

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.

Contact details

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Salford City Council	St George's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided
Children's Services Directorate	High School
Minerva House	Parsonage Drive
Pendlebury Road	Worsley
Swinton	M28 3SH
M27 4EQ	

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

The planned date of implementation is 31 August 2012.

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All the necessary statutory consultation requirements relating to the proposal have been complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
 - minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - the views of the persons consulted; and
 - copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a). List of consultees

- Parents/carers of pupils attending St George's Roman Catholic High school and associated primary schools.
- Staff at St George's Roman Catholic High School and their trade union representatives.
- The Governing Body at St George's Roman Catholic High School.
- The Student Council at St George's Roman Catholic High School.

- The Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Boards.
- Local ward Councillors.
- Local MP's.
- Members of the community.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities.

b). Please see at appendix 1 minutes from:

- Staff consultation meeting at St George's Roman Catholic High School.
- Governing Body consultation meeting at St George's Roman Catholic High School.
- Parent/carers and prospective parents/carers consultation meeting at St George's Roman Catholic High School.
- Student Council consultation meetings at St George's Roman Catholic High School.

c). Please see at appendix 2 - A summary of views of the persons consulted and a copy of the relevant cabinet report.

d). Please see appendix 3 - Copies of all consultation documents which were also made available on Salford City Councils web site at www.salford.gov.uk/schoolconsultation.

Please also find a copy of the presentation that was presented to staff, the governing body and parents/carers during the consultation meetings.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

As part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and the wider re-organisation of Roman Catholic High Schools in Salford, Salford City Council is proposing to discontinue St. George's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided High School from 31 August 2012.

Linked to this, from 1 September 2012 Salford City Council is proposing to enlarge the premises of St Ambrose Barlow Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic High School in a new building and change the school's upper age limit to add a 250 place sixth form. The new building will create a state of the art technology-rich learning provision for the 21st Century.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

St George's Roman Catholic High School has been judged 'good' with some outstanding features, by Ofsted. St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School has twice been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted. The replacement provision for St George's Roman Catholic High School would bring together the strengths of both schools to lead to further improvement in standards. Furthermore, the opportunity to provide a brand new school will provide a twenty first century learning environment rich in digital technology which will further serve to raise

standards by including greater personalisation of the curriculum.

In 2008 Salford achieved well above average at 5+ A* - C for students with Special Educational Needs but without a statement. St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School significantly outperformed the Local Authority and national average. A similar rate of performance was achieved by students entitled to free school meals.

For all students St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School has consistently demonstrated high performance for a number of years. St George's Roman Catholic High School has also demonstrated some strengths in these areas and therefore the bringing together of the 2 schools will make a positive difference to all pupils and particularly those within specific groups.

The closure of St George's Roman Catholic High School will reduce the number of places in the Roman Catholic sector similar to the reduction in the number of Community places across the city. The reduction in Roman Catholic places is 8%, the reduction in the Community sector is 9%, diversity of provision will therefore be maintained.

The closure of St George's Roman Catholic High School and the relocation and rebuilding of St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School is part of a wider BSF programme resulting in the re-building of every high school in the city by 2012. This will result in transforming the quality of learning environments, support further increase in standards across the city and provide a new range of facilities for the community use of schools.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

For 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The closure of St George's Roman Catholic High School will displace 604 pupils (based on October 2008 census). The proposed enlargement of St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School by 300 places will provide some alternative provision in the area. In addition, the adjacent Harrop Fold School (Community) has 192 places available and Walkden High School (Community) is being enlarged in 2011 by 300 places. Demographic projections indicate that there will be sufficient places available across these schools to accommodate the pupils displaced from St George's Roman Catholic High School.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Currently the city has four Roman Catholic High Schools. Following these proposals the number of Roman Catholic High Schools will be reduced to three, however, data indicates that the number of children from Roman Catholic Primary Schools that would feed into St

Ambrose Barlow and St George's Roman Catholic High Schools are approximately 190 pupils per annum. The enlarged St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School is proposed to have an intake of 210 pupils per year group.

Across the city it is estimated that the number of children transferring from Roman Catholic primary schools is in region of 420 per annum, this compares to the proposed capacity within the 3 Roman Catholic High Schools of 510 places.

The planning that has taken place for future Roman Catholic provision across the city will mean that there will continue to be a place for every Roman Catholic pupil who wants one, a view supported by the Salford Roman Catholic Diocese.

