

BRANNEL SCHOOL

EXPANSION PROJECT

Consultation Report

Consultation period 11th April to 9th May 2022



This is the formal consultation document for the proposed increase of Brannel School's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 180 for September 2022

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Introduction

Purpose of this Document

1. [Brannel School](#) has a capacity of 750 secondary school places, which provides for a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 150. The school is currently operating with a number on roll of over 850 pupils, with demand for places projected to continue to increase.
2. The school has been asked by Cornwall Local Authority to permanently expand its capacity from 750 places to 900 places in order to meet anticipated ongoing demand. This will involve an increase in the school's PAN from 150 to 180 for each year group from September 2022.
3. Given that the school is already operating above capacity, new school places are required to alleviate current accommodation pressures and ensure the school building is configured to optimise teaching and learning for the long-term. Plans are therefore in development to build a new 5-classroom teaching block. This will provide an additional 150 school places, increasing the school's capacity to 900, with a PAN of 180. The Local Authority will provide capital funding for the new build project.
4. It is not proposed that there will be any change to either Brannel School's current admissions criteria or school catchment area. The expansion is to meet demand for additional school places from within the local area.
5. The proposal is considered to be a "significant expansion". The school is therefore required to consult in line with guidance from the Department for Education. This report is the consultation document.
6. Although this document provides an overview of the building project, the main focus is to consult over educational change to Brannel School's PAN.
7. It is noted that the planning application for the new building will require Cornwall Council's Planning department to undertake an additional formal period of public consultation. The planning application consultation will be listed on [Cornwall Council's website](#).

Introduction from Brannel School's Headteacher, Chris Liles

8. We are delighted to have been offered the opportunity to work with Cornwall Local Authority to expand Brannel School. The Local Authority has identified the need to provide additional places at Brannel to meet ongoing demand from an increasing number of pupils leaving local primary schools – a result of a growing population and significant housing growth in the local area. We consider this a fantastic opportunity for our school as it enables us to:
 - Offer sufficient places to meet the number of pupils applying for their first preference place at Brannel School. Demand for places has steadily increased over the last few years, which is why the school is currently operating above capacity.
 - Introduce permanent new, modern teaching and learning facilities which will reflect the high standard of provision we provide in our main building.
 - Provide a dedicated area from which to deliver pastoral services to meet the growing need to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people.
9. We are committed to keeping our stakeholders fully informed and offering them the appropriate opportunities to consult and feedback their views. We are required, as an academy, to follow the guidance for consultation published by The Department for Education in January 2022: [*Making significant changes to an open academy*](#).
10. The most relevant section relates to proposed changes detailed in "Expansion of physical capacity":

A 'significant expansion' is defined as any physical change that increases the overall physical capacity of an academy (as recorded in its Funding Agreement) so that it can increase its overall teaching space, enabling the school to provide places for more than 30 additional pupils. This includes changing the internal configuration of a school building, which would also be classed as an 'increase in capacity' and requires the significant change process to be followed.

(p. 15, 'Making significant changes to an open academy')

11. To comply with the significant change process, we must:

...undertake a fair and open local consultation with all those who could be affected by the proposed change and show they have considered all responses received to their consultation. Comments or objections can be made on any grounds and opportunities for feedback should be given at all public and stakeholder meetings. The LA will hold important contextual information on the requirement for places locally and must be consulted in all cases.

(p. 8, 'Making significant changes to an open academy')

The Case for Need

Brannel School: current pupil numbers and accommodation constraints

12. Brannel School is part of [The Cornwall Education Learning Trust](#) (CELT) which comprises ten primary and four secondary schools across Mid-Cornwall.
13. Brannel School is an 11-16 co-educational secondary school serving the China Clay Community Network Area which comprises the parishes of Roche, St Dennis, St Enoder, St Stephen-in-Brannel and Treverbyn.
14. The capacity of the school is 750 places¹. The current number of pupils in the school exceeds 850 – see *Table 1*.
15. A capacity of 750 places provides for a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 150 places in each year group. In response to increasing demand for additional places in the local area, the school is currently operating above PAN in every year except Year 10 – see *Table 1*.

Table 1 Brannel School Number on Roll (*figs as at 7-09-21*)

		Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11
No. of pupils	857	206	174	172	144	161
PAN	150	+56	+24	+22	-6	+11

16. As a short-term measure, in order to accommodate current numbers on roll, existing spaces across the school have been reconfigured to facilitate teaching and to minimise the adverse impact to learning from over-large curriculum groups:

- **Temporary Maths classroom created from ADT classroom.** In order to create sufficient space to teach core subjects,² the number of classrooms in the Art, Design and Technology (ADT) department has been reduced. This limits the vocational options we are able to offer e.g. the school is planning to offer Engineering from September 2022 and there is a need to re-instate a classroom.

Urgent requirement to re-instate ADT classroom. Need for additional classroom to be met by expansion proposal.

¹ The school leases a lower ground wing of the school to The Special Partnership Trust to operate an Area Resource Base (ARB). The ARB offers 12 places for pupils with Special Educational Needs; these places are not included in the school's number on roll. ARB provision is unaffected by the proposed school expansion outlined in this document.

² Core subjects are Maths, English, Science.

- **Temporary Science classroom created from ADT classroom.** See above.

Urgent requirement to re-instate ADT classroom. Need for additional classroom to be met by expansion proposal.

- **Temporary English classroom created from PE classroom (with knock-on impact on Music).** The PE classroom has been converted to English in order to create sufficient space to teach core subjects. The PE department is currently teaching its classroom-based curriculum in a dedicated Music classroom. This is not ideal for either PE or Music. The room is designated for IT-based music practicals and every workstation set out with a Mac; the entire suite of Music Macs was replaced in this room in summer 2021 at significant cost. There is a risk that this equipment will sustain damage if the room continues to be used for non-specialist lessons in the longer-term.

Urgent requirement to re-instate PE and Music classrooms. Need for additional classroom to be met by expansion proposal.

- **Temporary English/Maths classroom created from Library.** As above, the library has been temporarily converted in order to create sufficient space to teach core subjects. This means that pupils are unable to access a library resource during lesson time; given that improving literacy is a key focus of the school, this must be resolved at the earliest opportunity.

Urgent requirement to re-instate Library. Need for additional classroom to be met by expansion proposal.

- **A significant number of general teaching lessons are timetabled in rooms designed for practical subjects** e.g. lessons such as English and History are regularly timetabled in rooms designed for practical subjects e.g. ADT/Music rooms. This is not conducive to good learning in subjects that require pupils to produce extended pieces of writing.

The expansion proposal will provide an opportunity to explore options for making more effective use of space for learning and teaching across the school.

Year 7 Nurture Group temporary classroom created from Pastoral Support office accommodation:

The Pastoral Support offices have been converted to a classroom for a group of high-need Year 7 pupils. The Pastoral Support team are currently working from half of the school's main meeting room, which has been divided by an acoustic screen. This provides them with a much smaller space which is not sound-proof and does not allow them to have confidential meetings. In addition, the school is working with training providers to develop a programme to expand its school counselling provision. Trainee counsellors work on site with pupils to gain the practical experience they need in school to complete their certification. This adds to the capacity of the team and meets the school's aim to reduce the waiting list of pupils requiring counselling.

The number of trainee counsellors in school is currently limited by the fact that there is insufficient office accommodation. Given the school's priority focus on pupils' mental health and wellbeing there is an urgent need to re-provide suitable accommodation for pastoral support and school counselling.

Urgent requirement to re-instate Pastoral Support offices and meeting spaces. Need for additional office space to be met by expansion proposal.

- **Ready2Learn and Internal Inclusion room created from IT & Media classroom.** This resource was created to enable the school to deliver its Behaviour for Learning Policy. There is a need to create an additional space for internal exclusions in order to separate provision; options are being explored which will make more effective use of the space in the main building freed up by relocating the Pastoral Support Team to the new build.

Ideally IT & Media space would be re-instated - but is not included as part of the expansion proposal. The expansion proposal will provide an opportunity to explore options for making more effective use of space in the main school building.

- **Pupil Support Base created from main staffroom.** The school has a high percentage of SEND pupils and vulnerable pupils with complex needs; the staffroom has been converted to a full-time teaching space for these pupils. There is a small staff workbase in each wing; however, these workbases were designed for fewer staff than the school currently employs, and for working quietly at computer benching. Staff are now having to use these spaces to eat in. There is no space for staff to gather outside of their departments. This situation is neither ideal nor sustainable, given the post-covid context and focus on staff wellbeing and mental health.

School has no staff room. Ideally this would be re-instated - but is not included as part of the expansion proposal.

- **IT Support Team Office created from CAD/CAM/Resistant Materials teaching space.** The IT Team was moved out of a designated office on the first floor to make room for an expanding SEND Support Team.

Ideally ADT space would be re-instated - but is not included as part of the expansion proposal.

17. There is an urgent need to provide additional classrooms to meet current pupil numbers. The temporary configuration of existing school accommodation, as summarised above, is not sustainable over anything other than the short-term.
18. Without significant capital investment in additional accommodation, the school will have no option but to cap pupil intake at 150 (current PAN). This would not enable the school to meet growing local demand over the next few years. In addition, it would not resolve the current shortage of space for a number of years – i.e. until **all** current year groups were reduced to 150.

Demand for additional school places: Cornwall's strategic planning context

19. Cornwall's schools are facing demand for additional school places arising from an increasing population of children and young people. The rise in population is due to a range of factors including inward migration from elsewhere in the UK, increased birth rate, and international migration (most recently from within the EU).
20. The case for need, and Cornwall Council's plans to provide additional infrastructure to meet demand, are outlined in the [Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030](#). Housing growth across Cornwall, for example:

...will provide homes in a proportional manner where they can best meet need and sustain the role and function of local communities and that of their catchment. Development proposals over the period to 2030 should help to deliver a minimum of 52,500 homes at an average rate of about 2,625 per year to 2030, to help deliver sufficient new housing of appropriate types to meet future requirements.

(p.19, Policy 2a: Key Targets, 'Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030')

21. Brannel School's catchment is the [China Clay Community Network Area](#). The Cornwall Local Plan incorporates a shared vision for regeneration and investment in this area: the aim is to establish the St Austell, St Blazey and China Clay Area as the 'Green Capital' of Cornwall. Key aspects of achieving this will be to create economic growth and jobs, maximise green credentials, improve the natural and built environment and promote community resilience – similar in ethos and ambition to the Garden City movement.
22. In recent decades, the area has seen significant population growth. The total population of the China Clay community network area is currently 25,400 and population growth has been double the Cornish average over the past 20 years. The total number of dwellings in the community network area is currently around 11,100. Between 1991 and 2010, Cornwall Council figures³ put housing growth for the China Clay area at 47% – faster housing growth than any other part of Cornwall. If the level of housing presently proposed for the China Clay Area in the Cornwall Local Plan goes ahead, it will increase the housing stock in the area by 82% over the period from 1991 to 2030. Brannel School is likely to continue to experience increasing demand for pupil places arising from housing growth and in-migration.
23. Tables 2 and 3, below, are the Local Authority's forecasts for the China Clay area (served by Brannel School) and the neighbouring planning area of St Austell (served by Penrice and Poltair academies). Demand for school places over the forecast period is expected to be significantly above the existing number of places available across all three schools.

³ [Cornwall Local Plan Community Network Area Sections](#), page 47.

Table 2 Local Authority Pupil Population Forecasts: Year 7 Intake

Planning Area	Secondary school		Forecast Year 7 Intakes					
		PAN	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26	
China Clay	Brannel School	150	195	201	211	183	192	
St Austell	Penrice Academy	270	309	321	282	279	281	
St Austell	Poltair Academy	180	175	182	159	165	165	
	TOTAL	600	679	704	652	627	638	
	Surplus/shortfall		-79	-104	-52	-27	-38	

Table 3 Local Authority Pupil Population Forecasts: Year 7-11 (age 11-15)

Planning Area	Secondary school		Forecast Number on Roll					
		PAN	Sept 21	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26
China Clay	Brannel School	750	853	888	946	987	997	984
St Austell	Penrice Academy	1350	1428	1464	1516	1520	1512	1502
St Austell	Poltair Academy	900	780	814	855	866	862	872
	TOTAL	3000	3061	3166	3317	3373	3371	3358
	Surplus/shortfall		-61	-166	-317	-373	-371	-358

Meeting demand for additional school places: Cornwall's school organisation context

24. Cornwall Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity in schools to meet the current and future demand for pupil places.
25. To ensure that local demand is met, Cornwall Local Authority assesses and analyses a complex range of data for every school including:
- Pupil numbers and planning forecasts for the short and medium term
 - Parental preference and first preference applicant numbers
 - Catchment area and proximity of new housing developments
 - Capacity at neighbouring schools
 - Location, size and ability to expand the school buildings and/or site
26. Pupil population forecasts for Cornwall's schools indicate that recent years have seen a 'bulge' in primary school numbers. It is projected that, once these additional numbers have worked their way through the primary sector, demand for primary school places will fall. The 'bulge' is now beginning to impact on secondary school places, with demand for places forecast to exceed capacity over the next few years. The key to meeting local need is in balancing short-, medium- and long-term provision: school expansions need to be carefully planned to avoid over-provision and surplus accommodation in the long-term.

