A proposal for a new school in South Croydon

Coombe Wood School

(11-18 mixed comprehensive)

Coombe Road Playing Fields – Local Plan Ref. 662

Opening in September 2018
How to contact us:

Register your interest in Coombe Wood School at: www.cws-croydon.co.uk

Visit Folio Education Trust’s website at: www.folio-education.co.uk

Write to us at: Folio Education Trust, Croydon Road, Wallington, SM6 7PH.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Folio Education Trust’s proposal to site their new secondary school in South Croydon.

Folio Education Trust is a new ‘Multi-Academy Trust’ designed to support students in a number of good and outstanding schools in South London. Its vision is to develop a strong partnership of no more than ten schools which will work together in raising the standard of education for young people and become an employer of choice within the local area.

At present the Trust includes Wallington County Grammar School, Sutton and will now grow following approval from the Department for Education for the Trust to open a brand new comprehensive, mixed secondary school for children aged 11 to 18 living in South and Central Croydon. The school will open in September 2018. In addition to this new secondary school the Trust hopes to work in formal partnership with a number of other primary and secondary schools in the area. Close formal relationships will be developed with those schools where facilities and services can be shared. Agreed admissions criteria will provide a logical route through the various key stages of education from primary into secondary and secondary into Sixth Form, as young people mature into well-rounded and successful young adults.

This proposal document provides an outline for the new secondary school in response to the public consultation on Croydon Council’s draft Local Plan. It describes what the new school may look like and feel like for those students, parents and staff who become part of its community. It also describes how such a school will operate within the local community.

The proposed location of the new school is the existing site of the Coombe Road Playing Fields, a site designated by London Borough of Croydon in the Croydon Local Plan as being a possible location for a new secondary school.

Local Plan Reference Number - 662 - Coombe Road Playing Fields, CR0 5RB.

Funded directly by the government’s Educational Funding Agency (EFA), this school will look to apply to Sport England for additional financial support to develop enhanced sports facilities on the site which can be used by recognised sports clubs.

Sport and the values it projects will be at the heart of this new school demonstrating that Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship are at the cornerstones of educational development.

Croydon Local Plan can be viewed at the following web address: https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/clp-detailed-policies-proposed.pdf
Location of the proposed new Folio Education Trust Secondary School at Coombe Road Playing Fields, CR0 5RB.

Our Proposal

Potential site for the Coombe Wood School, Coombe Road Playing Fields.

Park Hill Junior School, Central Croydon.

St. Peter’s Primary School, South Croydon.
DELIVERABILITY

This new secondary school will form part of the government’s Free School programme and is being funded directly by central government’s Education Funding Agency (EFA). It will therefore be an ‘Academy’ and will be free to choose where best to procure necessary services relying less on the Local Authority. As part of a Multi-Academy Trust the school will be held to account for the way it spends public money by the EFA and will be subject to regular audits. Regarding its educational provision and performance, the school will be closely monitored and evaluated by a team of Ofsted Inspectors led by a member of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate.

The brand new building will be designed with the support of the EFA, and will provide bright and spacious areas in which to learn. Designed specifically with the curriculum plan in mind the school’s design will also take into account how local sports clubs may wish to use the facilities out of hours. The Trust hopes to deliver enhanced sports facilities following a sporting facilities assessment in the local area and working with Sport England through a business case and funding application.

Following the approval of Croydon’s Local Plan and once planning permission has been granted by Croydon Council the school will look to open in temporary accommodation on the Coombe Road Playing Fields for the first cohort of children in September 2018. Taking advantage of this generous site and while protecting a significant portion of the area so that it remains ‘greenbelt’ the permanent build will be constructed over an 18 month period to ensure it opens to receive the second cohort of children in September 2019. The area used by the temporary buildings will then be remediated back to greenbelt following the opening of the permanent structure.

It is important to the Trust that the school grounds maintain a feeling of the natural environment. To help deliver this the school will propose to be designated as a ‘Forest School’ meaning that it demonstrates a commitment to outdoor learning and takes advantage of its setting next to Coombe Wood. In addition to this the contractors will be asked to landscape the sloped areas of the site to include outdoor learning spaces such as a small open air performance area and wild meadows which will sit among the cut grass sport pitches and cycle circuit which the Trust hopes to establish on the school site.

WHY IS A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL NEEDED?