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

St George's Roman Catholic High School has 604 day pupils, consisting of males and females between the ages of 11-16 years. There are 7 pupils with SEN statements, 75 school action and 33 school action plus.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including -

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

It is proposed that from September 2012, pupils currently attending St George's Roman Catholic High School, will be provided for mainly in the rebuilt, enlarged St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School.

Admission may also be sought at other local schools that have places available.

(a). In order to minimise any disruption to the education of pupils displaced by this proposal, it is likely that the existing St George's Roman Catholic High School building will be used to accommodate some pupils in the first two years from 2012. The management of pupils will be finalised in consultation with the headteachers and governing bodies of St Ambrose Barlow and St George's Roman Catholic High Schools and will be based on ensuring the best possible transition and continuity of education for pupils.

(b). In line with the underpinning principle of Salford's BSF programme, the rebuilt and enlarged St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School will fully meet the Special Educational Needs Improvement Test, by the provision of fully accessible buildings, curriculum and other provision that is inclusive, thereby improving the standard, quality and range of educational provision for all pupils, including those with special educational needs.

(c). Not applicable

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Other than the additional 300 places at St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School the City Council has no plans to increase the number of school places as a consequence of the discontinuance of St George's Roman Catholic High School.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The closure of St George's Roman Catholic High School will remove a local school, however the community school adjacent to St George's Roman Catholic High School (Harrop Fold) was rebuilt in 2008 and provides the community access to state of the art facilities. Moreover Walkden High School is also scheduled to be rebuilt in 2011 offering a further local fully extended school with full community access. Similar high quality community facilities will be designed into the enlarged St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Salford Children's Service operates a cluster arrangement for the management and delivery of Extended School Services across the city. St George's Roman Catholic High School is within the Little Hulton and Walkden Extended Schools Cluster which is currently delivering the full core-offer of Extended School Services, this cluster area also includes the newly built Harrop Fold School. It is proposed that, should St George's Roman Catholic High School close the Extended School Services will be maintained within the cluster area for the benefit of children living in area. The services at Harrop Fold School will be enhanced to accommodate any newly created demand. The location of the extended St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School is within the Swinton Extended School Cluster area which is delivering the full core-offer of Extended School. The newly built St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School will provide additional capacity to further enhance the fully extended service for children, families and communities associated with the school.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

- Proposed site for rebuilt, enlarged St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School (former Wardley High School site) - 2.4 miles from St George's Roman Catholic High School, on foot.
- Harrop Fold School – 0.8 miles from St George's Roman Catholic High School, on foot.
- Walkden High School – 1.3 miles from St George's Roman Catholic High School, on foot.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

There are existing bus routes for pupils to attend the rebuilt, enlarged St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School on the former Wardley High School site and the possibility of additional, dedicated school bus services is also being investigated. The Local Authority is

developing a travel plan which will include a range of practical measures to increase the number of staff and pupils that walk, cycle or use public transport to get to school.

Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

It is the opinion of Salford City Council that the proposal for the closure of St George's Roman Catholic High School is related to the proposal for the relocation and enlargement of St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

The existing provision for pupils with special educational needs will transfer to St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School, and it will fully meet the Special Education Needs Test.

In the latest available data, St George's Roman Catholic High School has 7 pupils with statements of special educational needs, 75 school action and 33 school action plus. This represents 1% and 18% of the school population respectively. At St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School these figures are 1% and 16%, giving both schools a similar profile. St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School was awarded the inclusion mark in April 2007.

Core to the BSF programme is improved access in terms of curriculum, educational provision and accessible services for all children and young people by design. This represents significant improvement in the current provision. The curricula developments associated with the transformational ambitions of Salford's BSF are intended to be fully inclusive, addressing the needs of students with a variety of preferred learning styles and needs. All BSF schools will be extended and the services provided on site will not only support all children's learning needs, but also their pastoral and personal development and health.

Both St George's and St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High Schools have access to external support from specialist SEN teams as required e.g. hearing and visual impaired services. The bringing together of two schools into one will make more efficient use of external support and facilities will provide personalised digital technology that will provide better learning outcomes for individuals across the whole spectrum of need.

By design the proposed new school will be fully accessible to all, in every respect. Currently the existing buildings at both St George's and St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High Schools are not fully accessible therefore limiting the supply of suitable places. The proposal will offer fully accessible provision.