



**Sheffield Springs Academy**  
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Part of United Learning

## **Sheffield Springs Academy**

### **Consultation Document**

#### **Proposed Increase to the Capacity of the School**

**30 June 2025**

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## **1. Introduction**

This document outlines a proposal to permanently increase the capacity of Sheffield Springs Academy.

We invite all stakeholders to review this proposal and share their feedback as part of the formal consultation process.

## **2. Capacity**

Under this proposal, the school would permanently admit 240 students into Year 7. Over the past two years, we have temporarily admitted 240 students annually, and this model has proven successful.

We now propose to make this change permanent, increasing our 11–16 capacity from 1,050 to 1,200 students.

This change will allow us to offer eight forms of entry (as in the current Years 7 and 8), which aligns well with our curriculum and staffing structures. A permanent change also enables more effective long-term planning.

There are two main reasons for proposing this change:

- There has been a growing demand for places at Sheffield Springs Academy with more parents naming the Academy as their first choice in their child's secondary school admissions process.
- The increased capacity comes at the request of Sheffield City Council, due to significant pressures on school places across Sheffield. Without Sheffield Springs Academy (and other schools in the city) increasing capacity, there is a high risk that children will not be able to attend a school near to where they live.

## **3. Local Population Drivers**

Sheffield City Council approached Sheffield Springs Academy in 2022 with regard to the population change in the Academy's catchment area. They identified through their population forecasts that there would not be enough places in local schools to meet the increased population across the City, resulting in a significant deficit of places available for students. The forecast predicted deficit places in 2023 and future years until academic year 2029/2030.

## **4. Proposed Changes**

In order to properly accommodate more students into the school, we will need to make some changes to the building spaces. The proposals are as follows:

- Expansion of the Dining Hall to accommodate more students.

- Refurbishment of the main entrance.
- Creation of an additional science room (through refurbishing an existing classroom).
- Reconfiguration of the second floor of the building to create better proportioned learning spaces.
- Improved access to the community food bank.
- Reconfiguration of existing areas to create a better space for children to practice their Faith.

The proposal is for these works to be scheduled over the next 18 months, with timings carefully planned to minimise disruption to the school.

### **Positive Impact on Students and Families**

Sheffield Springs Academy believes that the proposed change will bring many positives including:

- Being able to provide more families with the opportunity to attend their preferred local school/academy.
- Supporting Sheffield City Council in meeting the demand for school places across Sheffield.
- Maintaining a commitment to achieve high standards of Teaching and Learning.

### **5. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Will class sizes increase as a result of this change?	No – while the overall number of students may increase, the academy will ensure that class sizes remain within recommended limits by adjusting staffing and resources accordingly.
Will this affect the quality of education?	No – the academy is committed to maintaining high standards. Additional students will be supported by appropriate increases in staff and facilities.
How will the academy accommodate more students?	Plans have been agreed with Sheffield City Council to expand the academy's facilities in key areas for example, dining hall. There is a commitment to continue to invest in infrastructure to ensure all students have access to high-quality learning environments.
Will this change affect current students?	The proposed increase will apply to new admissions only and will not impact the experience of current students.

## **6. Consultation Timeline**

Your opinion is valuable and as such you are invited to share your views on this proposal. The consultation period will run from Monday 30 June 2025 and remain open until Sunday 20 July 2025.

During the consultation period we ask you to complete the online form available via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/heBBKQMtdw> or email us at [queries2025@sheffieldsprings.org](mailto:queries2025@sheffieldsprings.org)

## **7. Next Steps**

At the end of the consultation period all responses will be reviewed and considered by the Academy and United Learning. Subject to the feedback, it will then need to go to the Department for Education for a final decision.