

**Free Schools - Proposal Form**

The Proposal Form asks you for details on the educational rationale, aims and objectives, parental demand and premises of the proposed Free School. It also asks questions about the suitability of the provider(s) involved. All new Free Schools will be opened with the same legal status as Academies, in a binding agreement with the Secretary of State.

Please note, all information provided in this form will be published on the Department for Education website.

**INITIAL DETAILS**

**Name** (Please specify if you are the nominated representative of an organisation that wishes to set up a Free School)

██████████

**Name of your organisation**

CfBT Education Trust in partnership with Friends of All Saints

**Address** (of organisation or individual)

██████████

Reading

██████████

**Email Contact**

██████████

**Telephone Number**

██████████

**Are you an existing independent school wanting to convert to a Free School?**

**No**

**If yes, please provide your 6-digit school unique reference number (URN)**

**If no, please confirm the nature of your organisation** (educational group / charity / business / parent group etc)

This proposal is made by CfBT Education Trust in partnership with the Friends of All Saints Parents Group.

CfBT Education Trust is a charity which exists solely to provide education services for public benefit.

Friends of All Saints is a parent and governor group linked to All Saints Infant School, Reading.

**Please confirm whether your organisation is incorporated** i.e. set up as a Company which is registered at Companies House. If so, please provide the Company Registration Number, Company Address and details of the Directors and Secretary. If not, please indicate the approximate date by which it will be incorporated.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes, our organisation is incorporated</b>  Company Registration Number: 876944  Company Address: [REDACTED] , Reading, [REDACTED]  Details of Directors and Secretary: [REDACTED]  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No, our organisation is not yet incorporated</b>  Approximate date by which it will be incorporated:
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**What is the proposed age range of the Free School?** Please include details of planned pupil numbers in each year group.

The School will offer places for children in years 3 to 6 (ages 7 to 11) effectively constituting the partner junior school for the existing All Saints Infants School ([www.allsaints.reading.sch.uk/](http://www.allsaints.reading.sch.uk/)) which currently provides places from Reception to year 2.

Each year group will have between 20 and 30 places.

**When do you hope the Free School will start operating** (for your first set of pupils)?

September 2011

**In which Local Authority area will the school be based?** If you are near to a LA boundary, please include name of neighbouring LA(s)

Local Authority Reading Borough Council

Neighbouring LAs West Berkshire Council, Wokingham Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council

**Is your Local Authority aware of your intention to set up a Free School?**

**Yes**

(If Y please give details of your discussions with them so far)

All Saints Infant School is the only stand-alone infants school in Reading and it has no link junior school. We have had extensive dialogue with Reading Borough Council (RBC) to address the difficult issues parents face in securing places for their children at the time of transfer, exploring a range of different options, including the new opportunities afforded by the Free Schools policy.

For several years, we have been requesting support from the Council to expand the school to provide places for Years 3 to 6. Before the Free School opportunity arose, we had identified a Council owned building near the school, [REDACTED], which we believe could provide suitable premises for the junior school. [REDACTED] became empty 3 years ago, and the Infants School asked the council to consider a proposal to turn the property into a school. This building remains relevant to our Free School application, and our discussions on this issue are outlined more fully in answer to the question about seeking suitable premises.

We have also requested that the Council find a link school for All Saints. [REDACTED] in discussion with Alok Sharma (Reading West MP) suggested that a link school might be found for All Saints, but so far this has not been possible. Alok Sharma has provided active support throughout the past six months.

Most recently, we have discussed our Free School application with the Council, specifically [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The new Reading Borough Council administration is keen to establish an innovative mixed economy approach to provision. CfBT, Friends of All Saints and Reading Borough Council intend to work in partnership so that All Saints Junior School plays a full part in the local school community. RBC has confidence in the track record of educational delivery that CfBT brings to the partnership.

**Have you discussed your proposal form with the New Schools Network?**

**Yes**

(If Y please give details of your discussions with them so far)

We have spoken to the New Schools Network who are supportive of our proposal. They have provided us with helpful feedback which is incorporated into this application.

**SUITABILITY OF PROVIDER**

The Secretary of State will consider each proposal on its merits, and take into account all matters relevant to that proposal. Generally, he would expect that all proposals will comply with all aspects of the rigorous suitability and vetting tests throughout the application process, including due diligence and CRB checks and will reject any proposers who advocate violence, intolerance, hatred or whose ideology runs counter to the UK's democratic values.

Do any of the following apply to the organisation (or any consortium member), or to (any of) its director(s)/partners/proprietor(s) or individual applicants (select Y/N):	
Is in a state of bankruptcy, insolvency, compulsory winding up, receivership, composition with creditors (including any Individual Voluntary Arrangement), or subject to an Administration Order or any legal proceedings concerning their solvency?	No
Has been convicted of a criminal offence?	No
Is involved in any illegal activities?	No
Has not fulfilled obligations related to payment of taxes?	No
Is guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying information?	No
Is not in possession of relevant licences or membership of an appropriate organisation where required by law?	No
Is barred from certain work with children as a result of being:	
[a] included in the list of those barred from Regulated Activity with children, kept by the Independent Safeguarding Authority? Or	No
[b] included in the list kept under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999(4) (list of those considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children)? Or	No
[c] subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (5) (or any other disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction)? Or	No

<p>[d] disqualified from working with children under sections 28, 29 or 29A of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000(6)?</p> <p>For further information on [a], [b], [c] and [d], please contact the CRB <a href="http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk">www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk</a>.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is disqualified from registration under Part 10A of the Children Act 1989(7) for child minding or providing day care?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(8)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is a member, or has been a member in the past, of a proscribed organisation?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes” please give details below:</p>	

**EDUCATIONAL RATIONALE, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Briefly outline your reasons for wanting to set up a Free School. Max 200 words.**

Our partnership is formed of a parents group (Friends of All Saints) and a leading education services charity (CfBT Education Trust) who propose to work together to establish a junior school. This school will serve the community of West Reading, and will also act as a partner school for All Saints Infants School.

The town of Reading has a shortage of places for primary age children predicted to intensify during the next five years, as outlined later in this application form. The Council does not have plans to address the 75-place deficit predicted for 2011/12 in a way that will meet the needs of local parents, both in the West Reading community, and for parents of children at All Saints Infants School.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for parents of children at All Saints Infant School to access places in Year 3, which are both close enough to be accessible, and offer a suitable place to learn. There is strong parental and community support for a junior school to act as a 'sister' school to the infant school, where children can continue to progress in a similar learning environment. This is demonstrated by our parent consultation and local petition (described later).

**Please set out the Free School's aims and objectives. You should also describe:**

- the teaching methods that will be used and whether the Free School will follow a particular philosophy (eg Montessori);
- the outline of the Free School's proposed curriculum, including any religious ethos;
- how the Free School will improve pupil learning and ensure strong discipline;

Max 2000 words.

We would like to establish a new free school- All Saints Junior School- that will be:

- A leading example of a free school – a small, supportive learning environment where children will thrive academically and personally
- A school at the centre of an already thriving community, where staff, parents, pupils, and the community know each other well, share common goals and facilities as appropriate
- A secular school with no formal faith affiliation - but strong links with All Saints C of E Infants School, All Saints Church, and strong Christian values. The school will have inclusive admissions criteria taking children from the local area regardless of faith, background or ability.



- A school with exemplary environmental credentials that has low running costs, high levels of comfort, and a deeply embedded sustainability ethos.

All Saints Junior School will aim to develop academically successful, self-confident, well mannered pupils with high levels of self esteem and respect for others who are well equipped to manage the transition to secondary school. The school will be based on the idea that primary age children typically have a huge reservoir of potential and that there should be no ceiling to what students can achieve.

These aims will be achieved through the following objectives:

- The successful application of research-based teaching and school management methods to the daily running of the school. Working with [REDACTED], CfBT has invested in an educational 'school design' that identifies the key processes implemented by high performing schools worldwide.
- A focus on the core skills - High standards in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science are the essential objectives of a good primary education and the keys that unlock potential and raise achievement beyond the primary years.
- A commitment to the development of the whole child - Schools build social as well as academic capital. We will provide experiences that nurture the development of the whole person - their emotional, cultural and moral health and well-being – as well as academic ability.
- An International focus CfBT will use its global educational experience so that pupils and teachers alike develop international connections and share best educational practice.
- Ensuring a values-based primary curriculum. The delivery of the national curriculum will be infused with a strong emphasis on values and the importance of moral and spiritual development. The school will have strong links with the church community of All Saints and other faith groups in West Reading. The ethos of the school will reflect Christian values, particularly respect for others and a commitment to service.
- Engagement in community life- The school will be situated within a close-knit local community. The curriculum will be substantially enriched by engagement with the local community. All Saints will incorporate sustainability principles at its core, and will allow these to enhance the learning experience and have a positive impact on the local area and beyond.

## Methods

Our starting point is an evidence-based view that the single most powerful determinant of school effectiveness is the quality of teaching. For this reason we will put great stress on the need to recruit and retain outstanding teaching staff. We intend to do this by attracting the best teachers through an energetic recruitment approach and links with the best University departments for primary teacher training. We are confident in our ability to recruit a talented workforce through:

- the provision of outstanding opportunities for professional development and career development

- Inviting our teachers to join a vibrant global community of primary practitioners- we will create a worldwide virtual community of primary practitioners linking together CfBT staff in the USA, the Middle East, Africa and Asia
- Using the schools as an integral part of the CfBT research programme- CfBT spends over ██████████ each year on an applied programme of educational research. We will make All Saints School a research-engaged school with substantial opportunities for practitioner research,

The second most powerful determinant of school effectiveness after teaching quality is the quality of leadership and management. The CfBT School Design sets out the key management processes that are used by the highest performing government-funded schools in the world. These will be put into action at All Saints. We are committed to the principles of the school as a High Reliability Organisation through consistent application of best practice standard operating procedures. We will also demonstrate our preoccupation with getting outstanding professionals as school leaders through securing an unusually gifted headteacher for the school. We have, in addition, substantial corporate capacity in every facet of school management and will draw upon this resource to provide a high level of challenge and support for All Saints.

Unusually effective schools tend to have particular strength in the area of Assessment for Learning. At the heart of our approach to teaching we pay close attention to each child's performance in the core subjects. Detailed records will be kept identifying "next steps for learning" for each child in English and mathematics. These records will be the focus for teacher lesson planning and review. The results of our Assessment for Learning approach will be the basis for regular dialogue with parents. Assessment for Learning data will be the basis for regular target setting and review at class and whole school level. We will also benchmark performance against high performing government schools and private schools both in this country and worldwide using assessment instruments developed by the University of Durham.

Strong parental partnership will characterise the work of All Saints School. This will operate both at the level of the individual learning journey of each student and the wider development of the school. Parental partnership for learning will include:

- An expectation that each class teacher will build a relationship with the family of each child
- Clear policy and advice on how parents can support learning through, for example, shared reading and opportunities for learning with the family
- Regular sharing of information about progress and celebration of success
- An emphasis on early communication of concerns so that problems can be dealt with before they have escalated.

Parents will also be at the heart of the school in terms of accountability and development. Parental partnership for school improvement will be based on a commitment to valuing 'parental voice' in all its forms. There will be, for example, a systematic approach to surveying parental satisfaction and concerns. An elected Parent Forum will act as a consultative group that

advises the Governing Body. Every parent will be strongly encouraged to provide volunteer support for the school in some way each year. The school will stress the contractual relationship that exists between school and parents with parents given a clear sense both of their entitlement to excellence and their responsibilities in ensuring the success of the school. This attention to parental responsibilities will include communicating expectations regarding visible commitment to the school community through attendance at key events in the school's life.

The management of the school will demonstrate commitment at every level to the concept of cost effectiveness. In our experience schools often pay insufficient attention to the careful use of resources and the need to maximise the educational 'return on investment'. Central to the idea of All Saints as a highly cost effective school will be the approach to the management of the Human Resource. The 'contract' with staff will offer them exceptional opportunities and support in return for an exceptional level of commitment. A staffing model will be put in place that is designed to ensure the best possible outcomes given the money available. Compared to maintained schools the staff profile will be weighted towards exceptionally talented and motivated early stage career teachers. There will be a flatter than usual – and therefore less expensive management structure.

We envisage a staff contract that goes beyond national terms and conditions in terms of contact time. There will be a contractual requirement that teachers will lead extra-curricular activities, supervise breaks and eat lunch with children. Every teacher will be expected to take a share in whole school responsibility but there will be no incentive allowances for whole school responsibilities. To improve quality and reduce cost we will deliver specialist lessons conducted by skilled but inexpensive coaches and experts in such areas as sport and languages.

All Saints School will benefit from access to shared services with the CfBT family of fee-paying primary schools. This will bring significant economies of scale through efficient access to corporate resources in the areas of:

- Business Support Services- HR, legal, finance, ICT for school administration, cleaning, catering, facilities maintenance, marketing
- School Improvement Support Services- monitoring, school improvement planning and staff development

We will make good use of the school as a community hub and an extended school. There will be 48 weeks a year of extended school provision. The school is committed to supporting the busy lives of working parents. There will be a carefully planned programme of wraparound care and education from 8 until 6 during term-time, with some charging for pre-school and post-school activities. There will be an extensive programme of holiday activities, at an additional charge

The curriculum: building the foundations for learning

We propose to follow the National Curriculum, including entering the children in key stage 2 tests or equivalent. The school curriculum will have a strong

core subject bias guided by international best practice in the teaching of English and mathematics. There will be a systematic approach to building core linguistic skills in the first years of primary education. A particular emphasis will be placed on the quality of spoken English: and there will be strong links with the English Speaking Union. We propose to use the University of Durham approach to student assessment, allowing progress in the core subjects of the curriculum to be benchmarked using comparative data from the best private schools and highest performing countries. There will be a rich extra-curricular programme with a focus on arts, the environment and sport; and an expectation that children will participate as part of an integrated programme of learning and personal development. The curriculum will be enriched through strong community links. The immediate vicinity of the school will provide a key resource for the teaching of history, geography, religious education and citizenship. Strong links with locally-based major IT companies will be established and used to provide support for the development of technological capacity for children. IT will also play a major part in the way the school personalises the learning. The curriculum will be differentiated to meet different learning needs, recognising the significance of gender in determining style of learning.

The curriculum will focus both on academic development and personal development, including spiritual and moral development. The religious education curriculum will be underpinned by strong links with local faith communities, particularly the church of All Saints. The curriculum will explicitly and implicitly encourage healthy lifestyles. Teachers will encourage positive attitudes, good relationships, healthy diet and regular physical activity. Pupils will actively participate in physical activity every day and at least three hours a week. There will be a substantial programme of team and individual sports and outdoor pursuits. The school will encourage competitive sport internally and with other schools. We will aim to create a very healthy internal environment, with excellent air quality, natural light, steady comfortable temperatures to promote better learning outcomes. Only nutritional food will be allowed at lunch, with healthy snacks at morning and afternoon break.

We anticipate that as an inclusive school, we will have the usual significant proportion of children with special educational needs. We will use a differentiated curriculum to ensure that the needs of all children including those with a range of special educational needs are met.

### Learning and Discipline

At the heart of the life of the school will be a strong code of manners governing behaviour both in class and around school, with a focus on courtesy, respect and the development of social skills. The school will adopt a 'no nonsense' approach to discipline and zero tolerance of bullying. Both through the taught and the informal curriculum the school will actively promote tolerance of diversity and mutual respect. Our approach to learning and discipline is based on three key principles:

1. A focus on not tolerating small infractions: Our experience tells us that by making a stand, consistently, on minor misdemeanours we can create a highly orderly environment conducive to learning.

2. A clear policy on rewards and sanctions: We believe there should be an even balance between rewards and sanctions.
3. Insisting on intellectually stimulating and engaging teaching: Poor behaviour is much less likely when children are given a varied and challenging programme of classroom activities.

#### An inclusive admissions policy

The school will be open to children regardless of faith, background or ability. Although the school will be linked with All Saints Infants School other children in the local area who need a junior school place, for whatever reason, will be welcome. We will work closely with the local authority as part of the LA admissions process, and ensure that all new children are made welcome and assimilated into the school.

**What are your organisation's core areas of work / aims? Max 500 words.**

Our partnership comprises CfBT Education Trust and Friends of All Saints, bringing together international expertise and experience in school effectiveness (CfBT) and deep understanding of the needs of the community and commitment to put in place a school that meets those needs (Friends of All Saints)

CfBT Education Trust is a major not-for-profit education company which has existed for over 40 years, providing education services worldwide for public benefit. As a not-for-profit organisation all our engagements are driven by improving education outcomes. We invest any commercial surplus in a programme of public domain educational research (approx. ██████████ year). We are based in Reading and employ over 2,500 staff worldwide, all of whom are involved in different forms of educational provision and reform.

We have a broad UK client base, including the Department for Education. Since 2002 we have been responsible for school effectiveness and school improvement for all Lincolnshire schools, covering 373 schools and over 100,000 pupils. We inspect all the schools in the North of England on behalf of Ofsted. We have a particular interest in supporting vulnerable young people and our subsidiary charity, Include, provides education for excluded children. We also deliver education to young people in Young Offenders Institutions. We own a small chain of private schools in the UK and South Africa and were recently awarded accredited provider status for running government funded trust schools or academies.

