



SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN POOLE



Children, Young People and Learning

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**Consultation on the proposal to
expand Carter Community School**

September 2016

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Over the decade from 2001 to 2011 there was a significant increase in the number of births in Poole. As a result, there has been a need for more Primary school places. Since 2009 the Council has worked with schools to increase the number of Infant, Junior and Primary school places through the expansion of existing schools and the establishment of a new Junior school.

The number of Secondary age children in Poole has started to increase as these children reach Secondary school age. By September 2019 there will not be enough places in Year 7 unless action is taken to create more Secondary places in the town.

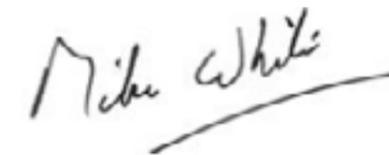
The Council has worked in partnership with Poole Secondary schools, local dioceses, governing bodies and academy trusts to consider the best way to secure the additional places needed. The agreed strategy is:

- the additional Secondary school places needed over the period 2019 to 2025 will be secured through the expansion of existing schools;
- a new Secondary school is therefore not required up to September 2026 at least.

It is proposed that Carter Community School should expand by two forms of entry (60 places in each year group) from September 2019.

Please take the time to read this important document which sets out information on the Secondary school places strategy and on the proposal to expand Carter Community School. You can give your views on this proposal online at www.poole.gov.uk/secondaryplaces or by using the response form at the end of this document. The deadline for responses is Friday 21 October 2016.

We would also encourage you to attend one of the public meetings where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment. The details of these meetings are included later in this document.



Councillor Mike White
Portfolio Holder for
Children, Young People and Capital Projects



Jan Thurgood
Strategic Director - People

Secondary schools in Poole

There are 9 Secondary schools in Poole. The table below gives more detail of these schools and the map shows their location.

School	Age Range	Published Admission Number	Current Capacity	Governance Status	Current Ofsted Rating
Broadstone Middle School	9-13	163	655	Academy ¹	Requires Improvement
Carter Community School	11-16	120	600	Academy	Requires Improvement
Corfe Hills School	13-18	374	1716	Academy	Good
Magna Academy	11-18	180	1100	Academy	Outstanding
Parkstone Grammar School	11-18	180	1360	Academy (Selective) ²	Good
Poole Grammar School	11-18	180	1225	Academy (Selective) ²	Requires Improvement
Poole High School	11-18	325	1888	Foundation ³	Requires Improvement
St Aldhelm's Academy	11-18	180	900	Academy	Good
St Edwards RC CE VA School	11-18	182	1150	Voluntary Aided ⁴	Good

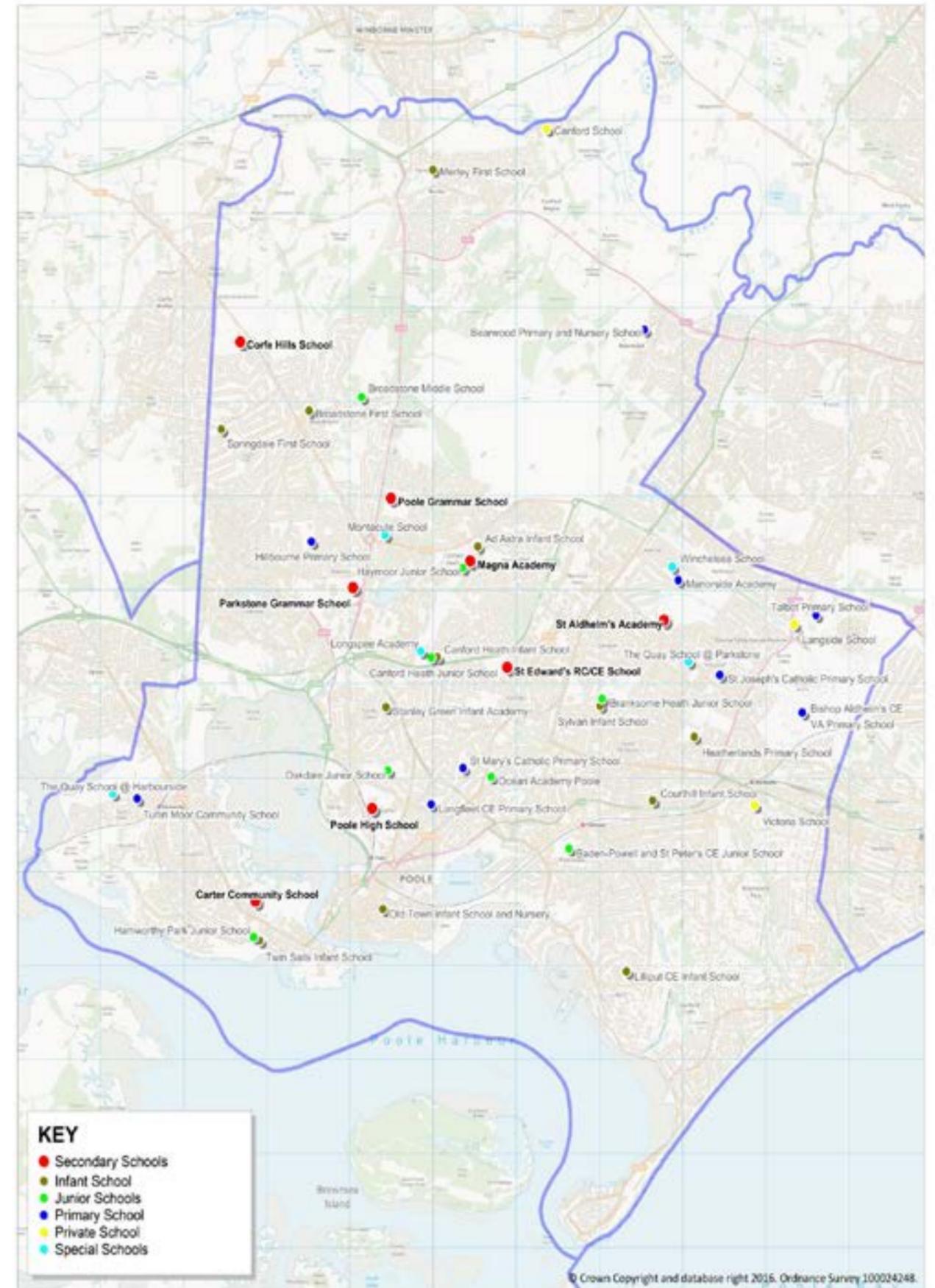
¹ Academy schools are state-funded schools in England that are directly funded by the Department for Education and independent of local authority control. Academies are self-governing charitable trusts that employ the staff and set the admissions criteria.
² Grammar schools are state secondary schools that select their pupils by means of an examination taken by children at age 11.
³ Foundation schools are run by a governing body that employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria
⁴ Voluntary Aided schools are religious or faith schools. The governing body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria.

Most children in Poole transfer to Secondary school at the end of Year 6 (age 11). This structure of education is known as “two tier”. Here children either attend a Primary school from Reception to Year 6, or an Infant school from Reception to Year 2 and then a Junior school from Year 3 to Year 6.

In the Corfe Hills pyramid in the Broadstone area of Poole, there is a different structure of education known as “three tier”. Here children attend a First school from Reception to Year 4 and move to a Middle Deemed Secondary school for Years 5 to 8. At the end of Year 8 (age 13), children transfer to an Upper school for Years 9 to 13. The Corfe Hills pyramid of schools spans an area covered by both Dorset County Council and the Borough of Poole. A total of 10 schools make up the pyramid as follows:

- Corfe Hills School (Poole) } For pupils aged 13-18
- *Allenbourn Middle School (Dorset) } For pupils aged 9-13
- Lockyer's Middle School (Dorset) }
- Broadstone Middle School (Poole) }
- Henbury View First School (Dorset) } For pupils aged 4-9
- Rushcombe First School (Dorset) }
- Sturminster Marshall First School (Dorset) }
- Broadstone First School (Poole) }
- Merley First School (Poole) }
- Springdale First School (Poole) }

*Allenbourn Middle School forms part of the East Dorset Education Partnership (Wimborne/Ferndown pyramid of schools). However, through an arrangement with Poole involving children living specifically in the Merley area, Allenbourn Middle School also has official links with the Corfe Hills pyramid.

