

ON BEHALF OF CITY OF YORK COUNCIL & THE SOUTH BANK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## BACKGROUND PROPOSAL:

To expand Scarcroft Primary School to two-form entry on one site (i.e. taking in 60 pupils per year group instead of 45) in order to meet the additional demand for places currently being experienced by the city and the South Bank area. This will result in an extra 95 pupils at the school by 2022.

*NB: Please note that the original proposal for a two-site school has now been rejected, following objections from parents during the consultation facilitated by local Councillors.*

## WHAT ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

The Department for Education and Sport England set minimum outdoor space requirements based on the number of pupils in a school. To meet these requirements we will have to provide more outdoor playing space than we currently have (to accommodate the additional 95 pupils). We also need to ensure that children have enough space at playtime in order to play safely and reduce the risk of accidents. We are consulting on how to provide this additional space. Possible solutions include:

- A) Converting part of the school car park into a playground space
- B) Moving the existing fenced-off area on the Green so that it is right next to the school
- C) Creating a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) on the site of Millthorpe School
- D) Creating replacement car parking for Scarcroft staff on the site of Millthorpe School

### Why does the school need to expand?

In spite of a gradual increase in the number of pupils on roll, some families are being turned away even though they are in the school's catchment area. In the past five years the school has been oversubscribed and in some cases, younger siblings have not gained a place at the same school as their brothers or sisters. This has led to real problems for families, who are being asked to get their children to two different schools. Figures from the Local Authority (LA) show that this situation is only going to get worse over the next few years. The school's Governing Body has as its primary goal the desire to meet the needs of its local community. This is supported by the Board of Trustees for the South Bank Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

### Why does the school need extra playing space?

The school does not have enough space for the children that are already on roll (see figure 1). There are

currently 327 pupils on roll, which means the school has approximately one third of the space that the DFE requires. With 95 additional children due to join the school over the next few years, the situation would only become significantly worse. The school would experience safety issues as a result of overcrowding. It should be noted that the school has already removed its afternoon playtimes due to overcrowding on the playground.

### Can't you use existing space more flexibly?

The school already seeks to mitigate its lack of outdoor playing space by staggering its playtimes—older and younger children currently go out to play at different times so that there are not too many children outside at once. This is more challenging at lunchtime, however, when there is a need to feed every child, as well as allow them enough time for fresh air and physical activity outside. Some additional space is to be created using part of the car park, but this will not be sufficient by itself.

## Why can't you use the whole car park for play space?

The school is considering a range of options as to how much of the car park might be used for play space. However, the school will always require some parking spaces for Disabled access and deliveries. In addition, the lease with Scarcroft Green Nursery requires the provision of six parking spaces for their staff, though this may be negotiable. Some school staff need to be on site early in the morning or late at night, for opening up and locking the school. In the winter months, this means that they are doing this as a lone worker in the dark. Providing access to on-site parking meets the school's duty of care as a good employer and allows the staff to carry out their duties safely.

The school also gains a substantial amount of income from its regular lettings—this generates enough revenue per year to pay for a teacher's salary. The vast majority of these lettings find the site an attractive proposition partly because there is on-site parking. The loss of this income stream would have a significant impact on the school's budget, at a time when schools are already under financial pressure during this period of 'austerity'.

It should also be noted that the vast majority of schools in York offer their staff on-site parking. If Scarcroft removed this benefit from the staff, it might make the school a less attractive place to work.

## What would the car park at Millthorpe be for?

The proposed car park at Millthorpe school would provide some alternate parking for Scarcroft staff. However, it is currently projected to provide around 20 places, against the 30 that is likely to be lost by converting half of the Scarcroft car park to play space. There is already a shortage of parking spaces at Millthorpe, and so it is likely that the new car park would have to be shared between both schools.

## What would be the benefits of moving the existing fenced-off area on the Green?

The school was granted priority use of a fenced-off area on the Green approximately seven years ago. This was an informal arrangement between the school and the LA, following a period of public consultation. This space remains available for public use outside school hours, such as in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays.

The school is currently able to use this for Sporting activities, but there are Safeguarding challenges if they need to use it for playtimes, as it is not positioned next to the school building. There are difficulties inherent in taking large groups of children across

a public space that potentially contains dogs off the leash and strangers unknown to school staff - safeguarding the children must at all times be the school's priority.

