



# Consultation on a proposal to extend the age range at St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School

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## Local authority details

<b>Local Authority</b>	Surrey County Council
<b>Address</b>	Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill Reigate Surrey RH2 8EF

## School details

<b>Name of School</b>	St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School
<b>Category of School</b>	Infant
<b>Type of School</b>	Voluntary Aided
<b>URN</b>	125190
<b>Address</b>	Dene Road, Ashtead
<b>Postcode</b>	KT21 1EA

# Consultation on the proposed extension of the age range at St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School

We are consulting you about a proposal to extend the age range of St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School from September 2027.

If the proposal was agreed it would mean that the school would extend its age range to become St Giles' C of E (Aided) Primary School from 1 September 2027. The school would grow incrementally so that by September 2030 it would have pupils in all year groups from Reception to Year 6.

## Background context

### Surrey context

In recent years, the majority of 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.

### Mole Valley context

In the district of Mole Valley, by 2024 the birth rate had fallen by 28% since its peak in 2010. This has meant that there has been a significant reduction in the number of children starting school at Mole Valley primary phase schools, with pupil numbers in Reception classes decreasing by equivalent to six classes. There are currently over 190 vacancies across all Reception classes in the district.

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.

## Why are we consulting you?

In Surrey, our goal is to ensure that no one is left behind and that every child has access to enriched educational opportunities. This is only achievable when schools can admit as many children within their Planned Admission Number (PAN) as possible and maximise the funding they receive. However, for some Surrey schools, especially those serving small rural communities, the number of children attending remains low. It has therefore been necessary to explore a range of school organisation options with school leaders and stakeholders to promote sustainability and where viable, try to secure the future of our small schools.

We now want to hear your comments on the proposal to extend the age range at St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School. Your input and feedback are important in helping us to further understand what the school means to the children, parents/carers, staff and local community.

## St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School

St Giles' CofE (Aided) Infant School is a one form entry infant school, with a current 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) Infant School 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 Ashtead 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 Ashtead 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 Ashtead. The school's numbers have historically been bolstered by pupils joining who live outside of the Ashtead 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 (Aided) Infant School will mean that the school would become a primary school, offering an education to children from Year 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 to 105. 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, who will then make a decision on their request.

If this application is successful, this would mean that the school are 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:

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

This would ensure that the school do 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 clearly favoured by families in this area. 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 submit an application in the normal admissions round by 15<sup>th</sup> 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 practises.

There will also be development opportunities available to staff to share best practises and support them in teaching mixed aged classes. It is also anticipated that the Federation of the school with Riverview C of E Primary School will also provide development opportunities and the ability to share curriculum and best practise 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.

## What happens next?

This is a public consultation on the proposal to extend the age range of St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School to become St Giles' C of E (Aided) Primary School from September 2027.

The consultation begins on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June and will end on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

There are a number of ways you can respond to the consultation, and these are set out below. We will also hold two public meetings for families, local communities and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and get your input and feedback. Anyone who wishes is welcome to come to either meeting and you do not have to have a child at either school to attend.

These meetings will take place on:

### **25<sup>th</sup> June at 9am and 7pm at St Giles C of E (Aided) School**

The Council will consider all the views put forward during this consultation period before publishing specific proposals, or 'Statutory Notices', that are required by law. This is a further period for comments or representations, which lasts for 4 term-time weeks and a final decision would then be taken by Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning. The timeline for this proposal is shown in the table below (dates may be subject to change).

## Timeline

Date	Event
8th June – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Consultation on proposal
25 <sup>th</sup> June – 9am and 7pm	Public meetings held at the school
13 July – 18 September 2026	A statutory notice is published for a 4 week term-time representation period
October 2026	Responses to the consultation and Statutory Notices are considered by the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning and a final decision on the proposal is made
1 September 2027	St Giles C of E (Aided) Infant School would become St Giles C of E (Aided) Primary Primary School.

## How do I respond to this consultation?

You can respond:

- online at [Surrey Says](#)

or

- by completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can either:
  - email the form to [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

- print it, complete it and send it back to:

St Giles C of E (Aided) Infant School  
Proposal  
Education Place Planning  
Woodhatch Place  
11 Cockshot Hill  
Reigate  
RH2 8EF

**All responses must be received by date to be confirmed 5pm on 3 July 2026**

If you have any questions about this proposal, please email [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk).