

Public Notice and Extract from the Statutory Proposal to Expand St William of York Catholic Primary School, St William Road, Thornton, L23 9XH

It is proposed that St William of York Catholic Primary School will open as a one and a half (1.5) form entry from September 2027 starting with Reception.

Notice is given in accordance with Regulations 4 and 5 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Sefton Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to St William of York Catholic Primary School, St William Road, Thornton, L23 9XH.

Sefton Council is proposing to expand St William of York Catholic Primary School and increase the admission number from 30 to 45.

The current capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 315 once all proposed building works are complete. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 204.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from the School Organisation Team:

school.organisation@sefton.gov.uk

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Team, School Support Services, Sefton Council, Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle L20 3NJ or by email to: school.organisation@sefton.gov.uk

Signed: P. Porter, Chief Executive and Authorised Officer of Sefton Metropolitan Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Porter', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

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PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST WILLIAM ROAD, THORNTON, L23 9XH

Introduction

Sefton Council is proposing to expand St William of York Catholic Primary School from a one form entry school with an admission number of 30 to a one and a half form entry school with an admission number of 45.

Local Authority contact details

The proposal to expand St William of York Catholic Primary School is being published by Sefton Council. Contact details: School Organisation Team, School Support Services, Sefton Council, Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle L20 3NJ. Email: school.organisation@sefton.gov.uk

School

St William of York Catholic Primary School currently caters for up to 210 pupils aged 4 to 11 and is located in St William Road, Thornton, L23 9XH. The school has a nursery which caters for children aged 2-4.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Sefton Council is proposing to expand St William of York Catholic Primary School and increase the admission number from 30 to 45.

The current capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 315 once all building works are complete. The pupil numbers will increase gradually as the new admission number works its way through the school. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 204 (January 2026 School Census).

The number of homes in Thornton is set to increase as there are several major housing developments taking place as part of Sefton's Local Plan. This includes four large sites in and around Thornton, namely;

- Land at Holgate, Thornton
- Land at Lydiate Lane, Thornton
- Land south of Runnell's Lane, Thornton
- Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton

Whilst the total number of homes on these sites has yet to be finalised, it is expected to be in the region of 800.

Based on current figures (17.5 primary pupils per one hundred homes) this could result in an additional pupil yield of 140 primary pupils (across all year groups).

To address the need to provide additional primary school places in the local area as a direct result of housing growth, and due to the proximity of St William of York Catholic Primary School to the housing sites, the availability of land at the school, and with the support of the governors and archdiocese, it is proposed that this school is the preferred

location to provide additional capacity through expansion.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that sufficient, high-quality school places are available for the residents of Sefton.

In half of the primary schools within the Crosby planning area, there are no available places in Reception. Additionally, in half of the primary schools in the area, there are no available places in the majority of the in-year groups, particularly at Key-Stage 2.

Primary schools located outside the Crosby planning area but within a 2-mile radius of St William of York Catholic Primary are:

- **Holy Spirit** – has some surplus places
- **The Grange** – is oversubscribed
- **Netherton Moss** – has only small number of surplus places across the school
- **St Oswald's** – has only a small number of surplus places across the school

It is difficult to offer parents a school place in Crosby/Thornton particularly when they have more than one child and are moving into the area.

The proposed expansion will offer 15 additional places per year group which will give more choice to parents, have a positive impact on the education of the pupils and reduce the cost of transporting pupils to other schools with spare capacity.

St William of York Catholic Primary School has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted. The school maintains healthy pupil numbers and provides education to children from both Catholic and non-faith backgrounds. It draws pupils from a range of geographical areas, including Crosby, Thornton and Netherton.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

Of the primary schools in the Crosby planning area that are within 2 miles of St William of York Catholic Primary, there are only two that are Catholic schools, both of which are full to capacity in Key-Stage 2.

The proposed additional places at St William of York will take some of the pressure off other schools which are over-subscribed in several of the year groups and will provide more choice for parents.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

Subject to approval, the proposal will aim to take effect on 1 September 2027, following completion of the initial building works. From the 2027/28 academic year onwards, the school will admit up to 45 pupils into Reception.

The procedure for responses: support, objections and comments

The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the school. It is also available on Sefton Council's website at: [School Sufficiency and Organisation \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/school-sufficiency-and-organisation) and will also be published on Sefton Education Services Portal.

Within six weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting to or commenting on the proposal to the School Organisation Team, School Support Services, Sefton Council, Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle L20 3NJ, or by emailing school.organisation@sefton.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is 12th May 2026.



Becky Bibby

Executive Director of Children's Services