If the space was moved to be adjacent to the school railings, the area would become usable play-space, reducing over-crowding on the playground. There is no intention to change the public access - this fenced-off area would remain available to the local community outside school hours. It would be no bigger, so the public space available would not be affected. The grassed surface would remain unchanged.

## How will the MUGA at Millthorpe help?

Even with the additional space on the car park and the moving of the fenced-off area on the Green, the school is unlikely to meet the DFE's requirements for space. However, a MUGA (even if on a different site) would be used by the DFE as part of its calculations to ensure that Scarcroft pupils have access to sufficient outdoor sports space. All-weather surfaces count double, as they are available on a year-round basis, whatever the conditions.

Although it would not be available for playtimes, a MUGA at Millthorpe would be near enough for the school to use it for a number of sports events, including their competitive matches. Currently the majority of these events are played as away matches, as there is nowhere to host them at Scarcroft.

A MUGA would also provide welcome sporting facilities for local people from across the community and across the age-groups. It would be made available for different groups to hire in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays, thus providing a welcome new resource for the South Bank community. It is possible that it could be floodlit.

## Will Scarcroft School need its own MUGA?

The proposal is to use part of the school's car park for playing space. Although it would work perfectly well as a concrete surface, if funding permits, the intention is to cover it with a multi-use year-round sports surface, creating a "mini-MUGA" within the school grounds. There is **no intention or desire** to use any part of Scarcroft Green for a MUGA.

## Are there any implications for traffic in the surrounding area?

The increase in pupil numbers is likely to mean more traffic. In addition, any changes to car parking provision at Scarcroft and/or Millthorpe will inevitably change traffic patterns. Any proposed solution will be examined by the LA's Highways and Travel planners to assess its impact on traffic.

## What will happen if we are unable to create new playing space?

The expansion of the school to provide additional pupil places has to be approved by the DFE before it can go ahead. If the DFE requirements for outdoor space cannot be met, or good progress made towards them, it is unlikely that this approval will be forthcoming. In that case, we will be looking at a situation where some local children will be provided with school places well outside their catchment area.

## What happens next?

### Annex C

There will be a public meeting at Millthorpe School on Wednesday 13th July at 7.00pm hosted by local Councillors. Whether or not you are able to attend this meeting, we encourage you to share your views. These can be emailed to [education@york.gov.uk](mailto:education@york.gov.uk) The deadline for responses to be received is 26th August.

**Thank you for participating in this consultation. The eventual solution will require a balance between the needs of pupils, staff, parents and other residents. Your input will help South Bank MAT and the City of York Council to understand those needs and priorities, so that a decision can be reached that addresses them appropriately.**

**FIGURE 1: Existing and proposed new space available**

Pupils	EXISTING SPACE			PROPOSED NEW SPACE		Total	DFE Requirement
	Playground & EYFS area	Allotment	Fenced-off area (the Green)	One half of the car park*	Millthorpe MUGA*		
327 (current)	2,184 m <sup>2</sup>	251 m <sup>2</sup>	1,768 m <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	4,203 m <sup>2</sup>	13,012 m <sup>2</sup>
420 (proposed)	2,148 m <sup>2</sup>	251 m <sup>2</sup>	1,768 m <sup>2</sup>	1,846 m <sup>2</sup>	5,246m <sup>2</sup>	11,259 m <sup>2</sup>	16,679 m <sup>2</sup>

