



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

[westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](http://westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

# Expansion of Places at Beaconside CE Primary School Penrith

## Consultation Proposal



## What is the consultation about?

Westmorland and Furness Council is in receipt of funding from house builders to provide additional school places for children. This is intended to meet additional demand for school places as a result of recent housing developments in the Penrith area. This is known as 'Section 106 funding' and its purpose is to make sure that there are sufficient school places for the existing local population as well as those living in new housing. This consultation is regarding the Council's proposal to increase the number of mainstream school places at Beaconside CE Primary School, and to create some additional specialist places within a resourced provision (resourced provision provides specialist support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), within a mainstream setting).

## The Proposal

- An increase in published admission number (PAN) which is the maximum number of children to be admitted in each year group. It is proposed to increase the PAN from the existing 73 places to 90 places and that this increase will be phased over several years. Whilst this increase is not significant enough to necessitate a formal consultation process Westmorland and Furness Council are consulting as we would like to understand the views of all interested stakeholders on this proposal. This proposal would result in a total of 119 additional pupils over a phased period. The increase would be accommodated through new, additional classroom space.
- The number of resourced provision places will increase from 10 to 24. This will enable both Key Stage 2 pupils as well as Key Stage 1 to be accommodated on site. This will consolidate existing provision within Penrith and negate the need for those children attending the Resourced Provision in Key Stage 1 to transition to North Lakes Junior School in Key Stage 2. Instead, they will be able to remain on roll at Beaconside with their peers in the same year group and continue to receive the specialist support they need.
- It is anticipated the construction work required would be completed by September 2026, (subject to further feasibility work).

## Who is this consultation for?

This document is aimed at parents, staff and governors of Beaconside CE Primary School and anyone else with an interest, or stake in, education in the area.

## Background

Local housing developments will add to numbers of school aged children living in Penrith, and the Section 106 funding provides a good opportunity to add capacity at the school to make sure there is sufficient space to accommodate the growing number of children. The additional resource provision places will help to meet the needs of the growing number of children with SEND in the local area, provide greater access to specialist help and support, and make it possible for children benefiting from it to be educated within their local community and accessing the same school until they reach the end of Year 6. Currently children have to transfer elsewhere at the beginning of year 3 to continue accessing the additional support they need. The statutory change would be implemented on 1 September 2026.

## Have your say

As well as being able to complete the questionnaire (online or using the form below) you can attend a meeting to be held at the school to ask any questions you may have on **16 October 2023**, in Key Stage 1 Hall at the main entrance on Hutton Hill. There will be separate meetings for the staff/governors and parents/stakeholders as detailed below.

- Staff and Governors - 4.30 - 5.30pm
- Parents and other stakeholders - 6.00 - 7.00pm

## What happens next?

Once the consultation period has closed, Westmorland & Furness' Cabinet will receive a report in December 2023 summarising the responses received. Taking into account those responses, the Cabinet will decide whether to proceed to the next stage of the process, which involves the publication of a detailed proposal for the expansion of school places, as well as the school's RP provision. Publication would trigger a statutory 4-week 'representation period', which provides another opportunity for interested parties to make their views known.

At the end of the representation period, the Cabinet will again consider any views submitted, and will make a final decision on whether the proposal should progress. We expect that final decision would be taken at the Cabinet's meeting in March 2024.

It is important that we hear your views.

## Timeline

Consultation period	3 October 2023 – 31 October 2023
Consultation Meeting Staff and Governors - 4.30 - 5.30pm Parents & stakeholders - 6.00 - 7.00pm	16 October 2023
Eden Locality Board	18 October 2023
Cabinet for publication of notice	12 December 2023
Representation period (statutory)	6 January 2024 – 3 February 2024
Cabinet for final decision	26 March 2024
Implementation effective from	September 2026

This consultation runs until 31 October 2023, and you can complete the online questionnaire here.

<https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/education/expansion-of-places-at-beaconside-ce-primary-school>

Please note that it is not possible to enter into individual correspondence.

If you would prefer, you can complete and return a hard copy of the questionnaire which is attached overleaf.

## What happens next?

### 1. Please indicate your interest *(tick all boxes that apply)*

I am a:

Parent/carer of a child at Beaconside

Member of staff at Beaconside

Governor at Beaconside

Other

If other has been selected, please specify

### 2 Please use the space below to share your comments on the proposals:

Name (please print)

Address (incl. postcode)

The closing date for this consultation is **31 October 2023**

Please return by email to [school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk)