



# SCHOOL ORGANISATION CONSULTATION

ON A PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE LAKESIDE NURSERY & PRIMARY ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER 2022

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## Proposal

Surrey County Council, in conjunction with the Trust Board of The Kite Academy Trust, is proposing to **relocate Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy to a purpose-built new site on the Mindenhurst housing development at Deepcut in September 2023.**

## Background

In 2019, Surrey County Council (SCC) called a meeting of CEOs and Heads in the local area to discuss the new school which has been built at Mindenhurst and the pupil forecasts for Surrey Heath. The designation of the new school is a primary school with a nursery. SCC asked if local leaders could work together to find a solution to make best use of the site for benefit of local children, including those who would be moving onto the new housing development. If the new site opened as an additional school, it would have a detrimental impact on all the schools in the area, providing more school places than were needed.

## Falling Roles

Since 2008 there has been a 22.5% decrease in births across Surrey Heath. This had not been a consideration or a trend when the decision to build Mindenhurst was made. **Table A** below outlines the birth rate in Surrey Heath between 2006 and 2020:

Table A – Surrey Heath Birth Rates															
Year	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
No. of births	974	1012	1029	988	959	974	940	945	932	972	884	865	792	837	798

Forecasts for the Frimley Green, Mytchett & Deepcut and the Frimley & Heatherside planning areas are indicating a large surplus of places over the next 10 years, as indicated in **Table B** below:

Table B - Reception Forecasts of the two Planning Areas									
Frimley Green, Mytchett & Deepcut and Frimley & Heatherside									
School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
No. of Year R pupils	378	389	378	372	364	361	360	359	358
PAN for planning areas	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450
Surplus no. of places	72	61	72	78	86	89	90	91	92

The housing data provided by Surrey Heath Borough Council in relation to the Waterford, Frimhurst Farm and Waters Edge developments have been included in the data and as a result are accounted for in the forecasts.

**Table C** below indicates the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for the Frimley Green, Mytchett & Deepcut and Frimley & Heatherside planning areas and outlines the current number of pupils on roll (NOR) at these schools, as of the January 2022 census. As illustrated below, there are currently surplus places across the schools in these planning areas. These places could be utilised by people moving onto the Mindenhurst development who require a school placement, or pupils changing schools as a result of the relocation of Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy.

<b>Table C – Numbers on Roll January 2022</b>			
<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>Years R-6</b>	
		<b>NOR</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Frimley Green, Mytchett &amp; Deepcut</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Frimley &amp; Heatherside</b>	<b>2272</b>	<b>2218</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>3075</b>	<b>135</b>

## Latest Data

As of national offer day (19<sup>th</sup> April 2022), there were 62 Reception and 10 Year 3 vacancies for September 2022 entry in schools in the Frimley Green, Mytchett & Deepcut and Frimley and Heatherside planning areas. Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy had 20 surplus places for Reception 2022 entry as of national offer day.

## Discussion

Over recent years, discussions have been held between Surrey County Council and Surrey Heath primary leaders to consider the falling Number on roll (NOR) across all schools in the area and options available to address the Mindenhurst issue.

The immediate need for 2022 was a reduction in Reception PAN of 30 places and half a form of entry for Year 3 places across the area. The Kite Academy Trust has immediately responded to the regional need by reducing its PAN at Cross Farm Infant Academy by 30 for 2023. To date, no other school in Surrey Heath has similarly responded and the pressure of the number of surplus places for Year 3 remains. A principle of understanding was made between SCC and Surrey Heath Head Teachers and CEOs that no organisational or admissions changes would be made which would increase the existing surplus of places in the area.

The only solution offered was a proposal by the Kite Academy Trust to relocate an existing school to the new site. Numerous conversations have been had between leaders, along with further meetings with Surrey County Council and the Regional Director (who represents the Department for Education) to try to establish a solution.