Table 4 Impact of Additional Places at Brannel School: Pupil Population Forecasts: Year 7-11 (age 11-15)

Planning Area	Secondary school		Forecast Number on Roll						
		capacity	Sept 21	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26	
China Clay	Brannel School	900	853	888	946	987	997	984	
St Austell	Penrice Academy	1350	1428	1464	1516	1520	1512	1502	
St Austell	Poltair Academy	900	780	814	855	866	862	872	
	TOTAL	3150	3061	3166	3317	3373	3371	3358	
	Surplus/shortfall		89	-16	-167	-223	-221	-208	

27. Table 4, above, shows the Local Authority pupil projections for the area, incorporating increased capacity provided by the proposed expansion of Brannel School.
28. Although it may appear that expanding Brannel to 900 places is not sufficient to meet total need across the area over the forecast period, both Penrice and Poltair academies have agreed to take additional pupils on a temporary basis, if required, and have set operational capacities for a Year 7 intake above PAN. This will provide a short- to medium-term solution to accommodate the 'bulge' in pupil numbers as it works its way through the schools. This will also avoid creating longer-term issues arising from over provision.

Why Brannel School is best placed to meet projected need

29. The proposed expansion at Brannel School is in response to a request from Cornwall Local Authority to provide more school places. Brannel School has been identified as the most feasible option to accommodate additional accommodation on site.
30. The proposed expansion of Brannel School will ensure that families from the China Clay Community Network Area are able to access a secondary school place near where they live.
31. It is noted that the strategic context summarised above confirms the Local Authority's position that expanding the number of places at Brannel School is not expected to have a negative impact on neighbouring schools. There will be no change to Brannel School's admissions criteria or school catchment area.

Overview of New Building Proposal

Clarification Note

33. For the sake of clarity, this consultation document addresses the increase in Brannel School's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 180 for September 2022. As part of the planning application process which deals with the buildings, Cornwall Council's Planning department is required to undertake an additional formal period of public consultation.

Preferred Option

34. The Brannel School project team has worked closely with the Kendall Kingscott Limited and Cornwall Council project teams to consider both traditional construction and modular build as part the options appraisal process. Several modular build contractors have visited the site and presented an initial appraisal of indicative cost and project timescale. However, in line with the advice of both the Kendall Kingscott Limited and Cornwall Council teams, the school has selected a traditional build project as the preferred option.

Feasibility Study

35. A Feasibility Study has been completed by Kendall Kingscott Limited. The study includes comprehensive survey reports, proposed building plans, indicative project timescale and costs, and pre-application advice from Cornwall's Council's Planning department. No significant planning or construction risks have been identified.

Funding the New Build

36. Cornwall Local Authority has the statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places in Cornwall. Given the case for need, the Local Authority has agreed to fund the new build project as part of its Basic Need Capital Programme.

37. Cornwall Education Learning Trust, on behalf of Brannel School, is required to sign a legally binding Funding Agreement with Cornwall Council to ensure that the capital funding transferred to Cornwall Education Learning Trust will be used for proper expenditure in the delivery of the project.

Project Management

38. The new build project is led by Brannel School, which has commissioned Kendall Kingscott Limited to provide a full project management service. The Trustees of Cornwall Education Learning Trust have ultimate oversight of the expansion project in conjunction with Cornwall's Local Authority. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) will also monitor progress.

Site location

39. The proposed location of the new classroom block is identified below. The building will be sited adjacent to the rear of the Jonathan Fox PE Hub, overlooking the school's all-weather sports pitch and the school playing field.



Indicative Design Proposal

40. The new building will be designed to fit within the context of the school site: the building will be no taller than the existing adjacent PE Hub building, and the scale and amount of development is appropriate to the school site. Further information regarding the appearance of the building will be available within the Design and Access statement to be submitted with the planning application.
41. The floor plan is split into two primary functions: general teaching space and pastoral office accommodation. Five general teaching classrooms will be provided. Staff accommodation is also included and comprises a staff office for the Pastoral Team, staff work base and kitchenette, Deputy Headteacher's Office, meeting room and interview room for pastoral meetings.