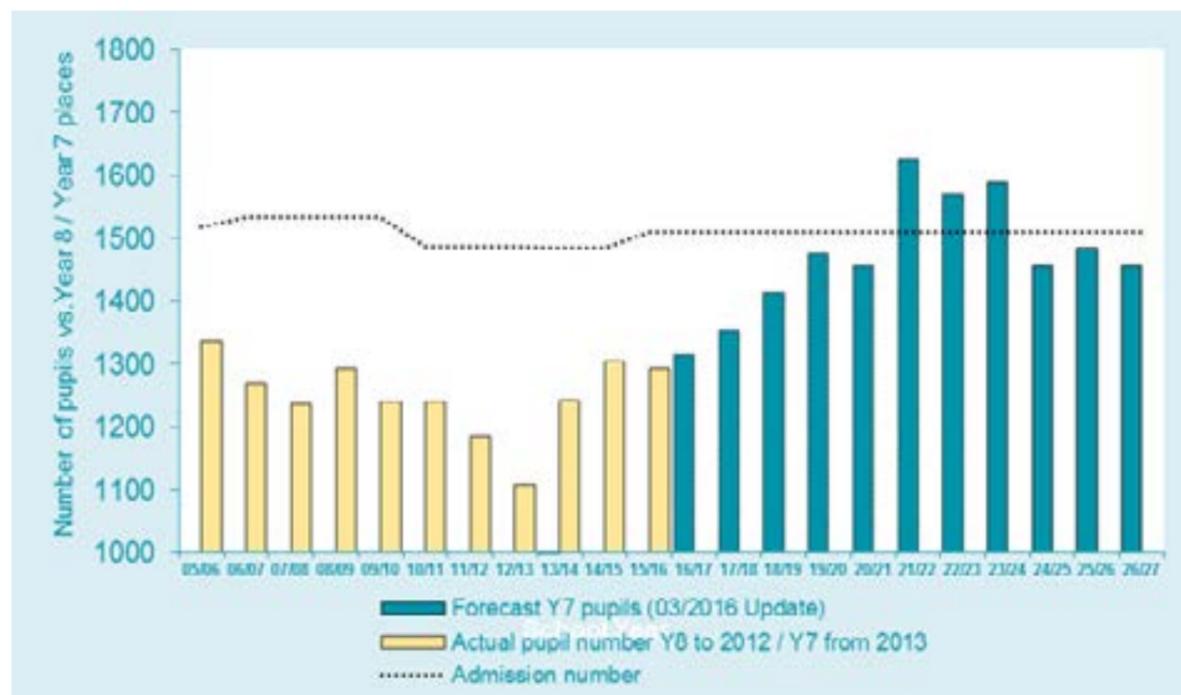




The Council has a statutory duty to secure the right number of suitable school places for children of statutory school age living in Poole. This can only be achieved by working in partnership with all Poole schools, academy trusts and dioceses.

The Council prepares pupil forecasts to inform the number of school places needed in Poole. These forecasts show that after a period of decreasing pupil numbers, the number of Secondary age children has begun to rise. The forecasts suggest that by September 2019 additional school places will be needed to provide the right number of places, including surplus places to ensure that there are school places for people moving into and within Poole.

This is shown in the chart below. The bars show the actual and forecast number of Year 7 pupils. The dotted line shows the total number of Year 7 places available.



In 2012 the Local Authority school pupil forecasts indicated that more Secondary school places would be needed over the period 2019 to 2025. The Council agreed to commission and fund an options study to explore the feasibility and costs of expanding existing Secondary schools and to consider whether a new Secondary school would be needed.

The options study has been overseen by a Steering Group, made up of headteachers and governors of the Poole Secondary schools, academy trusts, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, the Church of England Diocese of Salisbury, and Local Authority officers.

The options study has been carried out over a period of three years from May 2013.

Firstly, a high level assessment was commissioned, looking at the options for expansion of existing schools and the potential to develop a new school. This was followed by a detailed analysis of five existing school sites and two potential sites for a new school.

The schools considered in the detailed analysis were:

- Carter Community School
- Parkstone Grammar School
- Poole Grammar School
- Poole High School
- St Edward's RC CE VA School

At the end of the detailed feasibility analysis, Poole High School made the decision that it did not want to expand. Four schools were not included in the detailed analysis for the following reasons:

- Broadstone Middle School and Corfe Hills School – at that time, the proposal to change the age of transfer in the Corfe Hills pyramid was under consideration. Following a comprehensive process to consider whether there would be educational advantages and a business case for changing the age of transfer, the Governing Body of the Corfe Hills Academy Trust decided not to move forward with change. Therefore, it can be assumed that the current three tier structure of education will continue in the Corfe Hills Pyramid for the foreseeable future.
- Magna Academy – the academy sponsor does not want the school to expand.
- St Aldhelm's Academy – the academy sponsor at the time the analysis was taking place did not want the school to expand. The current sponsor has offered that the school could increase as a contingency in the event of an increased need for places.



The Steering Group has carefully considered the information gathered through the options study and proposed that:

- securing all the additional places through a new Secondary school alone was not a workable option as it would frontload costs and school places, creating significant surplus places for three years;
- the additional places required over the period 2019 to 2025 should be secured through the expansion of existing schools;
- a new Secondary school is not required up to September 2026 at least;
- proposals for securing the additional places needed for September 2019 should be taken forward;
- Carter Community School should expand by two forms of entry (60 places) in September 2019.

The Steering Group's reasons for proposing the expansion of Carter Community School from September 2019 are as follows:

- Carter is currently the smallest Secondary school in Poole. Expansion by 2 forms of entry (60 places) would bring the school to the same size as most other Secondary schools in Poole;
- expansion to 6 forms of entry (180 places) in each year group would support continued school improvement at Carter. It would enable a broader curriculum to be offered;
- an admission number of 180 pupils would balance the total number of Primary phase places in the Hamworthy area. (Hamworthy Park Junior School has an admission number of 120 pupils; Turlin Moor Community School has an admission number of 60 pupils);
- expansion of Carter by two forms of entry as one project would be a more cost effective way to secure the extra places needed rather than two separate increases of one form of entry;
- the school is located in the Hamworthy regeneration area and so is well positioned to meet the forecast pressure on Secondary places in the future;
- investment in the school would be a clear demonstration of support to the local community.

The Steering Group decided that it was too soon to make concrete plans for securing the additional school places needed over the period 2021 to 2025. As trends continue to change over time, the fine tuning of the number of places that are required will continue.

The Steering Group was clear that the plan to secure the additional Secondary school places must take account of the limited funding available.

The Department for Education allocates Basic Need capital funding to local authorities to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing schools and by establishing new schools. This funding is allocated on the basis of forecasts of pupil numbers for several years ahead collected from local authorities.

Since 2009 the Council has spent £23.5m to increase the number of school places in the Primary phase. Poole is currently forecasting that no more Primary school places are needed up to 2019/20 at least and that additional Secondary school places are not required until 2019/20. Therefore, for the past two years Poole has not been allocated any Basic Need capital funding.

The estimated costs of increasing the capacity of Carter Community School from 600 places (5 year groups of 120) to 900 (5 year groups of 180) are in the region of £6.5m to £7m for completion in 2019.

Two options for Carter Community School were considered in the feasibility study: 1) 1FE increase and 2) 2FE increase. The costs of a 1FE increase for completion in 2019 were estimated to be £5.5m compared with £6.5m-£7m for a 2FE increase. This shows that it would be more cost effective to do all the building works needed to expand Carter by 2FE as a single project.

In February 2016 Cabinet and Council approved a budget allowance of £7m, which was included in the Children's Services Capital Strategy 2015-2019. Significant expenditure from this budget allowance will not be incurred until United Learning Trust has secured approval for the proposal to expand Carter Community School.

A budget allowance of approximately £1.9m was also identified in the Capital Strategy for the additional school places needed over the three year period 2021 to 2023. It is anticipated that the Basic Need funding allocated to Poole in future years will increase this budget allowance.



United Learning Trust's proposal to expand Carter Community School from September 2019



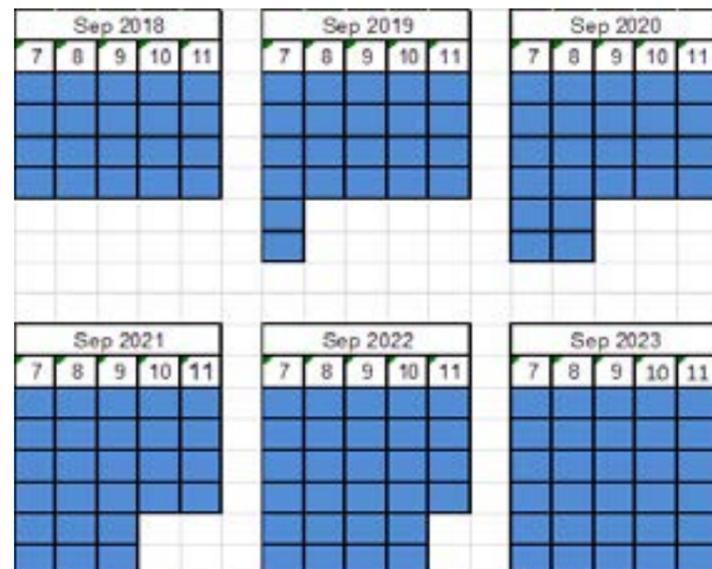
Carter Community School is a Secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 16 (Years 7 to 11) which has served the Hamworthy peninsula since the 1950s.

The school currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 120, which means that it has four forms of entry and a total capacity for 600 pupils.

The school converted to academy status in 2013 and is sponsored by United Learning Trust.

In order to secure the additional Secondary school places that are needed in Poole in September 2019, United Learning Trust is proposing to increase the school's PAN to 180 from September 2019.

The diagram below illustrates how the school would grow over a 5 year period to a total capacity of 900 pupils. Each blue square represents a form of entry.



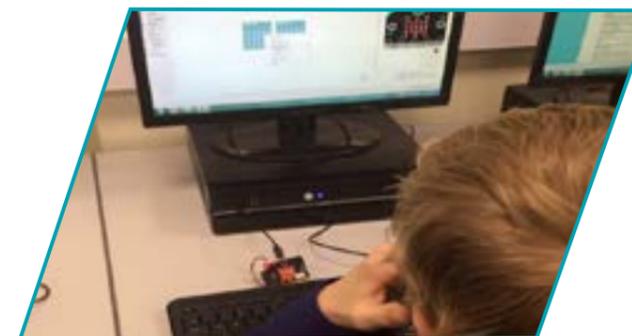
Carter has made enormous improvements over the last two years and is one of the most improved schools in the Poole area.

At the heart of the Hamworthy community since the 1950s, Carter works closely with parents and carers to ensure that all our students are offered great opportunities. The vision of the school is to provide a caring but ambitious environment in which every child will achieve their best, and with rapidly rising GCSE results, this is fast becoming a reality.

Under Sam Davidson, the Principal since 2015, the number of children achieving 5 good GCSEs including English and Maths has risen from 29% in 2014 to 46% in August 2016. We are confident that this trend will continue.

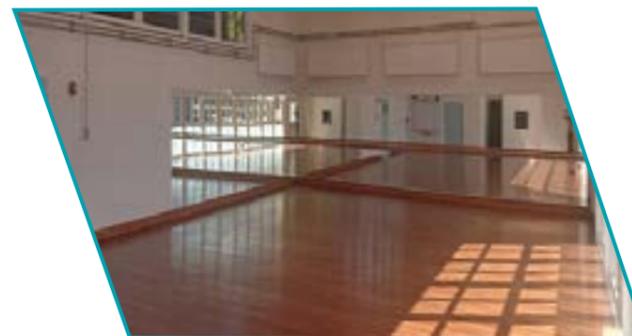
The school offers individual care and support to students in an atmosphere of ambition and aspiration. Staff work hard to continually raise standards – work which is having a great effect on student achievement – and to help students to achieve their full potential inside and outside the classroom. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a full range of extracurricular activities and the school aims to offer this experience to a greater section of its local community through a larger roll. Opportunities include sports teams and clubs, music groups, Duke of Edinburgh, Mandarin lessons and dance clubs.

Creating an excellent environment for learning



The Senior Leadership team and United Learning see Carter as a growing centre of excellence in the South West region, and are keen to continue investing in the school as it grows.

The school's old gymnasium has recently been refurbished to create a state-of-the-art dance studio and further refurbishment has been carried out in the dining room, assembly hall, classrooms and to the front of the school.



The enlargement of the school's accommodation, needed to expand its capacity, will provide significant investment to create further outstanding facilities. The planned expansion will bring new science labs, technology workshops, ICT suites and music rooms to give students an inspiring learning environment.