At the strategic level, we ran the national literacy, numeracy and secondary strategies between 1997-2005. More recently we provided all secondary schools in England with support and guidance relating to the introduction of the new secondary curriculum and on learning outside the classroom.

CfBT operates internationally, working with clients including the World Bank, the European Union as well as the governments of Jamaica, Oman, Singapore and Australia. In Kenya we recently completed a national programme of health education training for every primary school. In Dubai and Bahrain we work with the government to review school quality.

Friends of All Saints was set up to provide a forum for the parents and staff of the current All Saints Infants school. It fundraises during the year to provide money for equipment and school trips, plays a large part in running the school fair, mentors new parents, provides refreshments at school events, and runs coffee mornings and social events for parents. It plays the part of the school PTA and has been fundamental in the campaign to provide a junior school. The action group for the Junior school has grown out of FAS, and both groups have close links with the church and the immediate community in which the school is based. It is envisaged that the Friends of All Saints would continue to run across both schools keeping parents together, linking the schools socially, and providing more community links. FAS is also in close contact with the governing body of the current school, and would also have the same contact throughout the new junior school.

FAS will be very much involved in the day to day activities of the school. As a group its local knowledge and community ethos will ensure that the children are presented with as many different opportunities as possible to enrich their learning environment and education. FAS will be happy to provide parents and other members of the community to work in the school, alongside the appropriate staff, and envisage being able to provide/assist with clubs, both at lunchtime and after school, (for example, yoga, cookery, language learning, various sports etc) and also to use its connections to suggest interesting and educational visits to and visits from appropriate organisations. As with the current infants school, FAS would be happy to help with fundraising and community activities, and would be able to give a great deal of support to the bridge between the new school, the local community and the wider town of Reading.

**What capacity and capability do you have (or have access to) in order to deliver the educational vision set out above?** Please indicate the resources, experience and expertise (educational and legal) that you have or have access to. Max 500 words.

Our partnership has access to a broad range of experience and expertise to ensure the delivery of the educational vision described in the previous sections. We will draw upon the educational leadership and corporate functions of CfBT, as well as specialist skills and community support led by Friends of All Saints. We will create an interdisciplinary team to develop a comprehensive approach and plan for the school that identifies the practical steps required to realise the educational vision. This team will build upon the Friends of All Saints action group for the new school and will consist of a number of parents, local residents and governors, who between them have expertise in marketing and press relations, education and working with LEAs, property development, IT, buying for major companies, architecture, building design and management. The team will be supported by CfBT's schools service to ensure that all functions are covered both in implementation phase and when the school is open.

A successful implementation

We recognise that educational expertise alone is not enough for the successful start-up of a new free school. We also intend to call upon our capacity in other key disciplines including:

- Organisational development and human resources
- Communications, stakeholder management and press/public relations
- Project management
- Facilities, property development and building work
- ICT
- Finance and procurement

CfBT and Friends of All Saints recognise the significance of certain key dates

in the implementation phase, including the primary school admissions deadline of 15th January. We also understand the important implementation activities, including the securing and preparation of facilities, design and development of educational and operational plans, recruitment of staff (with associated deadlines for applicants). As described later in our application, we believe we have the expertise and capacity to undertake this work in time for a school start date of September 2011.

#### Guidance and sponsorship

CfBT has a highly experienced senior management team that would take responsibility for managing the operation of the school.

- Board level sponsorship would be provided by [REDACTED], one of the most distinguished educationalists of his generation and formerly [REDACTED].
- Day to day management of the school would be the responsibility of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] previous background as a [REDACTED] makes her well qualified for the engagement with the DfE and other key national and local government bodies required for the success of the school.

We will also be able to select trustees for the governing body from a rich base, as described below.

#### Experience of setting up and managing successful schools

- CfBT owns and manages private schools in the UK and South Africa, and provides a comprehensive range of educational and back-office services to these schools. These schools have an inclusive, non-selective intake and results are substantially above national averages.
- On behalf of Lincolnshire County Council we have responsibility for the management, school effectiveness and school improvement of nearly 400 schools.
- For the Abu Dhabi Education Council we manage 35 schools in the UAE. These schools have improved dramatically under our management.
- We have begun scaling up our engagement in the Academies programme. We are now the lead education sponsor for St Marks Academy in Merton and the Department has recently asked us to take on the same role for a new academy in east Oxford. In Lincolnshire, we have been heavily involved in the setting up of 8 new academies, 4 of which are now operational. These include the Priory Academy which is one of the highest performing academies in the country.

