

FAQ in response to Expansion Consultation

Updated 25/03/21



**Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form**
AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Frequently Asked Questions during consultation on expansion of Alderbrook School

Impact on Education

What effect will the proposed build have on the education of the existing students either during the redevelopments or ongoing?

The location of the proposed new building is where a staff and visitor car park is currently located so students will not lose any space on the school site. As the proposed building is not attached to any existing building, disruption to learning during the build will be minimal and all current classrooms will be able to be used as normal. Moreover, disruption to circulation around the school site during the school day should be minimal.

The ongoing benefits to the education of students will be significant. The proposed new build will house 7 contemporary, multi-purpose and generously-sized classrooms, creating a modern learning space for all students. The increased capacity will also enable us to open up other areas in the school to, for instance, increase independent study space for Sixth Form Students. Moreover, the location of the new 7-classroom block at the centre of the school site will enable students to move quickly between lessons, and the proposed modifications to existing buildings will improve circulation around the school site.

Will the new rooms mean that there will be a review of where staff are currently located across the school, to enable teams to be able to work more closely together?

Yes, the addition of 7 multi-purpose classrooms will enable us to do a full review of where teaching staff are located, and relocate teachers to maximise collaboration and support.

Will the proposal & associated expense, Capital & Revenue, negatively affect the teacher/pupil ratios or provision of pupils' education or pressures on teaching staff?

The proposals will have not negatively impact provision of students' education in any way. Please see page 3 of the [consultation document](#) for further details of the financial impact of expansion. SMBC will fund the full scope of the capital project and associated costs.

Impact on day-to-day running of the school

Our child has concerns regarding break time and lunch as the queues for food are so long already and some days students do not even have enough time to get lunch – will this be effected by the proposals?

The current delays in getting students through the canteens and serveries are due to the limited capacity we have to serve food. As part of the proposed modifications to the school site, improvements will be made to the main canteen and serveries, ensuring that students can get their food more quickly. The proposal also includes the introduction of a new 'pre-order' servery, enabling students to pre-order their lunch at break time, and pick up this order at the start of their lunch break.

Will the proposed Grab & Go food servers negatively affect the provision, quality or choice of school meals offered, or reduce the number of places in the main school meal dining area/refectory?

All the modifications to catering provision at the school, including the proposed Grab & Go servery, are designed to improve the provision across the school site. The choice of school meals will be improved as students will be able to access hot food at more serveries across the school, with potential for a pre-order servery on Cartwright Playground. None of the changes will reduce places in the main school dining area or any other dining space.

Impact on safety

There are new cycle lanes planned, and parents arrive very early and park in the road and on verges in Blossomfield Road - will this be addressed?

It is appreciated that vehicles are not to stop on Blossomfield Road during periods of school drop off/ pick up. It is a designated red route and there is signage to prevent vehicles stopping except 10am-4pm and 6pm - 8am for a maximum of 20 minutes.

The school is undertaking a survey to inform sustainable travel planning. The school travel plan will provide opportunities and support for sustainable travel modes such a cycling, walking, bus and car share. This will aid reduction in individual car journeys made to the school. To accompany the planning application a transport assessment has been undertaken to identify areas of mitigation to help reduce the impact of the development on the local highways.

The quality of the pavements on Blossomfield Road are very poor, will these be improved?

The quality of pavements outside of the school boundary, are outside of the scope of this project. Any improvements to pavements are subject to and better dealt with as part of wider highways infrastructure planning.

Will the safety for students crossing busy roads like Blossomfield Road be looked at?

The transport assessment accompanying the planning application identifies areas of mitigation and recommends a number of improvements.

Is two-way traffic on the school site to be accommodated within the new plans, and will there be a larger turning circle for buses at the front of the school site?

As part of the new plans, a new visitor car park and bus turning area will be installed at the front of the school site, meaning buses will no longer need to drive far into the school site, and the site will become safer for pedestrians. A two-way driveway will be retained, as will vehicle access through the centre of the school site for out-of-hours and emergency use.

I am concerned about the proposal to remove the right hand turn into Alderbrook School from Blossomfield Road as indicated on the solihullactivetravel website. What arrangements will be made for school buses and other vehicles entering the school site from this point if the proposal is approved?

We have sought clarification from the project manager of the Tranche 2 cycle schemes being implemented across the borough. The suggested adjustment on the identified website is to line markings of the right turn bay, and does not prohibit right turn movements. The project manager also noted that Alderbrook School does accommodate significant numbers of vehicles and therefore it is highly unlikely they will be looking to make major changes here that would materially affect access arrangements from Blossomfield Road.

The proposals for expansion of Alderbrook School do not materially change traffic movements into or out of the site off Blossomfield Road.

Impact on travel and local infrastructure

What impact will the proposed increase in student numbers have on traffic and pollution?

The school are undertaking a survey to inform sustainable travel planning. The school travel plan will provide opportunities and support for sustainable travel modes such a cycling, walking, bus and car share. This will aid reduction in individual car journeys made to the school. To accompany the planning application a transport

assessment has been undertaken to help identify areas of mitigation to help reduce the impact of the development on the local highways.

I believe the area is at capacity, would it not be better to build a new school in a different area?

Have you considered increasing the PAN or filling a school in another area of Solihull?

A new school or filling a different school in a different area would not address the school places requirement identified within the local area. The 1 form entry intake is small, amounting to 30 pupils per year. Intake of the additional pupils will occur over a phased period.

We are concerned about how the new build will look – will it fit into the environment?

The new building has been designed to fit well within the existing context. The new building will be no taller than the existing adjacent buildings. The scale and amount of development is appropriate to the school site. Further information regarding the appearance of the building is available within the Design and Access statement which has been submitted with the planning application.