

Statutory Notice

Proposal to extend the age range at
St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School

September 2026

School Organisation Statutory Notice

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Surrey County Council, is proposing to make a significant change to St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School by extending the age range of the school from Reception to Year 2, to Reception to Year 6, which would make the school an all through primary school.

Local Authority Details:

Local Authority	Surrey County Council
Address	Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill Reigate Surrey RH2 8EF

School Details:

Name of School	St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School
Category of School	Infant
Type of School	Voluntary Aided
URN	125190
Address	Dene Road, Ashted, Surrey
Postcode	KT21 1EA

Introduction

This paper outlines a proposal to extend the age range of St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School in Ashted from 4 to 7 years to 4 to 11 years. The process and timescales are outlined below for the change of age range.

Proposal

Surrey County Council, together with the Diocese of Guildford and the school's Governing Body, is proposing to extend the age range of St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School so that the school would become a primary school, offering an education to children from Reception through to Year 6.

The school would grow incrementally, year on year, rather than admitting all additional cohorts of children immediately. If the proposal is agreed, it is anticipated that the first cohort of pupils would transition from Year 2 into Year 3 at the school in September 2027. This would mean that Year 2 pupils would no longer need to secure a place at an alternative school for their junior education but could continue at the same school if they wished.

Proposed timeline

The proposed age extension at St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School would come into effect on 1 September 2027.

Phase	Date
Consultation on proposal	8 June 2026 – 3 July 2026
Public meetings held at school	25 June 2026
Statutory notices	1 September 2026 – 29 September 2026
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Decision	27 October 2026
Implementation	1 September 2027

Making Representations, Objections and Comments

1. This is a four-week representation period in which statutory notices are published, which starts on 1 September 2026 and concludes on 29 September 2026.
2. Any person can make comments, agree, or object to the proposal by sending representations to the Local Authority through the following channels:

Website	Surrey Says
Email	schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
Post	Education Place Planning Team Surrey County Council Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill Reigate Surrey RH2 8EF

It is proposed that:

- St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School would become St Giles' C of E (Aided) Primary School, offering an education to children from Reception through to Year 6.

Background Context:

In recent years, most local authorities across England, including Surrey, have been experiencing a significant fall in pupil numbers. At the height of Surrey's pupil population in October 2016, there were 13,374 children who had just started in Reception classes at Surrey state-maintained schools. By October 2025, this number had fallen to 11,950 children on roll in Reception classes which is a decrease of 1,424 or around 11% - equivalent to 47 fewer Reception classes. This is primarily due to the lower birth rate but has also been impacted by families leaving Surrey because of the pandemic, Brexit and the resulting cost-of-living crisis.

While Surrey schools are recognised for their high performance and excellent results, the fall in the number of children has meant a higher number of surplus primary school places and the subsequent reduced funding from central government has meant that our schools are facing difficult challenges. The Council has a responsibility to protect the high-quality education that Surrey is known for and to ensure it is financially sustainable.

St Giles' C of E (Aided) is a one form entry infant school, with a current published admission number (PAN) of 30 and an overall accommodation capacity of 120 places. The school has been affected by falling rolls over recent years because there is no clear pathway for its pupils into Key Stage 2 education. The absence of a specifically linked junior school has meant that families are understandably trying to secure a place at an all through primary provision to ensure a continuity of education for their child after Year 2.

At the height of the pupil population in October 2016, St Giles' C of E (Aided) had 110 children on its roll. In January 2026, this had reduced to 50 children.

The decrease in pupil numbers also mirrors a decline in the number of children in the local area overall. Based on population estimates and GP registration data, pupil projections are estimating that, in the long term, there will only be, on average, around 36 children of Reception age residing in the Ashted Park ward area.

Academic year	Number of children
2026-27	38
2027-28	51
2028-29	36
2029-30	36
2030-31	36
2031-32	36
2032-33	36
2033-34	36

Typically, around 13% of Key Stage 1 pupils at St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School reside in the Ashted Park ward, accounting for 48% of the school's total population. These pupils typically transfer, either mid-year or at the point of junior transfer to another school within Ashted. The school's numbers have historically been bolstered by pupils joining who live outside of the Ashted Park ward, but this number is reducing given the level of vacancies in other schools due to the declining pupil population.

How would this proposal work?

Extending the age range of St Giles' C of E will mean that the school would become a primary school, offering an education to children from Reception through to Year 6.