## Options & Considerations

Options	Considerations
Open a brand-new primary free school	There are not enough children in the area to fill a new primary school and other schools would become unsustainable as a result.
Not using the new school on the site	School would remain empty. Section 106 secured a new two-form primary school with a nursery on the site from the developer. Any variation to the original agreement would be difficult.
Cross Farm, Sandringham, Heather Ridge, Prior Heath	These are Infant schools and creating primary provision would add junior places to the area.
Ravenscote, Frimley C of E	These are Junior schools and creating primary provision would add infant places to the area.
Mytchett	A one form entry school providing a 2FE primary school would add primary places to the area.
St Augustine's	The admission criteria for this school is for families to be practising Catholics and this would not serve the families in the local community.
South Camberley	Is four form entry primary school and therefore too large.
The Grove	The school has a specialist unit for children with communication and interaction needs (COIN). There are fewer surplus places in the school.
Lakeside	The school has spaces, the estate was originally two schools and is therefore quite spread out. It is a 1970s building and requires some further investment in the buildings. The close proximity to The Grove means that families who do not want to move to the new site could be accommodated locally.

### Numbers on Roll (NOR)

With numbers on roll falling in the area, it is not possible to maintain the current level of provision in our Frimley schools. The forecast confirms this is a long-term trend, so **doing nothing is not an option**.

As of the January 2022 census, the majority of schools in the Frimley area had vacant places. Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy, more than any other, has spaces in all year groups and this is an important factor in considering whether to move a school to a new site.

Moving an existing primary school provides an opportunity for children in Years R-6 living on the Mindenhurst development to attend immediately as opposed to the school year groups being gradually filled year on year.

Moving The Grove Primary Academy was also considered but it has significantly fewer vacant places and the additional commitment of the COIN (Communication and Interaction Need) Centre. Additionally, a significant proportion of the parent community at The Grove is employed at Frimley Park Hospital due to its immediate proximity.

We need to consider reducing the surplus places across the area to ensure that all schools remain viable and able to provide the very best education for Surrey Heath children.

By transferring an existing school to the Mindenhurst site, it supports the sustainability of schools within the local area. The creation of additional places by opening a completely new school would undermine the sustainability of the existing local schools.

### **Funding Formulae**

School funding is linked to numbers of children in the school with the formula for school funding relying on each primary class being full or close to full, that is 30 pupils, or more as allowed in junior classes. Ideally every space would be taken up and thereby maximising the budget for the school. Infant classes cannot be over 30 children. For a two-form entry school with a PAN of 60, if over 30 children accept a place, the school must still operate with two classes even if the intake is only 32 pupils. This would require the school to pay for two teachers where the funding is calculated to one teacher to 30 children.

Having lower pupil numbers makes the running of the school more difficult as there is less funding available. By relocating Lakeside to the Mindenhurst site this should assist the school with pupil numbers making Lakeside more sustainable in the long term.

### **The Two School Estates**

Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy was original two schools, an infant school and a junior school, and has resulted in a large, sprawling site. It also brings with it the challenges of maintenance costs of a fifty year old modular building. The geography of the site is less than conducive to a sense of 'one-ness' across the year groups. The new Mindenhurst site is a state-of-the-art 21<sup>st</sup> century school building, bringing with it the benefits of economies from energy efficiency and significantly lower building maintenance costs. Additionally, all classes (including the Nursery) would be housed in one building; the improved learning environment would have a positive impact on the achievement and well-being of the pupils and staff who work there.

### **Early Years Provision**

The anticipated number of early years children from the Mindenhurst development would be circa 84. Whilst some of the children who come from Mindenhurst could be accommodated in existing provision, it is unlikely that it could absorb the total of 84 children and does not take into account early years children that may choose to move from the existing Nursery at Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy into the local area. The Nursery will provide additional early years places within a community that will yield additional early years children who may not have been accommodated in existing provision as well as children that choose to transfer from the existing Nursery.

### **Serving the Local Community**

Whilst there is a concentration of schools in Frimley with declining population, the Deepcut development has resulted in significant population growth in this area of Surrey Heath. The Deepcut community is underserved for primary education and the children are currently attending other local schools. The previous school, Blackdown Primary school, was closed when the army was moved. This has left a gap while more families have moved into the area. Opening Mindenhurst will provide a school in this area and spread the reach of primary schools in the Surrey Heath area.

### **What happens if I don't want to move my child to the Mindenhurst site?**

It is anticipated that not all children currently attending Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy would want to transfer to the Mindenhurst site and it is likely that additional places at the school will become available as a result. It is hard to predict how many parents will opt to move their children to other schools or transfer to the new site. Similarly, there may be children living on the Mindenhurst site who are already attending local schools who will not want to transfer to the school on site when it is opened. There are places available in other local Kite Academy Trust academies and other schools for parents not wishing to move their child to Mindenhurst.