Indicative Programme

Stage 1 – Preparation and Brief

42. The Feasibility Report was issued by Kendall Kingscott Limited on 11 March 2022.

Stage 2 – Concept Design

43. Initial survey works have been carried out and much of Stage 2 has already been completed, overlapped with Stage 1 to help achieve programme requirements. Project risks will be carefully considered and reviewed further at this stage. The project risk items will also dictate the early stages of the programme.

Stage 3 – Developed Design

44. On agreement of the final design, a planning application will be prepared and issued with a decision from Cornwall Council.

Stage 4 – Technical Design

45. The project team will be finalised at this stage, and production of the technical design information for tender. The selection of contractors for tender invitation will be agreed at this stage. The project will be tendered, and a tender analysis produced with recommendations on how to proceed and with which contractor.

Stage 5 – Construction & Stage 6 – Handover and Close Out

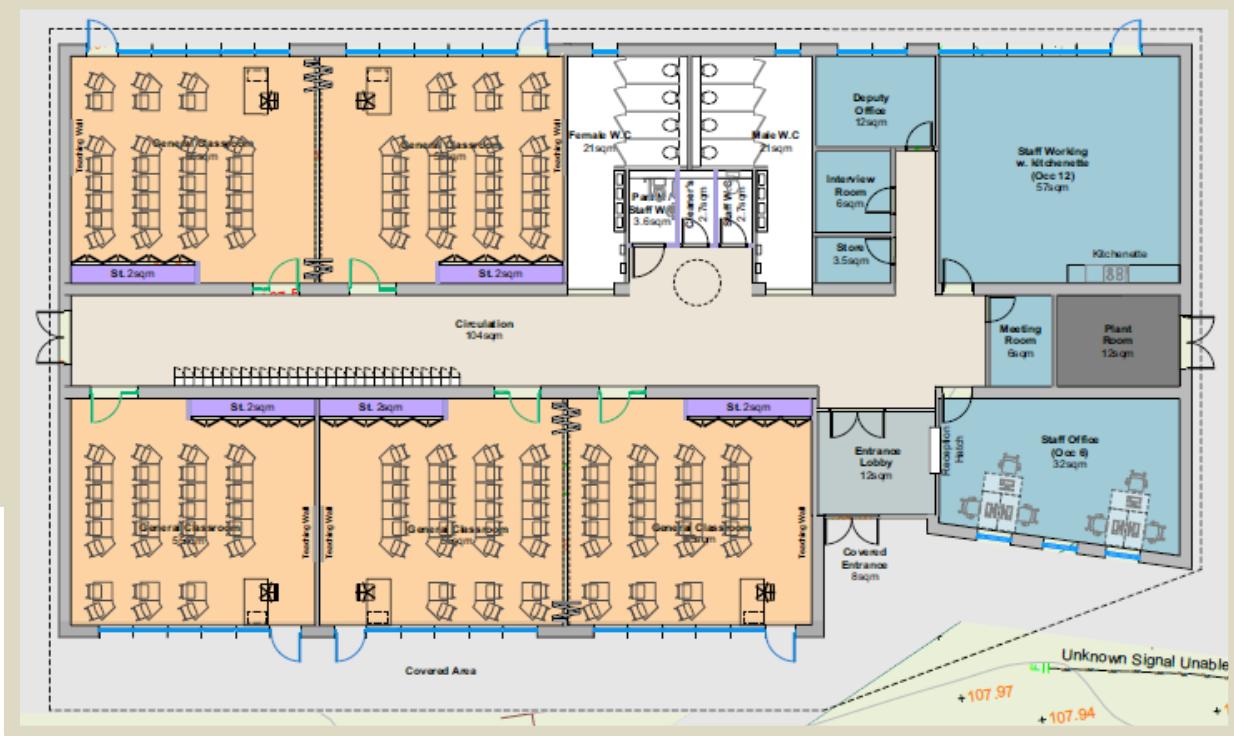
July 2022-May 2023

46. Indicative construction period is approximately 10 months. It is estimated that, subject to the above stages being completed in good time, site works can commence in August 2022. If this start date can be achieved, project completion is anticipated in May 2023.

