 December 2020.

You can have your say online at  
[www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/sandy](http://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/sandy)





## Introduction

**Central Bedfordshire is a great place to live and work. That's why we expect the number of local residents and homes to grow in the coming years. Across our area, some 43,000 new homes are expected to be built by 2035 and that means a lot more school places will be needed.**

Schools for the Future is an ambitious programme of work taking place to raise educational standards through the provision of school places that are required across Central Bedfordshire, in line with this housing growth. A coordinated approach is required to ensure change is planned and managed effectively.

Because of the changes, schools in the area have been working with Central Bedfordshire Council, on a long-term plan to make sure we have:

- **The right schools**
- **In the right places**
- **Delivering the best education**

Specifically, for Sandy Secondary School there has already been a significant increase in pupil numbers from 535 in 2015 to just over 1,000 now. Changes have therefore been needed recently to the school site to accommodate the increasing number of students who are seeking places at the school.

This document outlines a draft plan to reconfigure Sandy Secondary School and we are inviting everyone who has an interest in the future of education in our area to have their say on what is proposed.

## Background

**Sandy Secondary changed from an upper school in September 2018. This change, along with the move to primary by all of the lower schools in the area, and the closure of Sandye Place Academy (September 2019), resulted in a change from a three-tier to a primary/secondary model of education across the town.**

When the school opened in 1975 it had been built to accommodate just 3 year groups, with a maximum of 22 students in each class, and a very small sixth form. Many of the classrooms were built to operate as general spaces and not the specialist rooms that a secondary school now requires.

Over recent years the school has undergone significant maintenance and repairs to meet health and safety requirements.

The change to a primary/secondary model of education in the town and the two consecutive 'Good' judgements by Ofsted have resulted in a rise in the number of students in the school; from 535 students, including the sixth form, in 2015, to 1,009 now.



During the past year, temporary classrooms have been added to the school site, with a further temporary building added for October 2020. These are designed to accommodate the increasing numbers in the student body from Year 7 to Year 13, as well as to allow the school to deliver the curriculum.

Catering facilities have been extended by the provision of a snack hut at the back of the school, and outside covered seating. A resource area has been converted into two further classrooms, and one of the school's outer buildings has been converted into a sixth form common room, to accommodate the growing size of the sixth form. The sixth form block now provides room for 80 students, and the new temporary units are being used to provide much needed teaching space for a further 120 students.

Although the school is recognised by the Department for Education as a school of more than 8 forms of entry, it does not have the capacity to accommodate the existing students. This is due to the limited capacity of the classrooms. This has not been a problem in recent years, but with the increased number of students, steps need to be taken to address the under-capacity and to futureproof the school site.

A reconfiguration of the school site is therefore needed to ensure the school is fit for purpose.

## Proposed changes

**We are proposing to reconfigure the school for the autumn term in 2022, to enable the delivery of the best secondary curriculum for students.**

The proposals are to:

- remodel and refurbish the existing buildings, including the frontage of the school
- build a new teaching block
- build a new special education needs area
- build new external recreational areas

It is proposed, subject to consultation findings and final Executive approval in April 2021, that construction of both a new teaching block and a new SEND block will be completed in the autumn term 2022.

## Managing the change

**Maintaining the quality of education provided to children through the process of change is an absolute priority for the school and for Central Bedfordshire Council.**

Should the proposals be approved, these organisations will work together to make sure that disruption is minimised and that both pupils and school staff are well supported through the process of change.

The reconfiguration of the school's existing buildings will be phased in order to minimise disruption to the school and will be completed following the handover of the 2 new blocks.





The original school buildings will be reconfigured further in order to offer more facilities for the students and increase specialist learning spaces to meet the changing demands of the curriculum.

## Why we are consulting with you?

For changes of this size, which would increase the school's capacity from 1,009 (as per the Department for Education's database) to 1,200, the DfE requires a non-statutory consultation to be carried out, either by the school's governing body or the local authority. The guidance on making significant changes (called prescribed alterations) to maintained schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools>

On page 5 of this document, you will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which will help to address some immediate questions that you may have.