When the proposal to expand the school has been approved, we will work with the Borough of Poole to take forward this capital project. Once we have developed the design proposals, we will hold consultation events to share and seek comments on them.

Strong leadership, ambitious goals

Carter is a member of United Learning, one of the most successful Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) in the country. Other local United Learning academies include Glenmoor and Winton academies in Bournemouth. United Learning also runs a number of independent schools, including Bournemouth Collegiate School.

Being part of this group affords the school support from Dame Sally Coates as Education Director – a former headteacher of a West London school that transformed under her leadership from one of the most underperforming schools in the country to one of the best – as well as support from outstanding leaders from across the network of schools.

Teachers at the school also benefit from continuing professional development from outstanding English, Maths and Science practitioners, as well as regular conferences to ensure they can deliver the best lessons to their pupils.

Governors at the school are dedicated to seeing the school flourish and grow, and lend their considerable expertise and knowledge of the local context to the leadership of the school. The Chair, Mrs Cary Wicks, has 24 years of experience in school governance and has been working with Carter since 2011, using her experience in teaching and business to guide the school's development. Other governors lend their expertise in performing arts, medicine and business to provide the support the school needs on its journey to excellence.

Going forward, Carter's aim is to offer quality education for all of our students in order to move from a good school to a great one. High expectations are central in transforming any school and Carter has been relentless in driving up standards. Carter is an inclusive school where students feel safe - this will never change. Alongside this, however, we need academic rigour and the highest aspirations in all we do in order to raise standards.

Open coffee mornings

We are very happy to welcome any interested local stakeholders to view the school and hear more about our plans at our open coffee mornings on:

- 28 September
- 5 October
- 12 October
- 20 October



Jon Coles
Chief Executive
United Learning Trust

Consultation process

Government guidance¹ sets out the steps that must be taken by an academy trust to secure approval to expand an open academy if it involves enlargement of the school's accommodation. The guidance includes a requirement for public consultation.

This document sets out information about the proposal to expand Carter Community School and invites you to complete a response form to give your views. If you prefer to give your views online please go to the web page at: www.poole.gov.uk/secondaryplaces

You are also encouraged to attend one of the public meetings where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment.

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Venue
Wednesday 5 October	7.00-8.00 pm	Committee Suite, Civic Centre, Poole, BH15 2NS
Thursday 13 October	6.30-7.30 pm	Carter Community School, Blandford Close, Poole, BH15 4BQ

The consultation runs from 26 September to 21 October 2016. The deadline for responses is midnight on 21 October 2016.

Please note that the consultation is not a ballot. United Learning Trust is required to include a summary of the responses to the consultation as part of the business case that it submits to the Regional Schools Commissioner

It has been agreed that the Council should co-ordinate the consultation because the proposal that Carter Community School should expand is central to the strategy for securing the additional Secondary school places needed in Poole in September 2019.

Decision-making process

After responses to the consultation have been considered, United Learning will submit a business case to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). RSCs act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and one of their main responsibilities is deciding on applications to make significant changes to academies and free schools. The RSC for the South-West of England is Rebecca Clark.

The business case must 'confirm that a fair and open local consultation has been undertaken' and 'that the proposal takes account of all responses received.'

The RSC is advised by a Head Teacher Board. They will consider the proposal and either approve or reject it. The RSC can also ask for more evidence before she makes a decision.

¹ 'Making significant changes to an open academy, Departmental advice for all types of academy trust'. Department for Education, March 2016.

Response form for consultation on United Learning Trust's proposal to expand Carter Community School from September 2019



In order to secure the additional Secondary school places that are needed in Poole in September 2019, United Learning Trust is proposing to expand Carter Community School by 2 Forms of Entry (60 places) from September 2019.

1. Do you agree / disagree with the proposal?

I agree

I do not agree

I am not sure

If you have any comments, please add them in the space below

2. Your details (please tick all relevant boxes)

Name

Postcode

Parent/carer of pupil at a Poole school

If yes, which school does your child attend?

Staff member, or governor at a Poole school

If yes, which school?

Poole resident

If no, please specify

Date

Please email your response to secondaryplaces@poole.gov.uk

Or you can send your form by post to:

Rachel Folley, Asset Planning & Development Team,
Children, Young People and Learning, Dolphin Centre, Poole, Dorset BH15 1QE

The deadline for responses is midnight on Friday 21 October 2016.