



INFORMATION

In September 2015 we plan to open a new Primary school in Southampton city centre. It will be called Hope Community School Southampton and start with two reception classes of 25. We will then admit a further 50 pupils each year. The school will offer a broad and balanced curriculum and will be open to all children.

WHY A NEW SCHOOL?

In October 2013 Southampton City Council produced a School Organisation Plan 2013 – 2022. The plan identified that there are insufficient reception class places across the city, in particular, in the city centre. The plan shows that there will be a shortage of places for the next three years; 74 in September 2015, 119 in September 2016 and 71 in September 2017.

As of September 2014, the Primary schools in the city centre, St Mary's and St John's are at capacity. The City Council plans to expand a number of schools outside the city centre – Thornhill, Bitterne Manor, Bitterne Park, Mansbridge and Portswood. The expectation is that children who don't get into their parents' first choice school, will have to travel outside the area to these newly expanded schools.

Southampton City Council is not in a position to build a new school where the greatest need is. The only way to access funding to build a new school is through the Free School route. Free Schools are all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to local needs in order to improve education for children in their community. The Free School structure allows us to deliver education in innovative and creative ways that will achieve excellent outcomes for children and the local community.

As this is the only route, we have decided to put in an application to open a Free School in SO14 to provide a Primary school for the community, in the community.

WHO ARE WE?

New Generation Schools Trust is an Academy Trust and will establish the new school in partnership with local people in Southampton. The Trust is a Christian organisation that exists to improve education opportunities in the UK. It does this by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing a school that is legally defined as a 'school of religious character'.

New Generation Schools Trust was set up to respond to a need for more Primary school places in Sidcup, Kent and opened its first Primary school there in September 2013. Because of its success, the Trust has been invited to work in partnership here in Southampton by local groups who are concerned about the shortage of Primary places in the SO14 area of the city.

Hope Community School is being supported by local people, businesses and organisations working in the city.

SO14 LOCATION

We recognise and value the diversity of the community in SO14. We will be working closely with CLEAR, a community organisation that has been working with refugees and asylum seekers in Southampton for over 13 years, providing access to free advice, local services and ESOL classes for the whole family.

In partnership with the CLEAR team, Hope Community School will offer a variety of adult learning courses, home language support and after school programmes supporting the integration of new communities in the city.

The school will create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all within the city and will be open to children of all faiths and no faith. We will offer a broad and balanced curriculum and be inclusive in our teaching.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Every child, no matter what their ability, ethnicity or background, should be able to flourish in their education and be able to achieve their full potential, whatever that may be.

Education should be engaging. We want to inspire children to learn and experience beyond the four walls of a classroom. We will work with local businesses and community organisations in order to offer practical and vocational opportunities as well as traditional pathways of learning.

Our vision is to link school and the community, to develop a school created by the community for the community. We want to see a school that will become the heartbeat of the community, involving local families to help increase children's aspirations, encouraging a spirit of adventure and maximising each child's talents and gifting.

We want to see the children of Hope become community pioneers. We want to inspire them to be people who not only value their community but also have the ability, tools and desire to transform and enrich it.

We will encourage children to dream without limits, to explore confidently and discover expectantly, taking ownership of their futures.

OUR ETHOS

Our work is motivated by our Christian faith and Christian values will run throughout the school.

We will teach respect, hospitality and care for others. Going hand in hand with our aspiration to support and serve the community, we are committed to children learning in practical ways the importance of being hospitable, putting others before themselves and thinking of how they can demonstrate this value in their own lives.

We are committed to teaching pupils that every person has great worth and a place in the world. We will encourage hope and aspiration for every child to become the best they can be and to look for the best in others.

Respect for each individual, both adult and child alike will be paramount. Children will be taught to relate to each other and staff with respect and good manners. Social skills training will be an integral part of the curriculum. These will be modelled by the respect all staff and adults in school show to each other and to the children.

We will create space for children and the school community to explore their own personal beliefs and faith in a safe place where they can ask the big questions of life. We will ensure children of all faiths feel included and valued by being inclusive in teaching about other faiths and religions.

The ethos of our school is based on the following concepts:

- **Adventure**
- **Openness**
- **Creativity**
- **Excellence**

Adventure

We will encourage a spirit of adventure to run through our school. Our curriculum will aim to inspire the children to be adventurous and creative in their learning. We intend that our engaging topics and projects will foster curiosity in students.

We plan to enable children to become confident to make good decisions for themselves. Daily debate and discussion sessions will have a 'thought for the day' for focus. These will give space for children to voice their views and grow in confidence in their own opinions and thoughts. It will also help them to understand the importance of listening to others, learning from and taking into consideration other people's ideas to expand their own minds.

Openness

Hope Community School will engage fully with pupils' families. It is committed to being a positive benefit to them as well as the children who attend. Families will be encouraged to attend the regular enrichment sessions we run outside the school day to learn together with their child.

As well as bringing families together, we hope this will help develop the learning of the parents and encourage them as they support the learning of their child.

Creativity

We will use and develop a project-based curriculum to encourage creativity. We will aim to connect different areas of learning and create fresh ways of thinking and learning. We are committed to making our school environment vibrant, colourful and intriguing. Classrooms will appear welcoming, lively and inspiring. Our library will be an inviting and friendly place for children to relax and enjoy reading. Where possible, spaces and classrooms will be tailored for different subjects to give variety and contrast for the students. As our projects change, so will the learning environment so that children are connected to the project and living its theme.

Excellence

We expect that all who work with, in and for our school will strive for excellence. We will only appoint fully qualified teachers. We will expect them to be passionate about their work and value the aspirations of each child. In turn we will encourage children to be passionate about their learning and to be proud of their successes.

OUR ASPIRATIONS

- **Outstanding Ofsted reports.**
- **Independent motivated learners who demonstrate community entrepreneurship.**
- **85% attainment at Level 4 in mathematics and English at the end of Key Stage 2.**
- **Increased success in Secondary Education by supporting children through transitions.**
- **Developing strong community cohesion in SO14.**
- **Fantastic reputation of pupils in the area.**

OUR RELIGIOUS CHARACTER

- **An inclusive culture built on respect for all.**
- **Links with Christian churches and other faith groups through SACRE and Southampton Council of Faiths.**
- **Regular collective worship.**
- **Learning themes to be linked with religious festivals.**
- **Pastoral support through chaplaincy team.**
- **Inclusive RE teaching based on the SACRE syllabus.**

OUR DISTINCT FEATURES

- **Promoting community cohesion - providing a variety of adult learning courses, home language support and after school programmes to support the integration of new communities in the city.**
- **A learning space for the whole family.**
- **Curriculum that impacts the community.**
- **Developing partnership with local businesses.**
- **Classrooms in the community, such as regular lessons in local business spaces.**

OUR LOCATION AND SITE

The exact location of the brand new purpose built school is yet to be decided. A number of potential sites are under consideration.

Fully equipped temporary accommodation will be used in the first year.

MORE INFORMATION

Please see our website for more details or contact us using the details below:

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