

Expansion to the Premises of Blessed George Napier Catholic School



Providing outstanding education for our children with 'The Joy of the Gospel' at its heart



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Local Authority	Oxfordshire County Council
Type of School	Secondary
School Category	Academy
Academy name	Blessed George Napier School
Part of a Multi Academy Company	The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company
Age range	11-19
Current Number of pupils on roll	889
Chair of Board of Directors	Paul Concannon
Chair of Local Governing Body	Adrian Waters
Headteacher	Fraser Long
Section 5 Ofsted rating	Good
Section 48 Diocesan Inspection rating	Outstanding

[So what is being proposed?](#)

Blessed George Napier School has been asked by Oxfordshire County Council to increase its pupil numbers in order to meet local demand. To enable this to happen the school will need additional teaching accommodation for September 2022. The local Council has secured the funding for this expansion from the housing developers through something known as a Section 106 Agreement by which the developer funds changes required as a result of the additional houses being built. As part of this additional land has also been secured which will allow Blessed George Napier School to add additional green space and incorporate additional teaching space well within the current site boundaries.

In order for the school to accommodate the Council's request to provide additional places the proposed solution is to make the following changes:

- Internal alterations to improve and better use the existing space for dining, reception, administration, science, welfare and pupil safeguarding.

- Construct a new teaching block and 6th Form Area well within the existing site.
- Construct a separate multi-function hall for full school assemblies and learning activities, dance, drama and performances.
- Improved site access and pedestrian routes with more on-site car parking.
- External works to relocate the current artificial turf pitches

Why do we need to expand this school?

The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 includes significant housing development for Banbury (7,106 new homes). Population modelling conducted for the Cherwell District Council Local Plan examination assessed that the housing planned for Banbury would generate significant growth in secondary school pupil numbers across the town.

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient school places in each area. The council works with local schools and multi academy trusts to expand existing schools, or plan for new schools, to meet population growth. Its assessment is that more secondary school places are needed in Banbury to ensure a place for all applicants, and to ensure that parents and carers have a reasonable degree of choice in where to send their children to be educated.

There is currently spare capacity within the existing Banbury secondary schools, although this is not evenly distributed around the town's schools. However, this is due to a demographic dip in this age group over recent years. As the increased birth rate since 2004 feeds through into secondary schools, these spare places will be filled by an increased younger population. The first predicted impact will be a shortage of Year 7 places for pupils around 11 years old transferring from the existing primary schools into secondary schools. In the longer term, the total secondary school capacity will also be insufficient to meet demand without action being taken.

Blessed George Napier School is a popular choice and it is regularly over-subscribed because of the quality of education it provides, the good behaviour of its pupils, and the caring young adults that emerge. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2017 and is graded as Good which is the second

highest category Ofsted can award. Oxfordshire County Council has therefore determined that expansion of the capacity of Blessed George Napier School will best satisfy the growing needs of the town.

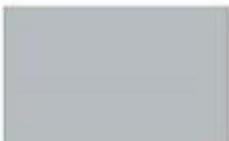
The expansion has the support of the Diocese and the Directors of the Pope Francis Catholic MAC.

The total number of children on roll for the 2020/21 school year is 889 and numbers per year group are shown below. The school is regularly over-subscribed. For the September 2021 intake, all 150 available places have been allocated. The school is already operating above the capacity of its current buildings

Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number on roll	149	151	147	139	139	87	77

With regard to the new buildings and site changes these are subject to the usual Planning Application processes through Cherwell District Council, who granted permission on 8th April 2021. The illustrations included in this brochure give an indication of the proposed look and scale of the new buildings which our architects and Cherwell District Council believe to be in keeping with the current use of the site. It is planned to locate the new buildings to the rear of the existing buildings and as far away from the existing external boundaries as possible to minimise impact and visibility to the surrounding community.

KEY

	Existing School Buildings No Work
	Existing School Buildings Internal Alterations to Dining Hall and Administration
	Proposed New School Buildings Teaching Block and Assembly Hi
	Proposed Replacement All Weather 3G Sports Pitch
	Proposed Replacement All Weather Netball Courts
	Proposed Pedestrian Routes Between Existing buildings and New Buildings & Sports Pitches
	Existing Hard-Standing to be Utilized for Additional Parking
	New Vehicular Access Road to Rear of New Assembly Hall
	Existing and New Grassed Areas



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