Croydon Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available across the Borough. Over the past 10 years the largest population growth in Croydon has been amongst children. Additionally, forthcoming housing developments in Croydon will increase demand for school places. Croydon Council has carried out an analysis of the projected demand for pupil places which demonstrates that it will remain under significant pressure.1 To address this Croydon Council has stated that sites will be needed to deliver these additional secondary school places between 2018/19 and 2023/24, with up to 24 Forms of Entry being required in the secondary phase by 2022.

Folio Education Trust has recognised this need and has had approval by the Department for Education to open a secondary comprehensive school with a Sixth Form in the South Croydon area. As part of the approval process we carried out research amongst parents in the South Croydon and immediate surrounding areas to gauge evidence of need. We had very positive responses from parents of children due to commence secondary school in the near future with an indication that the school would be oversubscribed by 52% for the years 2018/19. Parents welcomed the prospect of a local school for local children and expressed great interest in an academic curriculum supported by the high-expectation culture and ethos of the proposed school.

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WHAT TYPE OF SCHOOL WILL IT BE?

Type - Comprehensive Academy
Admitting girls and boys aged 11 – 18. A local school for local children which will include a 10% partially selective criterion for children with a sporting aptitude.

Size - The Pupil Admission Number (PAN) will be up to 240 pupils in each Year Group (8 Form Entry) with a Sixth Form of up to 480. Total approximate size of the school will be 1600 pupils with approximately 175 staff.

ADMISSIONS

We are proposing that the new school should have a similar admissions policy to other local schools\(^2\). Children with Education, Health Care Plans will be prioritised. Over-subscription criteria will be:

- Looked After Children (LAC).
- Children who live closest to the school.
- Up to 10% of the school’s Pupil Admission Number (PAN) will be selected following a sporting aptitude assessment\(^3\).

We will consider including a siblings criterion and potentially include a priority for children of employees who work for Folio Education Trust.

We will consider developing a feeder system with local primary schools who become part of Folio Education Trust.

POSSIBLE TIMELINE TOWARDS OPENING

- Autumn 2016 – Croydon Local Plan public consultation.
- Spring 2017 – Croydon Local Plan adopted by Croydon Council.
- Summer 2017 – The Planning Inspectorate report written.
- Autumn 2017 – Croydon Local Plan approved.
- Autumn 2017 – Folio Education Trust submit a planning application to Croydon Council for a temporary structure and a permanent structure.
- Spring 2018 – Planning Applications approved by Croydon Council.
- September 2018 – Temporary school buildings open for first cohort.
- September 2019 – Permanent school buildings open for second cohort.

\(^2\) Our admissions proposals will be subject to public consultation.

\(^3\) Sporting aptitude assessment would be designed by the Trust and carried out as part of the admissions process. It would be an objective test which is designed to give an accurate reflection of a child’s sporting aptitude, irrespective of sex, race, or disability.
This new comprehensive school is being proposed with the needs of local families in mind and aims to achieve a smooth progression from the end of the primary school years all the way through to entrance into university or a professional career or higher apprenticeship. Moving between schools can often be unnecessarily complicated but this new school aims to ensure the warm surroundings of a primary school education are maintained as students take on the challenges of secondary school life.

Folio Education Trust has adopted the motto; ‘We Believe in ourselves. We Believe in each other’. This demonstrates how determined the Trust is in developing a family of schools who can all work together with the best interests of young people in mind. Everything we do is to improve the life chances of the children who attend our schools. Below is an explanation of our core values system which guides us.

**Believe** in ourselves and those around us encouraging ability and creativity.

**Endeavour** at all times and never give up.

**Love** what we do and the end result will be a logical consequence.

**Inclusion** will help us ensure we are one community without isolation.

**Emotional** intelligence will guide our decision making.

**Value** our community and develop a sense of social responsibility.

**Excellence** will be achieved with a growth mind-set.

CULTURE AND ETHOS OF COOMBE WOOD SCHOOL

Coombe Wood School has five core values which will permeate every aspect of the school curriculum:

- **Teamwork** – working together and effectively participating is the most satisfying feeling for any young person in seeking their next positive experience. There is comfort in numbers when things go well and when things don’t. Remembering the core belief that a school should not have any “islands” within it, the school community will act like a team around the individual to ensure they feel loved and well supported. Even the person working on their own like a time trial cyclist has a team behind them which projects them into a winning position. A student struggling to understand a key concept in maths can be supported by their friends, their teacher and their parents. Together they can aspire, together they will achieve.