The school would grow incrementally, year on year, rather than admitting additional cohorts of children immediately. If the proposal is agreed, it is anticipated that the first cohort of pupils would transition from Year 2 into Year 3 at the school in September 2027. This would mean that Year 2 pupils would no longer need to secure a place at an alternative school for their junior education but could continue at the same school if they wished.

To accommodate all pupils, the school would increase the number of places overall by 15 places from 90 places to 105 places. This increase is not subject to a statutory process as laid out by the Department for Education, as it is fewer than 30 pupils and less than 25% of the overall original capacity of the school.

To facilitate this transition to a primary school, the governing body of the school would also need to apply to reduce the (PAN) of the school from 30 to 15 from September 2027. In order to do this, the school would need to apply to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA), who will then make a decision on their request.

If this application is successful, this would mean that the school is able to offer 15 places per year group over seven year groups, with a total of four classes overall.

Classes would be taught in mixed age classes, meaning that in most classes, two year groups would be taught together in one class. The usual organisation of this teaching model would be as follows:

Reception
Year 1 and Year 2
Year 3 and Year 4
Year 5 and Year 6

This would ensure that the school does not breach infant class size legislation which limits class sizes at Key Stage 1 (Years Reception, 1 and 2) to no more than 30 in a class.

The council, the Diocese of Guildford, and the governing body of the school are in agreement that this proposal will help with the retention of pupils because it allows for continuity of education for all pupils and a primary model is becoming preferred by families. This will, in turn, help to ensure the future sustainability of the school.

What would this proposal mean for the children?

All children on roll at St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School in July 2027 would automatically have a place at the primary school. In particular, children in Year 2 at this time would automatically remain at the school for Year 3 in September 2027, just as they would in any other primary school. There would be no need to submit a separate junior application for a Year 3 place at the school.

Given the current infant/junior intake model operating in the area, it is appreciated that there would likely be family circumstances which mean that families would prefer to make a junior application for a place at another school. Any family would be able to apply in the normal admissions round by 15 January 2027 or an in-year application listing another school as a preference. If a place is available, it would be offered, or the child would be placed on a waiting list if the year group is currently full.

What would this proposal mean for the staff?

As the school grows year on year, there would be a need for the school to employ a fourth teacher and additional teaching assistants and/or support staff. These opportunities would be advertised and filled in accordance with the school's usual recruitment practices.

It is anticipated that the Federation of the school with Riverview C of E Primary School will provide development opportunities and the ability to share curriculum and best practice across Key Stage 2 teaching.

Would there be any changes to the school buildings?

The school buildings and site are owned by the Diocese of Guildford. The school already has a fourth classroom, which is currently used for its wraparound care provision. It is anticipated that, with some minor internal refurbishment, this would revert to use as a classroom. There may also be some renovation of the school's outdoor space to ensure that a Key Stage 2 Physical Education curriculum can be effectively delivered.

Consultations, approvals, and overall timescales

1. It is proposed that the changes are implemented from 1 September 2027. The proposed changes require a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning if the proposal is to proceed.
2. The first stage of consultation was open from 8 June 2026 and concluded on 3 July 2026. During this period, Surrey County Council shared its proposal with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the schools subject to the proposals. The associated documentation was published on Surrey County Council's 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively by email or post.
3. The consultation analysis is published at [Surrey Says](#) on the statutory notice webpage alongside this document.

Key points from the consultation responses

In total, there were **110** responses to the consultation. The breakdown of the responses was as follows:

- **100 (91%)** respondents support the proposal
- **7 (6%)** respondents do not support the proposal
- **3 (3%)** respondents stated they were unsure

The representation period is now open for a four-week period from Tuesday 1 September to Tuesday 29 September 2026, during which Statutory Notices are published. This is when the local authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning.

What happens next?

You can make representations, objections and comments using the online form at www.surreysays.co.uk. Alternatively, you can respond by email or post at the addresses given in the section [Making Representations, Objections and Comments](#).

Making representations, objections and comments

- This is a statutory notice published during a representation period which starts on Tuesday 1 September to Tuesday 29 September 2026
- A number of organisations are available locally to support families of children who have additional needs and young people who have additional needs to share their views. Please see information: [Advice and Support – SEND Advice Surrey](#)
- Any person can make comments, agree, or object to the proposal by sending representations to the local authority through the following channels:

Website	Surrey Says
Email	schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
Post	Education Place Planning Team Surrey County Council Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill Reigate Surrey RH2 8EF