Temporary Accommodation

47. Given the number of applications and the demand for places for September 2022, Brannel School's Year 7 intake for the new academic year will again be above PAN. In addition to the temporary reconfigurations already outlined in the Case for Need, above, the school requires one extra classroom for September 2022, prior to completion of the new building. It is proposed that the current gym space in the PE Hub will be utilised as a general teaching classroom for the period of the build. The gym space will be re-provided in specialist temporary accommodation located on the tennis courts hardstanding to the east of the site next to the existing storage shed.

Fig 1. Indicative floor plan of new building



Proposed View 01
Looking north towards the south elevation that overlooks the sports pitch

Kendall Kingscott		Date: 09/01/2024
Standard Address:	New Classroom Block	Ref No: Proposed Building View_01
Extended Building Name:		Project Ref: 210877-AP(0)05 A
Interim Designation:		Design Stage: PRELIMINARY
Building Type:	Brannel School	Architect: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD
Architect's Name:		Structural Engineer: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD
Architect's Ref:		Mechanical & Electrical Engineer: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD
Architect's Tel:		Plumbing Engineer: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD
Architect's Fax:		Land Surveyor: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD
Architect's Email:		Quantity Surveyor: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD
Architect's Address:		Planning Consultant: KENDALL KINGSCLIFF LTD

Fig. 2 Indicative view of south elevation overlooking the all-weather sports pitch

Construction factors

48. A temporary traffic and pedestrian route will be created from the main school car park and behind the Jonathon Fox centre – see Fig.3, below. This will have an impact on the school's main pedestrian route on/off site. The contractor will be required to open and shut gated access through the construction route during school start and finish times. For the remainder of the day, the school will carefully plan and manage pedestrian access on site.
49. There will inevitably be some disturbance both visually and from noise during the works. Construction will be kept to normal working hours to attempt to minimise this disruption.

