

Q&A Mayfield School Redevelopment (Updated 01/02/2018)

Q. What do the school and its governing body think about the plans?

A. The council, the school's governing body and the school's leadership have worked together to closely examine the options. The decision to opt for a complete rebuild and the demolition of the existing building was not taken lightly. The governing body have been thoroughly involved during the feasibility stage and support the 'new build' option.

Q. How can we find out more about what is happening?

The school and the council are committed to keeping all staff, parents and other interested parties up to date with the latest plans. Initial letters were sent to parents and residents overlooking the site in November 2017, coinciding with a press release for wider communication.

Further information is being distributed to residents during w/e 9th February 2018. Parents will receive an update via the school.

The school, the council, the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and the building contractor have been discussing the accommodation that would be required to best meet the current and future needs of the school, and its staff and pupils. It is vitally important that we get this right, and the process to ensure that all of the requirements have been captured and carefully considered will continue for some weeks yet.

Detailed plans for the building will be shared with local residents in due course when the planning application process starts. This would include a meeting for residents to view the plans and speak to the council and the contractor. At this point, we are anticipating that this will take place at the end of the spring (likely to be in May 2018).

There will be further communication in due course, including a meeting at the school for interested parties to view the design plans. We will write to residents nearer the time with details of the meeting, once the timings have been confirmed.

Q. How can I share my feedback about this redevelopment scheme?

A. You can contact the council by emailing Caroline Corcoran (Head of Sufficiency, Participation and Resources - Education Service) at caroline.corcoran@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

THE CURRENT BUILDING

Q. Why can't the existing building be maintained?

A. The current school was built in the 1930s and requires significant structural work to the roofs, guttering, windows and brickwork. Internally, significant refurbishment work is also needed to floors, plaster work, electrics, heating and communication systems. It would not be cost effective to address these issues through a renovation programme.

Q. What about the £3 million invested in 2012 in the primary school?

A. We will continue to use the primary school until 2020 when the new school will be ready and much of what has been invested in the primary school in terms of assets will be decanted into the new build.

Q. What other options were considered?

A. We have carefully considered three different options but a complete new build is the only option that allows a bespoke solution for Mayfield as an 'all through' school and is able to fully address the building condition issues that Mayfield has.

Q. When did Mayfield become an 'all through' school?

A. Mayfield became an all through school in September 2014 and this has been very successful. Research shows that children benefit from the lack of transition at key stages of their curriculum. Our 'all through' school provision has also increased the number of much needed primary school places in the city and given many local children a great start to their education.

Q. What will happen to the current building?

A. The plan is that the old building, including the 1930s façade, will be demolished when the new build is complete in 2020. The area will be converted to sports ground facilities for the school and community to use.

Q. What will happen to the current school's war memorial plaques?

A. The war memorial plaques will be preserved, transferring to the new building.

Q. Will the on-site nursery and pre-school remain?

A. Yes. The funding does not allow for the re-development of the nursery and pre-school. The existing provision will remain and the school is committed to hosting this very popular and highly successful provision.

Q. Before the old building is demolished, will there be an opportunity for the community to visit the building?

A. The school will ensure that interested parties can tour the old school buildings before they are demolished.

Q. Will any part of the school site be sold off or 'lost' in this proposal?

A. The full site will remain as a school. The new building will have a smaller 'footprint' than the existing building. This will mean that the new school will benefit from additional green spaces for sports, recreation and community use.

THE NEW SCHOOL

Q. How big will the new school be?

A. The bid was based on maintaining the current school capacity of 1420 pupils. This bid represents significant capital investment under the government's Priority Schools Building Programme.

Q. What will be the impact on current and future pupils during the build?

A. The option for a new building will have no negative impact on current or future pupils in the school as they will move across to a purpose built, state of the art, new building on its completion. Given the scale of the refurbishment, other options reviewed would have caused significant disruption to pupils and their learning over a number of years.

Q. What facilities will the new school have?

A. The new school will have full compliance with relevant access requirements for disabled persons. The new build will also have all the necessary spaces to deliver an 'all through' curriculum from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Key Stage 4 including Sports Hall, Dance and Drama studios, Science and Technology, and purpose built SEN provision.

Q. How does the size and design of the new building compare with the current building?

A. The size of the new building will be based on national guidelines about the size of different spaces i.e. classrooms, technical spaces such as science, sports hall. Overall, it will be a smaller footprint within the school grounds. This will allow more sports and green space for the school within the existing grounds and will create new facilities for the community. The building will also be environmentally friendly and have lower running costs, allowing the school to invest more funding into children's education. The council and the governing body visited a similar school in the ESFA programme to understand what Mayfield could look like and were impressed with the design and quality of the build.

Q. When will detailed designs be available to view?

A. Now that the Mayfield scheme has been agreed, the next step is for the building contractor to create the detailed design of the school. A series of 'client engagement meetings' have been held between the school, the council and the building contractor. These meetings involve key school staff who will be able to share their input. The contractor is working with the council and the Governing Body to ensure that the design works for an 'all through' school.

The next step is for the independent building contractor to create the detailed design of the school which will be submitted to Portsmouth City Council planning committee. We will share the detailed plans for the building with you when the planning process starts. This will include a meeting at the school to view the plans and speak to the council and the contractor.

Q. What additional community facilities will be opened?

A. The design of the new building will ensure that as many facilities as possible are available for the community to use outside of school hours. This could relate to the school hall or dance studio, for example, or use of outdoor space. The school will determine how the facilities are used.

Q. How can I share my feedback on the plans?

A. As part of the planning approval process, interested parties including local residents will have the opportunity to scrutinise detailed plans and offer their views to the planning committee.

Q. How will disruption be minimised during the construction of the new building?

A. The 'new build' option provides the building contractor with a discrete project which can be undertaken without affecting the daily operation of the existing school. With regard to noise created by the building works, there will inevitably be some noise. At some points in the build process, this may be greater than at other times. The building contractor will be expected to minimise disruption to local neighbours by, for instance, limiting movement on and off the site. The contractor will create a works compound on the site and will make use of on-site parking.

Q. Before the new school building is opened, will there be an opportunity for the community to visit the new building?

A. The school will ensure that interested parties can tour the new school facilities once the building has been handed over to the school.

Q. Will the new build affect any move for Mayfield to become an academy in the future?

A. The new build does not affect the status of the school. The new build would progress regardless of whether Mayfield School is a maintained school or part of an academy trust.

STAFFING

Q. Will this development affect the staffing structure of the school?

A. All staff working at Mayfield will move into the new building when complete. This development will not alter their terms and conditions of employment.

Q. How can staff share their views as to the design of the new build?

A. A series of 'client engagement meetings' will be held between the school, the council and the building contractor during late-2017 and early-2018. These will involve key school staff who will be able to share their input.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Q. Is there any financial risk to the council or the school?

A. There is no risk to the council or the school. The Education, Skills and Funding Agency hold the budget for the scheme and any additional costs to deliver the building programme would be met by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency.

Q. Why can't the money allocated to this project be spread amongst a greater number of schools to improve them as well?

A. The building condition issues at Mayfield are significant and ongoing. Without this investment the buildings would not be fit for purpose in the future.

The funding allocated to this scheme is not given to the council - it is retained by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency, who are addressing the most serious issues in a limited number of schools across the country. The funding is specifically allocated by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency to the Mayfield scheme, and cannot be used for any other purpose.

This is not council funding. It is government funding, held by central government.

The council is improving facilities at a number of secondary schools across the city as well as supporting Mayfield.