

The

POPE FRANCIS

CATHOLIC

Multi Academy Company

Consultation on the Proposal to Expand 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	862
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

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company (PFMAC) is a family of schools consisting of Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School in Banbury, Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School in Chipping Norton, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Banbury and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Carterton, who work together to promote the teaching of Christ and the Catholic faith. The PFMAC is committed to striving for excellence in delivering Catholic education for our students. We believe every child is a unique creation made in the image of and likeness of God, called by name, with a special gift to bring to the world. We seek to develop these talents in each individual by being a beacon for Catholic education in Oxfordshire and committed to striving for excellence in delivering Catholic education for all of our students, including children of other faiths and of none.

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.

For the September 2020 intake, all 150 available places have already been allocated. The school is already operating above the capacity of its current buildings.

The total number of children currently attending on roll for the 2019/20 school year is 862 (as at September 2019) and the current numbers per year group are shown below:

Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number on roll	153	146	137	138	142	80	66

Consultation Period – How and when you can view and comment on the plans

To allow sharing the proposals and collecting public feedback in advance of submission of planning applications we will hold a period of public consultation. We value your views and observations as local stakeholders, neighbours, school users and the community we serve.

The consultation period of consultation will run from Monday 17th August until 5.00pm on Friday 25th September 2020. Ideally we would have liked to hold face to face meetings however in the current situation all documentation will be made available on the school website. With the current COVID 19 restrictions no Consultation Meetings can be held in school as would normally be the case. You can contact the school either in writing to the school address: Blessed George Napier Catholic School, Addison Road, Banbury Oxon, OX169DG or by e-mail to:

BGNbuildingconsultation@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Following feedback from the consultation, the school will decide whether to continue with the proposals in the current form. If the decision is not to continue then no further action will be taken. The outcome of the decision will be published on the school website.

With regard to the new buildings and site changes these will be subject to the usual Planning Application processes through Cherwell District Council. As part of this process all plans and proposals will be publicly shared and subject to further consultation as they are developed. 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 H
	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
	Existing to be Removed



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