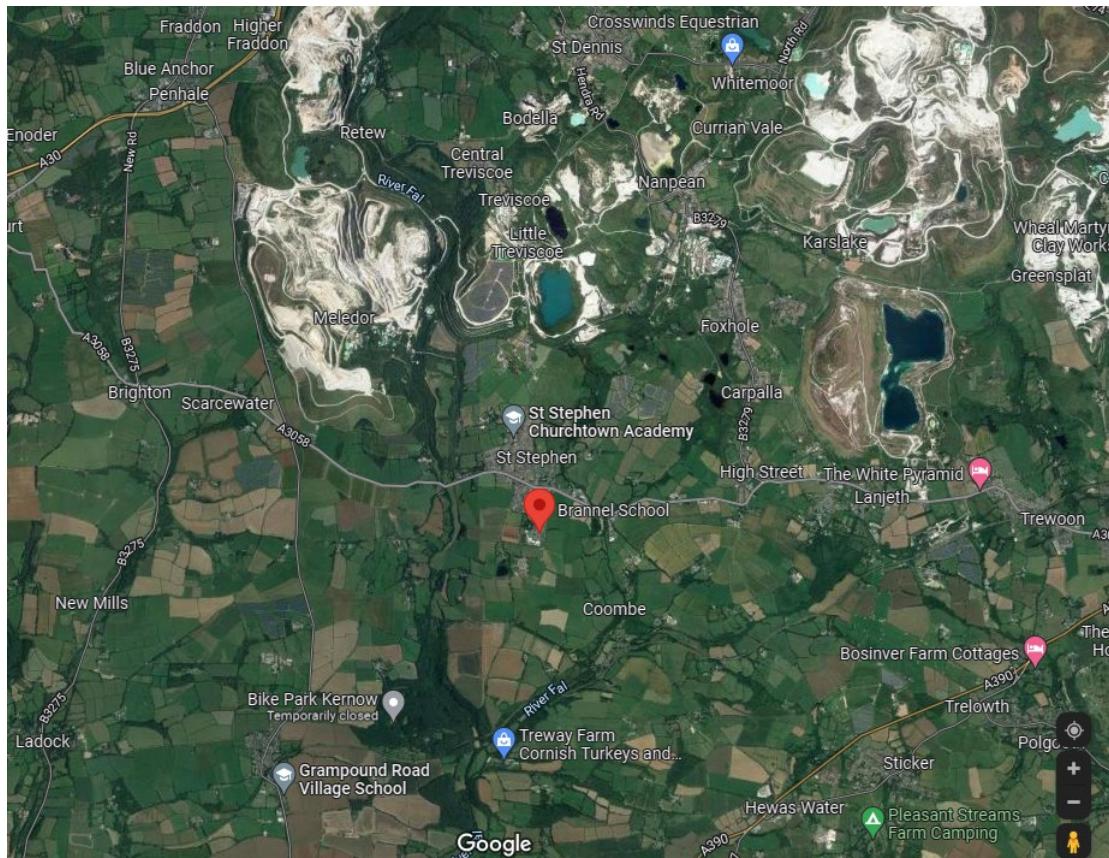


Fig. 3 Indicative construction route through site

Travel and Local Transport Infrastructure

50. Brannel School serves the rural China Clay Community Network Area. There is no main urban settlement in the area: larger villages include St Stephen and St Dennis; smaller settlements include Foxhole and Summercourt. It is noted that, given the dispersed, rural nature of the school's catchment area, a high proportion of Brannel School's pupils use school transport.

Fig. 4 Aerial view of rural area served by Brannel School



51. The Case for Need, outlined above, highlights the fact that the proposed expansion will enable the school to continue to meet ongoing demand for approximately 900 school places. Given that the school already currently has approximately 850 pupils on roll, there will be minimal intensification of use.
52. Approximately 90% of the school's current pupil population travel to school by bus. As the number of pupils increases from 850 to 900, it is considered likely that the majority of the additional pupils will also travel to school by bus. This will minimise the number of additional individual car journeys made to the school. It is envisaged that there may be a need for one additional school bus, depending on demand.

53. The proposal will not materially change traffic movements into or out of the site off Rectory Road.
54. Although the school accommodates significant numbers of vehicles at peak drop-off times, an increase in pupil numbers from 850 to 900 is not a level of intensification of use which is likely to have a major adverse impact. However, Brannel School is very mindful of concerns from residents around parent parking and congestion on Rectory Road outside the school at peak drop-off times. Compliance with current restrictions at peak times is largely reliant on parents observing the intention of road markings and signage. In terms of mitigation, the school is willing to work with Cornwall Council and the Parish Council to review the traffic and parking within a reasonable radius of the school in order to identify any additional off-site traffic and parking controls which might be considered.

Implications for Brannel School

Reducing current accommodation pressure

55. Brannel School's pupil population has grown steadily above capacity in recent years. As outlined in this document, the proposed new 5-classroom block will provide the school with much-needed accommodation to address current space deficiencies and enable a fit-for-purpose configuration of the teaching and learning environment for the long-term.

Financial and educational implications

56. State schools in England receive a per-pupil payment for their budget: more pupils attract more government funding. Small schools can be at greater risk of falling pupil numbers, which can quickly cause budget problems and risk the financial sustainability of the school as a whole. In addition, larger schools can often achieve greater economies of scale and, as such, may be generally more cost effective. Larger schools also employ more staff, which means they are generally able to offer a broader range of curriculum options, specialised classes, extra-curricular clubs and sporting opportunities.
57. Research carried out for the Local Government Association has shown that the optimum size for a secondary school is about 900 pupils, which is linked to greater budget stability and financial sustainability. The average state funded secondary school in England has 986 pupils (2019 data).
58. Expanding Brannel School to 900 places fits within this context.

Managing the impact on teaching

59. The school timetable is already set up to take year groups which are significantly above PAN. The school's current Year 7 comprises approximately 205 pupils, with a similar intake anticipated for September 2022. Increasing the total number on roll from 850 to 900 does not entail considerable investment in more teaching staff, as demand, in the main, is already being met. The school's 5-year budget projections include ongoing revenue costs for sufficient numbers of teaching staff to meet anticipated demand. The school budget is stable, with expenditure projected to be in line with key performance indicators and in compliance with the trust's finance policy e.g. retention of 5% reserves balance.
60. A positive impact of the new building is that it will enable the school to undertake a full review of where teaching staff are located and relocate teachers within their departments to maximise collaboration and support. Current accommodation limitations mean that some individual teachers are in a separate location to the rest of their department.

61. In addition, growing the school's teaching staff will help to support a broader offer of curriculum options, specialised classes, extra-curricular clubs and sporting opportunities.

