

News Feed



Christchurch Schools Action Group

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THE TEMPORARY 'SCHOOL-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL' AT TWYNHAM

THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SO FAR

Please note there are two terms being used for this school – the school-within-a-school or SWS, and the Temporary Infant School or TIS. Both mean the same thing.

A.1 Why is the temporary school needed?

Because the new Primary School to accommodate the growth in numbers of young children in the northern and western parts of Christchurch, which is being planned for a site off Marsh Lane, won't be ready until 2017.

Consequently the temporary school will open in September 2015 to take the overflow of Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 children (i.e. 4-7 year-olds) who would otherwise be going to the new Primary School, and won't fit into the Infant School because it is full up.

A.2 Why is it going in at Twynham?

Because Twynham School has the space available, with the appropriate infrastructure and facilities already in place, and no new land needs purchasing; it is therefore cost-effective to create it there. Also because Twynham is within the Catchment area concerned, and is the school those who attend the SWS will graduate to as they reach 11 years of age.

Other potential sites have been investigated, but none have met the criteria required.

A.3 What will happen if the new Primary School is late in opening?

The new school at Marsh Lane is currently due to complete in the summer of 2017, so that the new school can open in for use in September 2017. If this was delayed how and where the temporary school would continue would be subject to discussions with all the Christchurch schools.

The team responsible for creating the SWS is in close touch with the team creating the new school - the two projects now have the same project manager.

B.1 Will the SWS stagger its start, finish and break times with those of Twynham School, to avoid the young children getting mixed up with the older children? And will the SWS be open for early morning drop-off and remain open for late afternoon pick-up?

Yes it will. The TIS day will begin at 8.50am (the main School's at 8.40am), morning break at 10.35 to 10.50am (main School's 11 to 11.20am), lunch time 12.15 to 1.15pm (main School's 1.20 to 2.15pm), and finish at 3.05pm (main School's at 3.15pm).

'Funtastic', a before-school 'breakfast' club and after-school 'tea' club, will operate between 7.45 and 8.50am and 3.05 and 6pm.

C.1 Where can we park to drop off (and pick up) our children at the SWS?

The nearest car park is off Willow Way. Permits are available from Christchurch Borough Council - see next question.

The car park at the front of Twynham School will almost certainly be full - there is a very faint chance you may find a space, but don't bank on it.

The parking spaces elsewhere on the Twynham School site are not available or accessible to parents or guardians.

Both Riverlea Road and Stourbank Road are already congested with residents' cars, and then students who are driving and parents who are picking up Twynham pupils add more. So any parent delivering their child to the SWS should not approach it along these roads.

South View Road is a Private road and is inaccessible to non-resident drivers.

The odd space might be found along roads further afield which have on-street parking, such as Stour Road, Douglas Avenue and Fairway Drive, but you will be in competition in with other non-school related drivers.

Parents & guardians should refer to the SWS's Traffic Management Policy, copies of which are being circulated as part of the Induction pack to all parents & guardians of children attending the TIS.

D.1 The car park permits for parents & guardians dropping off and collecting children from the SWS: how can I apply for one, what will it cost, and what will it cover?

Please contact the SWS office. A permit costs £35 per school year, and will cover one hour in the morning and one in the afternoon at the Willow Way car park.

D.2 Why only for Willow Way car park?

The parking permit will only relate only to Willow Way car park as this is the closest to the school, is one of Christchurch's less busy car parks, and had a previous concession for parent/guardian parking for Priory School. Wick Lane car park (behind the Regent Centre), for example, is far busier and the Council would not be willing to reduce the availability of spaces for shoppers.

The Priory School term-time parking passes for Willow Way, for use by parents & guardians dropping off/picking up children at Priory School, stopped being issued in the early 2000s due to a lack of demand.

The permits will not guarantee that spaces will be available at Willow Way.

D.3 What will happen on Mondays when the market traders use Willow Way?

Alternative spaces have been found elsewhere in Christchurch for most of the Traders, but with the numbers of Traders varying – more before Christmas, less in mid-January, for example – there may still be some who park at Willow Way. Parents and guardians with permits should be aware of this, and take that possibility into account.

There will be various people monitoring the Willow Way car park, from Christchurch Borough and Dorset County Councils, and from the SWS and the main School. To begin with this will take place through the first three months of the SWS being in operation, and thereafter as the need arises, and any changes or improvements that might be necessary will be considered for implementation.