### **Will the school still be Lakeside?**

The new site would still be Lakeside Academy with the current staff transferring to the new building. The organisation of the school would be the same and children would continue to wear the same uniform etc.

### **How will the admission of children be determined at the new site?**

The current admissions policy with criteria will continue to be in force:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Exceptional social/medical needs
3. Children of staff at the school
4. Siblings
5. Any other children (with priority being based on straight line distance from the child's home address to the school)

In time, children living on the Mindenhurst development will establish priority for the new school based on their home to school distance. As a result, patterns and trends for the school and planning area will inevitably change over time.

### **What help will I receive to get my child to the new site?**

Surrey County Council will offer transport assistance to entitled pupils moving from Lakeside to Mindenhurst. An assessment is currently underway of what this would look like and this is likely to change over time as the intake for the school changes.

### **What would happen to the Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy site?**

Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy is on a standard academy lease from Surrey County Council. An agreement would need to be reached in relation to the surrender of the lease, and this could be linked to the lease of the new site.

Surrey County Council intends to use the Lakeside site for special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision for the local community and wider Surrey children, identified with SEND and requiring specialist provision. This is a provision which is much needed, and the proposal is supported by all local leaders of education.

## Conclusions

1. Pupil numbers in the area are falling and we need to address this.
2. Lakeside is in an area with a high number of surrounding schools.
3. Lakeside is currently only 88% capacity, and an academy gets less efficient as the gap between NOR and PAN widens.
4. The academy site is aging, challenging to maintain and difficult to deliver the Kite Academy Trust's educational objectives.
5. Surrey is looking for a site with some of the characteristics of Lakeside to invest in and develop a special educational needs and disability (SEND) facility. (The Trust does not have the funds required to improve the site).
6. This new facility, which addresses these needs and enables excellent education, is available within a few miles of Lakeside.
7. There is a new purpose-built two form entry school in the area that needs to be open for the community, but a new school will provide even more pupil spaces and have a detrimental effect on all Surrey Heath schools.

### Have Your Say

We would like to know what parents, staff, residents and other schools in the area think about this proposal. To this end, a consultation period will open on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for 6 weeks until Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

Three public sessions will also be held where you can obtain more information and have your questions answered. On the Wednesday and Saturday sessions you will have an opportunity to view the new site.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 9.30am to 6.30pm at Mindenhurst Primary School

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 8.30 to 9.30am and 2.30 to 6.30pm at Lakeside Primary Academy

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 9.30 – 11.30am at Mindenhurst Primary School

Please also submit a Consultation Response Form. This can either be completed online [here](#) or using the form on page 7 which can be emailed to [consultation@kite.academy](mailto:consultation@kite.academy) or posted to The Kite Academy Trust, c/o Holly Lodge Primary Academy, Stratford Road, Ash Vale, GU12 5PX.

### Next Steps

The Trustees of The Kite Academy Trust and Officers from Surrey County Council will meet to consider the consultation responses in the week of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. These responses will be included in a business plan to be considered by the Regional Director at the advisory board in November. We will then notify stakeholders of their decision.

## Consultation Response Form

Please give us your views and share any comments you may have. Tick the box that best shows your views on the following questions. Do write on the other side of this sheet if you need more space.

**Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy to the Mindenhurst site?**

Agree

Don't Know

Disagree

Comments:

To help with our analysis of responses please will you tell us something about yourself? Tick the boxes that best apply to you:

A resident of Mindenhurst living close to the school

A parent/carer of a child (in an early years setting) who may in future attend  
Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy

A parent/carer of a child currently attending Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy

A parent/carer of a child attending another local school

A member of staff at Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy

A Governor of Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy

Some other link to Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy

A member of staff or Governor within the Kite Academy Trust

A member of staff at another local school

Someone else with an interest – please give details

Please tick if you have written comments overleaf

<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please return this form by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to [consultation@kite.academy](mailto:consultation@kite.academy) or:  
The Kite Academy Trust, c/o Holly Lodge Primary Academy, Stratford Road, Ash Vale, GU12 5PX**