#### Educational design

CfBT has been preparing to run government-funded independent schools for a number of years and have gathered a significant research base to support our approach, including an international review into the features of unusually effective state-funded schools. These findings have informed our own School Design, an approach to the management of schools that is likely to meet and exceed reasonable parental expectations. This provides a vehicle for translating the school's education vision into a high performing school that delivers day after day. It identifies the specific processes needed for school effectiveness in the key areas of teaching, curriculum, assessment, parental engagement and enrichment. These are supported by a strong accountability



system and a robust approach to teacher development.

We have researched and designed an approach to the management of schools that is likely to meet and exceed reasonable parental expectations. We call this 'The CfBT School Design'. The Design is the result of a major investment by CfBT and we intend to deploy this approach at All Saints.

██████████, one of the world's leading experts on unusually effective schools, to review the world's evidence about schools that exceed expectations. She identified a number of key processes that these schools tend to get right. Building on this research, we have produced specific process manuals setting out a practical approach to each key area of school life. These will provide All Saints with a powerful methodology for school effectiveness.

**Do you have plans to work with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisation?** If so, please include their details below and set out the intended nature of that relationship (for example, a contract, co-sponsorship arrangement, informal partnership).

The partnership between CfBT Education Trust and Friends of All Saints covers the main range of technical skill and community resource necessary for the successful development of a free school.

We are also exploring a partnership with Sensible Schools, a group of architects, designers, and project leaders based in Reading, who have come together to address the fundamental issues of sustainable school design and construction. The partnership would focus on modelling sustainability best practices throughout the school. They are currently providing us with support and advice on how to best take a relatively old building and ensure that it is refurbished such that it optimises community involvement and sustainability.

**Please name the key individuals / trustees involved in setting up the Free School** (if available). Please also indicate whether trustees have been chosen and their roles confirmed. Please provide details of employment of these individuals and any conflicts of interest you believe might arise.

As indicated above, we have strong capacity to set up the school, and we will establish an interdisciplinary team to manage the implementation.

Trustees for the school have not yet been chosen, but we propose to draw upon representatives from the local community (including Friends of All Saints) and CfBT Education Trust, both to guide the implementation phase, and to govern the school once it is established. These representatives could be selected from the following people:

Friends of All Saints:



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**EVIDENCE OF DEMAND**

**What evidence of local parental demand do you have?** For example, a petition or a declaration from interested parents or pupil number projections for the area. Max 200 words.

There is strong evidence of need. The 2008 sub-national population projections for Reading estimate an increase of 1,900 five to nine year olds between 2010 and 2020. Reading BC Cabinet papers report increasing of demand for places across the central band of the borough, in which All Saints sits, requiring additional capacity from September 2010. Figures provided by the Council anticipate a borough-wide deficit of 75 places in 2011/12 and in 2012/13 based on live births. It is anticipated that by September 2012 the infant phases in a large number of primary schools will be full to capacity. The Council is focussing on providing sufficient capacity at typical transfer points (reception, years 7 and 12) with expansion by one form of entry in three primary schools. All Saints children who transfer at Year 3 are not catered for in these plans. Pupil projections indicate the expanded schools will fill close to capacity from reception, suggesting continued restriction for All Saints pupils in Year 3.

We also have evidence of parental and community demand through a consultation and petition containing 300 signatures. Current parents at the school were petitioned to ask whether they would be in favour of keeping their children on at All Saints Junior. Of the 70% who replied, 100% were in favour.

A consultation in April/May 2010 of all neighbouring schools, LAs, school and community, Diocese and MPs indicated overwhelming support and a view that that the LA should provide the money for the new school solving the problem of transfer to year 3. A public meeting was attended by 90 people.

The 2010 applications process demonstrated that all the suitable primary schools in the immediate locality are full (Oxford Road, Southcote, St Mary and All Saints and Churchend). Of the 15 children from the infants school who applied for a Year 3 place, 10 children were not offered places. The remaining 5 were offered places at their third or fourth preference.