If there are other questions that you wish to raise regarding the proposed transformation of the school please submit them to the following email address -

[SchoolsForTheFuture@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsForTheFuture@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

Alternatively, we invite you to attend an online meeting with Council officers between 4pm and 6pm on Thursday, 3 December, where you can also ask questions.

Numbers are limited, so to register your interest in attending this meeting, please email [school.organisation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) by December 1, 2020, and joining instructions will be sent to you.

## How to have your say

**The future of our education system in Sandy matters to our whole community and everyone who has an interest, for current or for future generations of children and young people, is invited to give their views on the proposals for change.**

You can read more information and have your say by answering a questionnaire at the end of this document. Or, if you need a paper copy of the questionnaire, call 0300 300 8301.

The consultation is open from 18 November 2020 to 30 December 2020.

## What happens after the consultation?

**The school and the Council will need to consider the feedback and make a decision on the final plan. The aim is for this decision to be made by the Council's Executive on 13 April 2021.**

Prior to this, Members of Central Bedfordshire Council's Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the proposals and the result of the consultation on 9 March 2021.



If a decision is made to reconfigure Sandy Secondary School, formal implementation of the transformation would commence during 2021, such that the new buildings are developed to provide a good physical environment for the pupils and staff.

## Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

### **Q 1 – What are you proposing to provide for the school?**

Our intention is to provide additional specialist teaching rooms and larger more adaptable/flexible spaces for the students to learn in. These will meet the changing demands of the curriculum and increase the capacity of the school.

The proposed plans include a reconfiguration of the school, the construction of both a new teaching block and a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) block, plus two all-weather sports pitches. The latter would house the school's new football academy that it is hoped will be to open to students who find mainstream school challenging, and who would benefit from a more vocational curriculum with specialist resources. Please see question 11 for more information on the football academy.

### **Q 2 - How will the students benefit from this proposed expansion?**

The expansion will give students more specialist rooms and resources in subjects like Information and Communication Technology (ICT), food technology/design technology, science, dance/drama, art and photography. It will also provide a dedicated sixth form area and more purpose-built teaching spaces, which are well-ventilated and spacious.

### **Q 3 - How many additional places will be provided by the expansion?**

The school will be able to accommodate a total of 1,200 pupils across years 7 to 11, and a maximum of 200 students in the sixth form.

### **Q 4 – Does the school and the Council have the space and the funds needed to provide these new facilities?**

The results of the consultation will be reported to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny on 9 March, 2021, and to the Executive on 13 April, 2021, where a decision will be made in relation to submitting a request for the capital required for the transformation. There is sufficient space within the school site to accommodate the proposed additional facilities.

### **Q 5 – When would the programme of works be completed?**

Construction of both the new teaching block and the SEND block will begin in 2021 and will be completed and available for the autumn term in 2022.

Reconfiguration of the school's existing building will begin after the completion of the 2 new blocks. Subject to obtaining all the necessary consents, it is proposed that all of the proposed works will be completed by summer 2023.

### **Q 6 - Who will oversee this work?**

A specialist team of professionals will be assembled to carry out this work. There will be a project lead from Central Bedfordshire Council, plus a school team comprised of the Executive Principal and the school HR and Operations Manager.



**Q 7 - Will the temporary units be removed once the building has been completed?**

The intention is to eventually remove all temporary buildings from the school site.

**Q 8 – My child currently attends Sandy Secondary School; how can I be assured that standards would be maintained during the building work?**

The majority of the internal works to the existing building will be done during the school holidays, but we will ensure that noise and inconvenience to both staff and students is kept to a minimum if work is needed during term-time.

We will not allow lessons or exams to be disturbed and will work closely with the construction company. If necessary, work will be done to the main building outside school working hours.

**Q 9 – How will the eventual increase in numbers of pupils and staff impact on the school's immediate neighbours?**

Traffic management plans will be a key element in the process of getting permission for the building programme from the planning authorities.

