



## PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE VICTORIA PARK PRIMARY ACADEMY

### What is the Proposal?

The Governing Body, with the support of Sandwell Local Authority, is proposing that the school expands to accommodate more children. Our plan is that the school will grow over a seven year period into a three form entry primary school and the admission number will increase from 60 to 90 for those children starting Reception in September 2015. Every year after that the school will admit up to 90 children in Reception until we reach a total capacity of 630 in September 2021.

### Why is this necessary?

There is a high demand for primary places across the Smethwick area and the local authority expects that this demand will increase over the next few years as the birth rate continues to rise and new families move into the area. Victoria Park Academy is regularly oversubscribed. Last year 150 parents stated Victoria Park as one of their preferences for a Reception place. Our school is popular and currently judged as "Outstanding" by Ofsted so we expect more parents will want their children to come here in the future.

In summary this proposal will increase the primary school pupil capacity in the Soho and Victoria ward by 210 places over the next 7 years at an "Outstanding" school with a strong and popular ethos making a valuable contribution to supporting parental choice.

### When will this happen?

We have already agreed that the school will accommodate an additional 30 pupils in Reception this September 2015. We expect all places to be taken and this means we will have 90 children across 3 Reception classes.

We are now consulting with you to propose that this increased intake of up to 90 children takes place every year in Reception until the school has a capacity of 630 in September 2021.

### Will there be changes to the school buildings?

Yes the proposed increase in places means that work will need to be undertaken at the school to provide the additional places.



Building work will commence as soon as possible and it is proposed that the works will be completed by summer 2016, prior to the proposed Reception intake of 90 pupils in September 2016.

All options for expansion will be considered which may include certain adaptations to the existing building and / or a new extension.

How will an additional 30 pupils be accommodated for September 2015?

The planning and preparation required to deliver a permanent building solution for the expansion of the school will take some time to work through; including the assessment of the impact that such works might place upon the school. Unless we are able to accommodate an additional class within the current building, it is possible that a temporary mobile classroom will have to be used to accommodate one of our classes until September 2016.

An additional teacher and classroom assistant will be employed for the extra class.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Pupils will notice some changes but these are likely to be limited. The change in pupil numbers will occur gradually (see table below) and will not impact on current year groups. With the additional pupils, we may decide to organise the school slightly differently but as always this will be for the Head Teacher and Governing Body to decide.

Year Group	PAN* 2015	PAN 2016	PAN 2017	PAN 2018	PAN 2019	PAN 2020	PAN 2021
Reception	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Year 1	60	90	90	90	90	90	90
Year 2	60	60	90	90	90	90	90
Year 3	60	60	60	90	90	90	90
Year 4	60	60	60	60	90	90	90
Year 5	60	60	60	60	60	90	90
Year 6	60	60	60	60	60	60	90

PAN = Published Admission Number



### How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected; there will be a need to increase staff and a larger school will offer more opportunities for professional development.

### I prefer a smaller school – won't this proposal affect performance?

There is no evidence that smaller schools perform better than larger schools and there are many, many examples of good and outstanding schools of the size we are proposing for Victoria Park Primary Academy

### Will this have an effect on other schools in the area?

The gradual expansion of the school would ensure a minimum impact on other schools in the locality. Currently other schools in Smethwick are full in Reception Year and the forecasts for the area indicate that there will be a deficit of places in September 2016 for entry into primary school if this expansion does not proceed.

### Will this mean more traffic and parking in the locality of the school?

Yes, inevitably if the school takes on more children there is a potential for more traffic in the locality at the beginning and end of the school day. The council and the school will need to undertake and support measures to reduce the impacts of this and, as part of the scheme to expand the school's facilities we will be required to satisfy highway and planning issues. We will develop a new Travel Plan to identify measures to reduce such impact to the local area.

As part of the scheme the council will be expected to provide sufficient staff and visitor parking. At peak times of the day alternative off-street parking may have to be considered, and the introduction of additional traffic calming measures may also be an option. Officers within the Highways Section will continue to provide advice and guidance to the school, including consideration of alternative means of travel, walking buses and possible staggered start and finish times for children.

### Will there be an opportunity for parents and local residents to raise individual concerns during the planning application period?

Yes. If the proposal proceeds a "drop in" session will be held at the school for parents and local residents to view the proposed expansion scheme. This session will provide an opportunity for questions and concerns to be raised prior to a planning application being submitted. The council's project delivery team will arrange this "drop in" session and for invitations to attend to be sent to all stakeholders.



## How is this being funded?

The cost of the project will be met from the council's capital allocation it receives from the Department for Education for the provision of new places.

The local authority believes that the expansion of our school as a 3 form entry school is not only necessary, but a cost effective and sustainable solution to the increased demand in the area.

## Community Use

We will look to extend our local community provision. Once complete, our expanded school will offer us the opportunity to be more flexible with our space and assist with the development of wider community use.

## How to give your views

We would welcome your views on this proposal. Please complete and return the response form to school or email us your views at:

headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk

The consultation is also available to view on our school website:  
[www.victoriaparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.victoriaparkacademy.org.uk)

The closing date for responses is 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

After this date the Governing Body will consider all responses and publish an update on the proposal giving answers and comments on the issues raised.

We are consulting with:

Parents, staff, pupils, Sandwell Council, the Academy Trust, Birmingham Council, all other Sandwell schools, local councillors and MP



Victoria  
ACADEMIES TRUST

## Consultation response form

### Proposal to expand Victoria Park Primary Academy

Please help us analyse these responses by indicating your interest in the proposal:

	Tick
Parent/carer of a pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify interest)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you support the proposal?

Y / N (please delete as necessary)

Please provide any comments or suggestions you might have on the proposal.  
Please continue overleaf if necessary.

Please return this form to the school by **22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015**.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

**tes** 2013  
schools  
awards  
Shortlisted  
Primary School of the Year



Victoria  
ACADEMIES TRUST