**What is the proposed capacity (number of pupils)?** Max 200 words.

We aim to open the school in September 2011 with a Year 3 cohort of between 20 and 30 pupils. We aim to grow the school 'organically' with the addition of a new Year 3 cohort each subsequent September, so that the school reaches full capacity up to Year 6 by September 2014.

Although we believe in the benefits of smaller class sizes at primary level to create a supportive learning environment, our proposal is flexible and open to

different options on class size, which will be determined by the constraints of the funding model for the school. We therefore anticipate the school capacity to be as follows:

- September 2011: 20 to 30 pupils
- September 2012: 40 to 60 pupils
- September 2013: 60 to 90 pupils
- September 2014: 80 to 120 pupils

## PREMISES

**What steps have you taken to identify a potential site?** Please include details of the geographical area the school seeks to serve; a list of any sites you have considered; and any discussions you have had to identify a suitable site. If known, please include the proposed location, premises and postcode of the Free School.

Friends of All Saints have been in discussion with Reading Borough Council about a potential site for the expansion of the All Saints Infant School for three years. The site is [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Reading, [REDACTED] a property owned by the Council. Historically it has been used by council social services but has now been empty for three years.

[REDACTED] is a substantial detached Victorian building in a conservation area.

The property currently comprises 4 floors; the basement the smallest area, consists of several small rooms, there are 5 rooms on the ground floor, 5 rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and another 4 rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. It is set within extensive grounds. Following a feasibility study by an architect and quantity surveyor, it was proposed that the building could easily accommodate a small junior school comprising two classrooms, a lobby area and pupil washrooms including a separate disabled WC, stairs and a lift, and a cloakroom area on the ground floor. A further two classrooms could be located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor as well as a staff room, WC and shower room. It was proposed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor could be used for a further school room (which could also be for community use) or could be turned into two apartments for rent to key workers at the discretion of the school management, which would provide income for the school. The basement area could be used for storage but also has potential for conversion to a gym area for use by the community.

The grounds are large enough to hold a substantial play area, an outdoor classroom and some sports facilities. Other sports activities would be held offsite as is common practice among those schools who do not have their own playing fields. There are many such areas near to the proposed site which would be suitable for this purpose.

When [REDACTED] became empty 3 years ago, the school asked the council to consider a proposal to turn the property into an infants school. This request was refused twice and the property was put on the market during 2009. It was not sold, and in February 2010, Friends of All Saints engaged the council in discussions with regard to converting [REDACTED] into a junior school. After a preliminary meeting with [REDACTED], the property was temporarily taken off the market to give the Friends of All Saints a chance to explore their proposal.

Reading LA have made it clear that they saw significant issues with the building but, over time, the officers have understood that [REDACTED] could be a feasible option as free school, although no funding would be available from the LA.

Friends of All Saints sent letters to all lead councillors to request support for the proposal. Alok Sharma arranged a meeting with David Stephens, lead councillor for finance, David was much more understanding, and undertook, after a lengthy discussion to see what could be done. A telephone conversation was then held with Mark Ralph, lead councillor for education in which he said 'cracks were appearing' in the opposition to our proposal. Following this, a meeting was held with the three ward councillors for Minster Ward (Labour) to discuss their support. They are all fully supportive our campaign.

On July 12 a Cabinet meeting was held at which decision was to be made to sell [REDACTED]. At the last minute, the lead Councillor for Education, Mark Ralph tabled a new proposal that Friends of All Saints be given until 11th November to raise the money needed to buy and refurbish [REDACTED].

It should be noted that our partnership is very open to other options of suitable premises if for any reason the [REDACTED] location is not possible.

**Further information**

Please note, all information provided on this form will be published on the Department for Education website. Information that you supply on this form may be shared with (a) the New Schools Network and (b) the Local Authority in which you wish to set up the Free School. Information about the New Schools Network can be found at <http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org>.

Submission of this form will be treated as consent, from both you and anyone else whose personal data is contained on this form, to the sharing of this information as set out above.

In addition, information that you provide on this form, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

**Next Steps**

Please email completed Proposal Form to



You will hear back from a named official at the Department for Education within two weeks, who will offer you advice on how best to progress your application. The Secretary of State will make a judgement on the potential of the project based on criteria relating to educational aims and objectives, evidence of demand, potential premises, suitability of provider and any other relevant considerations to decide whether the proposed Free School project should move into stage 3, namely that of drawing up a business case and plan.