**Q10 – The community currently uses the school's sports hall and squash courts, will these facilities continue to be available for community use after the transformation?**

The indoor sports facilities will continue to be needed for curriculum use, but as valued facilities for Sandy's residents, they will also remain accessible to the community. We are working with the school and Sandy Town Council to consider the local leisure facilities offer and ensure there is no loss of facilities for the residents.

**Q11 – What are the plans for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?**

There are proposals for a school SEND block wrapped around a football academy. This has been led by Sandy Secondary School, who have successfully secured some funding from the Department for Education for their own pupils. The Council is also developing overarching SEND cluster proposals as part of the Schools for the Future programme, which are due to be published early in 2021.



Central Bedfordshire is set to grow over the next 15 years. New homes mean we need to provide more school places.

In response to this, the schools in the area have been working together, with Central Bedfordshire Council, on a long-term plan to make sure we have:

- The right schools
- In the right places
- Delivering the best education

The schools and the council are now consulting on changes to local schools in order to meet this demand.

The proposal for Sandy Secondary is to transform the school for September 2022 to enable the delivery of the best secondary curriculum for pupils.

Please submit your response by Wednesday 30th December 2020.

**Q1** The proposal is for the construction of both a new teaching block and a new SEND block (to be completed in the Autumn Term 2022), with the original school buildings reconfigured further in order to offer more facilities for the students and increase specialist learning spaces to meet the changing demands of the curriculum phased in, in order to minimise disruption to the school and will be completed following the handover of the 2 new blocks, resulting in an increase in the school's capacity from 1009 to 1200.

How far do you agree or disagree with the proposals? (please select one per row)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Construct a new teaching block	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construct a new SEND block	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The phased transformation of existing buildings following handover of two new blocks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2

Do you have any comments about the proposal?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide comments on the proposal.



## About You

This section is about you. The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we're getting views of a cross-section of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual. You can read more about why we ask these questions on our website.  
All of these questions are optional, and you can give as much or as little information as you wish.

Q3 Which of the below are you? (please select all that apply)

- ☐ Pupil
- ☐ Parent/carer of child(ren) of pre-school age or younger
- ☐ Parent/carer of child(ren) currently at school in Central Bedfordshire
- ☐ Parent/carer of child(ren) currently at school outside of Central Bedfordshire
- ☐ Parent/carer of child(ren) who have finished school
- ☐ School Governor
- ☐ Headteacher at a school in Central Bedfordshire
- ☐ Teacher at a school in Central Bedfordshire
- ☐ Other member of staff at a school in Central Bedfordshire
- ☐ Resident of Central Bedfordshire
- ☐ Resident elsewhere
- ☐ Town or Parish Council
- ☐ Voluntary or Community Organisation
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

Q4 If you are a pupil, do you currently attend Sandy Secondary school? (please select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q5 If you are a parent/carer, do any of your children currently attend Sandy Secondary School? (please select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q6 If you are a parent/carer, do any of your children have any special educational needs? (please select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q7 Are you: (please select one)

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Q8 What is your age? (please select one)

☐ Under 16 yrs

☐ 16-19 yrs

☐ 20-29 yrs

☐ 30-44 yrs

☐ 45-59 yrs

☐ 60- 64 yrs

☐ 65-74 yrs

☐ 75+ yrs

Q9 Do you consider yourself disabled? (please select one)

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q10 To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (please select one)

☐ White British

☐ Black or Black British

☐ Asian or Asian British

☐ Mixed ethnicity

☐ Other ethnic group

If other, please specify:

Q11 What is your home or organisation's postcode?

This will only be used for analysis purposes and will not be used to identify you in any way.

Q12 If you would like to receive alerts for any new consultations, please provide your email address below to be added our database, this will not be used or shared in any other capacity:

**Thank you.**

**Please return your completed form by 30th December 2020 to:  
Freepost RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need a stamp)  
Sandy Secondary School consultation  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
SG17 5TQ**

**Data Protection Act 2018**

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of this survey. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its' partners involved in this survey. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes. If you do not wish to have your personal details retained for the purposes given, please contact [consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) who will arrange for their removal and deletion. We will only be able to locate your data for removal if you have provided us with a personal identifier, such as your email address.