Managing the impact on pastoral care

62. As it grows from 850 to 900 pupils, the school is confident that it will retain its high quality of pastoral care. As pupil numbers grow there will be a proportionate increase in terms of the funding the school receives. Additional pastoral support will grow proportionately, in line with current policies and provision, whilst ensuring expenditure is appropriately benchmarked against national guidance.
63. The new building will house dedicated accommodation for the pastoral support and school counselling teams. As stated elsewhere in this document, the pastoral support team are currently working in a temporary location. Given the school's priority focus on pupils' mental health and wellbeing there is an urgent need to re-provide suitable office and meeting spaces for pastoral support.
64. In addition, the new building will enable the school to expand its school counselling provision. The school is currently working with training providers to offer trainee counsellors the hands-on experience with pupils they need to complete their certification. This adds to the capacity of the team and meets the school's aim to reduce the waiting list of pupils requiring counselling.

Managing the impact on support for pupils with SEND

65. As it grows from 850 to 900 pupils, the school is confident that it will retain its current high quality of SEND provision. As pupil numbers grow there will be a proportionate increase in terms of the funding the school receives. Additional SEND support will grow proportionately, in line with current policies and provision, whilst ensuring expenditure is appropriately benchmarked against national guidance.

Managing the impact on social spaces

66. A new extension was completed for September 2021 which has doubled the size of the school canteen. This means that more pupils can sit down and eat lunch. It is noted, however, that a high proportion of pupils still choose to select a 'Grab & Go' option to eat on the move, or to save time if they are taking part in a lunchtime club. The impact of moving from 850 to 900 pupils will be minimal, given that the issue has already been addressed by providing a new extension.
67. In addition, it is noted that one of the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the introduction of split lunches to maintain year group "social bubbles" in school. Post-Covid, the school has continued to operate an early lunch session for one year group, rotating the year groups. This has worked well and will be continued; it will continue to help ease congestion and provide a calmer experience at lunchtime.

68. At break and lunchtimes, additional outdoor space can be created by opening the netball courts. Staff capacity for supervision means that the netball courts are not currently open to pupils for informal play; the majority of pupils use the all-weather pitch. The netball courts will provide an overspill area, should it be needed.

Managing onsite parking

69. The school is currently implementing a programme to install secure perimeter fencing around the site at the front of the school. This will include fencing around on-site car park and bus parks and reconfiguring car parks with formally marked out parking spaces. This will provide a safer environment for pupils.

Minimising on-site disruption created by construction works

70. As outlined at page 16 of this document, a plan will be in place to manage the inevitable disruption created by construction works over the 10-month on-site schedule. This will include managing construction traffic on site. Disruption to circulation around the school site during the school day should be minimal.

71. It is also noted that the project is a new build standalone block, not attached to any existing building, which avoids the need for major building works disruption. The contractor will be required to undertaken construction work within normal working hours.

Consultation Feedback

How to register your views

72. This consultation will run for a period of four weeks, from Monday 11th April 2022 until Monday 9th May 2022. Information about the proposed project can be accessed via the Brannel School website as a News Item on the [Home page](#).
73. As part of the consultation, Brannel School will be hosting a public event on **Tuesday 26th April** at the school. This is intended to provide an opportunity to come and talk to us about the proposal and you will have the opportunity to register your views.
74. Your views can be registered by completing the online questionnaire on the school website at www.brannel.com. OR by emailing the school at the following address by the closing date of Monday 9th May: enquiries@brannel.com. Please use 'Brannel School expansion project' in the heading bar of your email.
75. OR if you prefer to write directly to the school by the closing date of Monday 9th May, please mark any correspondence with the heading 'Brannel School expansion project' and address it FAO Elizabeth Fletcher, Brannel School, Rectory Rd, St Stephen, PL26 7RN.

Concluding the consultation

76. After the closing date, a consultation response report will be produced for consideration by the Trustees of Cornwall Education Learning Trust, and any changes or modifications necessary will be made to the proposed project.
77. If the Trustees provide approval to proceed with the expansion, a business case will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), as required by the DfE when making changes to an academy school.
78. The Regional Schools Commissioner will consider a range of factors and make a balanced judgement when deciding whether to approve or reject a proposal. The RSC may decide to refer that matter to the Secretary of State for a decision. A conclusion will be reached as long as it is demonstrated that:
 - a fair and open consultation has taken place;
 - the proposed changes are aligned with local pupil place plans;
 - any change is unlikely to have a negative impact on educational standards at the academy or at other local schools; and
 - the proposal does not displace existing pupils.