Sources: Department for Education, City of York Council, Scarcroft School

\* Area is doubled for DFE calculations due to the MUGA surface

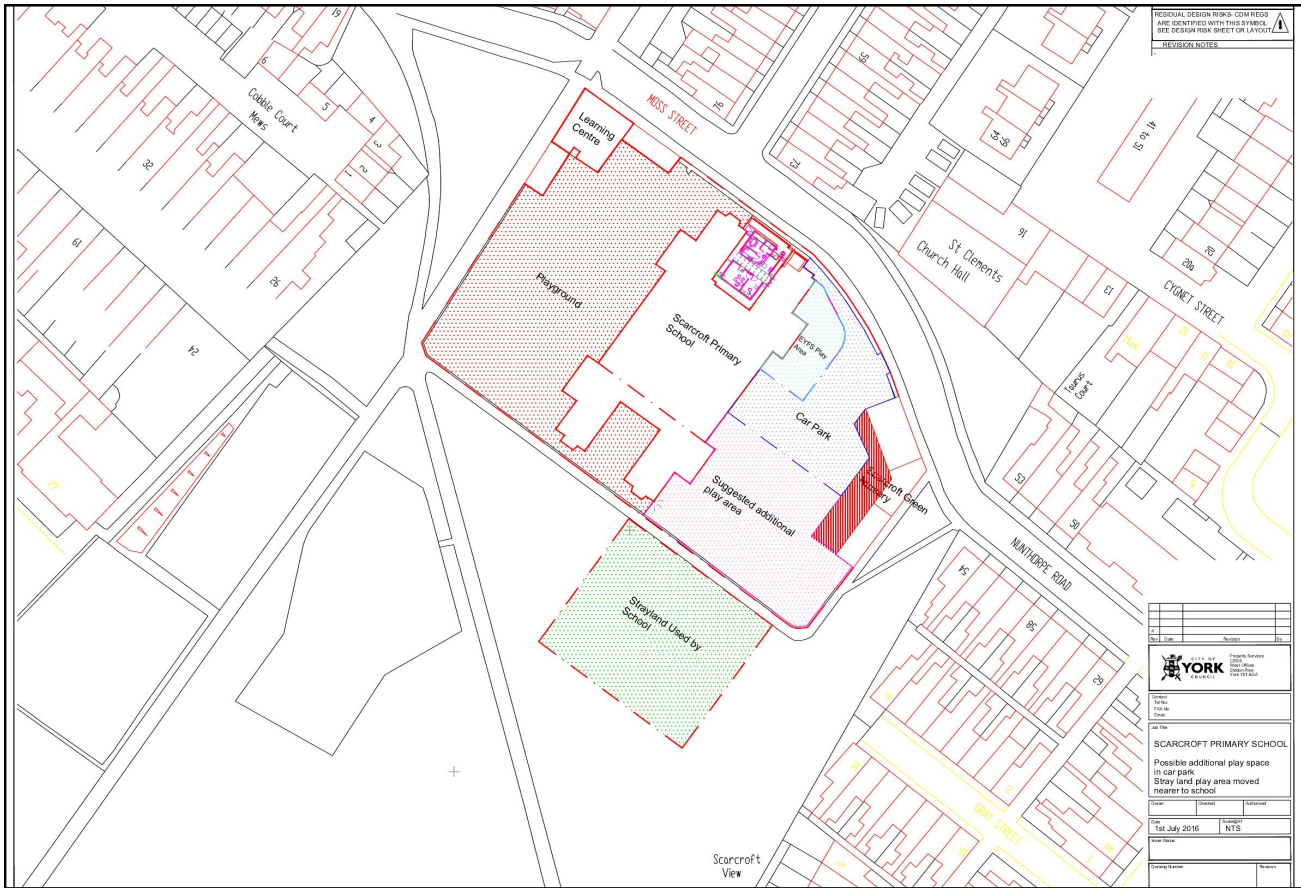
The table above shows how the school can take action in order to meet DFE requirements for outdoor space. It is important to note, however, that not all of the space shown will be available for use at playtimes.

The MUGA at Millthorpe will only be used for sporting activities as it is too far away from Scarcroft School for use at playtimes. The proposed mini-MUGA on the school's car park is actually only **half** the area shown above, as the DFE counts MUGA space double for their calculations.

The area given for the Millthorpe MUGA is only an indicative figure, as the actual size of the MUGA has yet to be determined.

The table shows a small reduction in the existing 'Playground & EYFS area' for 420 pupils. This is because the school would need to convert the shelters in the playground to a Library and an after-school club space to provide for the extra children.

**FIGURE 2: Proposed new layout of outside space, showing possible new location of the fenced-off area on Scarcroft Green, and additional play space on the car park.**



Sources: City of York Council, Scarcroft School

**FIGURE 3: Possible new MUGA and car park at Millthorpe school. Note that the size and location of the MUGA are only indicative. The actual size and position have not been decided. The proposed car park has not yet been assessed by LA Highways and Travel planners.**



Sources: City of York Council, Millthorpe School