



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



**Saint Benedict**  
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Duffield Road  
Darley Abbey  
Derby  
DE22 1JD

Wednesday 23 November 2022

Dear parents, carers and stakeholders,

**RE: Consultation on the Temporary Expansion of St Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy**

We are writing to inform you that we are working closely with Derby City Council to see if we can accommodate more pupils at Saint Benedict, in Year 7 in 2023 and 2024. This is due to an expected increase in secondary student numbers across the city in those two years, based on current projections.

The St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust (SRSCMAT), Saint Benedict and Derby City Council are working together on this proposal, which is in the very early stages. Your feedback is very important to us as we move forward, and we are seeking your views.

The expansion scheme is needed to ensure the city council can deliver its statutory duty to provide enough school places across Derby. The proposed increase would see an extra 90 pupils joining Saint Benedict in 2023 and another 90 in 2024, taking the admissions number in both years, in Year 7, to 335. These pupils would gradually make their way through the school and the current admissions number of 245 would be reinstated in Year 7 in 2025.

First and foremost, we would not be expanding the school in any way that compromises on the excellent standard of education and pastoral care offered at Saint Benedict. The proposal will not mean more pupils per class, but rather expanded provision with additional staff, classes and space.

If the increase goes ahead, we would be awarded funding to alter existing buildings to create four additional classrooms ready for September 2023, along with enhancements to the existing provision. There would also be a new temporary build on the existing school site, housing classrooms focusing on Science. Any building works would be subject to a feasibility study and the usual planning consents.



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As a Trust, we continue to champion the need for investment to improve facilities at Saint Benedict and this proposal very much complements the long-term vision for the school.

Your views are incredibly important to us and we would welcome your feedback on this proposal.

You can complete an online form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xBt2JxUPwe>

If you would rather print the form, which is attached to the full consultation document, you can complete it and post it back to:

Temporary Expansion Consultation  
St Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Duffield Road  
Darley Abbey  
Derby  
DE22 1JD

Please ensure you include your name and address otherwise the response will be rejected.

You can also collect a hard copy of the form from the Saint Benedict Academy office.

All responses must be received by **4pm on the 22 December 2022**.

All responses will be carefully considered. The outcome of the consultation will form part of the proposal that will be made to the Department for Education. We will also publish the outcome of the consultation on our website and be updating pupils, parents and carers and staff as the consultation progresses through our normal communication channels.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Gritton, CEO of the SRSCMAT