D.4 How will I get across Sopers Lane with my child if I park at Willow Way?

Please follow the footpath along Sopers Lane to the existing crossing, and cross there. An additional 'zebra' crossing and Crossing Patrol are not going to be provided to begin with; the situation will be monitored through the first three months of the SWS being in operation, and any changes or improvements that might be necessary will be considered for implementation after that.

D.5 Can the parking permits be shared?

The permit will be able to have two different cars named on it.

D.6 If the temporary school is in use for part of a year, how will the parking permit work?

Parking Permits are issued on an annual basis, and so the one for Willow Way will cost £35 plus an extra for any additional term the SWS will be at Twynham. The actual amount of this extra per term is likely to be somewhere around £12.

D.7 Is the Willow Way car park big enough?

The Willow Way car park has 62 spaces. 18 of these are reserved for use by staff working at the Captain's Club Hotel, and 3 for large vans. This leaves 41 spaces, 4 of which are for Disabled drivers and 1 for motorcycles.

Until the exact numbers of those who are looking for car parking spaces is known it is impossible to predict whether Willow Way will cater for all those looking to park on a given day.

It is likely that some parents & guardians will be making use of the Pre-School and After-School clubs and therefore will be arriving earlier and later than others to drop off and collect their children, and that some will car share.

Consequently as part of the monitoring mentioned above reviews will take place through the first three months after the School opens in September 2015 to ascertain usage – but of course this will ebb and flow depending on weather conditions, on the children involved, on parents' & guardians' other activities, and on varying car share arrangements.

The next nearest car park, Mayor's Mead, has 121 spaces, while the next after that, the Marks & Spencer Bank Close car park, has 138 spaces.

E.1 How we can contact other parents & guardians to talk about all this?

An Action Group has been set up for the new Primary School and for those whose children will be attending the SWS - see <https://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchSchoolsActionGroup>

F.1 Isn't the Local Education Authority obliged to provide free transport for any child who lives more than two miles away from the school it attends?

Yes. If you live two miles or more from the school, children should be eligible for Local Authority provided transport. Information will be circulated to parents & guardians of children attending the SWS.

G.1 How will you help to manage congestion in Riverlea and Stourbank Roads?

Note: Dorset County Council handles on-street parking, while Christchurch Borough Council handles off-street parking, i.e. the car parks. Twynham School has no authority outside its boundaries.

The situation in these two roads is already fraught, and has been for several years. Individual house-owners with more than one car, residents working shift patterns, rented properties with more than one tenant owning a car, parents picking up, teachers and pupils parking, other vehicle owners from neighbouring roads, all are contributing to this. So, as part of establishing the SWS process, notices have been published to those concerned, saying that:

* Access to the SWS is to be via the Marsh Ditch footpath, not via Riverlea and Stourbank Roads.

* All parents & guardians of children attending the SWS should seriously consider sharing.

* If car sharing is not feasible, car users should not park in Riverlea and Stourbank Roads.

* Willow Way car park is a more easily accessible alternative, with a relatively low-cost permit system that will enable parking for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon.

All the above will be monitored and reviewed regularly. Meanwhile,

* Twynham School will review and work to improve its own information on how to approach and park around the school, and will review and work to improve the car parking issues across its own campus.

* A "How to Deliver to Twynham School" leaflet/email/web notice will be produced, for issuing to all suppliers and contractors, setting out the preferred route via Sopers Lane, and requesting all appropriate consideration and etiquette if there is no option but to use Riverlea and Stourbank Roads for deliveries and access.

* The Civil Parking Enforcement team - aka 'traffic wardens' - will be receiving a full briefing so that they, Twynham School, the Dorset County Council Highway Authority, and Christchurch Borough Council can monitor and police the situation in these two roads both individually and together.

Note the SWS will follow the same term times as Twynham School, so that allowing for weekends, public holidays and school training days both schools will be open between 185 and 190 days in the year, and closed between 175 and 180 days out of 365.

G.2 How will you help to manage the No Entry for non-residents into the privately owned South View Road?

South View Road will not be accessible for cars and trucks wanting to gain access to either school, or to drop-off and pick-up pupils from either school.

It will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists for access to the 'March Ditch' public footpath, so if you are walking or cycling to either school you will be able to use it, but non-residential drivers will be stopped from entering the road by a new gateway entry point with lockable barrier.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at the SWS on the Twynham campus

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Community