- **Respect** – people learn from the habits of others - parents, friends and teachers. A school which has weak links of respect within it fails to model the way to excellence. Modelling high expectations and high standards for others is the first step to gaining respect and creating a healthy environment which shares and celebrates people’s achievements. People give respect to those who are genuine in their intentions and who work tirelessly for the benefit of others. When respect can be held for another person there becomes a more positive relationship which in turn develops trust. Trust creates an environment where anything is possible.

- **Enjoyment** – when people are enjoying themselves they hold their head up high and look around them. When they are unhappy their head drops and they miss out on so many opportunities. Schools are full of opportunities for students, staff and parents. The school community therefore, must offer enjoyable and memorable experiences for people. All students and staff must open their eyes in the morning and be excited about what lies ahead. The goal is that staff and students wake up in the morning and say to themselves; ‘today is going to be a great day’. Life moves fast so you might as well enjoy it. Even when things are tough don’t turn your back, don’t give up. Enjoy and embrace the challenge knowing that when you win you will be happy and when you have lost but done your best you will be satisfied.
• **Discipline** – every school has a behaviour policy but discipline needs to run deeper than this. Discipline is more to do with conduct. The way in which a person self-regulates their behaviour. To have self-discipline means that a calm environment can be maintained at all times. People must be thoughtful of others in their words and actions to create opportunities to succeed. To be successful, specific pathways must be followed. If people falter along their journey it may mean they fail to reach their personal best. To be disciplined in life does not mean to just follow laws and consume energy from those who watch over us. To be disciplined means to embrace the message of the law and produce energy which others can feed upon. Living a disciplined life inside and outside of school, making the right choices and meeting with triumph and disaster with the same positive attitude will lead to a well-rounded and well-grounded existence.

• **Sportsmanship** – when things are difficult people must be encouraged to have a go and show endeavour. To opt out and turn your back on your team mates or the task in hand fails to improve our intellect and understanding. People must all try their hardest in everything, knowing that should they falter along the journey there is always someone to support them and give them the recognition they deserve. There is nothing more satisfying than giving something your all and being able to say to others when the battle is over – ‘well done I admire your courage’. Sportsmanship displays more than self-regulated discipline or team work. It is an empathetic attitude which benefits and celebrates others’ achievements. A school community which is permeated with sportsmanship enjoys the challenge and shows respect for the work that those within the community demonstrate.

With the support of the Educational Funding Agency (EFA), Sport England and Croydon Council Folio Education Trust hopes to deliver enhanced sporting opportunities for girls and boys. We believe that all young people must embrace the importance of a healthy lifestyle, what it means to win and lose and to find enjoyment in participating with their peers in a team or in individual sporting opportunities. The facilities that the school hopes to develop will include a competition venue within the sports hall with seating for spectators enjoying sports such as Basketball and Futsal. Outside there will be a full size 3G artificial floodlit surface which will be used by a local Football Academy and other clubs seeking to provide opportunities for young people to engage in sport in the evenings and at weekends. With the help of Croydon Council and British Cycling the school hopes to deliver a closed circuit cycle track which will form a significant part of the school curriculum as young people build their confidence in cycling on the road and help raise participation in this sport. In the evenings and at weekends the school hopes to attract local Triathlon and Cycling clubs.

Moving away from sport, Coombe Wood School aims to be a centre for Music, Art and Dance Education. The School’s MADE Academy will not only provide outstanding facilities and learning experiences in this area as part of the school curriculum but will also give young people the opportunity to explore their interest in this creative area after school and at weekends.

The new school wants to become a hub for extra-curricular activities not only for children who attend the school but also for other children in the local area who want to engage in what the school has to offer. The new school will have an extended day and will be open at weekends in an attempt to solve the issue many parents face when they are traveling long distances to take their children to clubs and societies.
INDICATIVE AERIAL VIEW OF INITIAL PROPOSAL, SUBJECT TO PLANNING

Floodlit tennis & netball courts
Grass sports pitch and athletics track
Amphitheatre formed on existing slope
Floodlit 3G artificial sports pitch
Cycle track

Wild flower meadows – a large proportion of the site will be maintained as ‘green belt’.

Sports hall, with changing facilities and dance studio

Tramlink to Croydon, Wimbledon & New Addington
EDUCATIONAL PLAN FOR THE NEW SCHOOL

Our proposal, as agreed by the Department for Education, is to provide an aspirational academic curriculum for all students regardless of their background. Whether young people decide to stay with us for five or seven years they will all be able to make good choices about their next steps as they will be equipped with the right knowledge, skills and qualifications to choose a high quality vocational path or whether to progress to a top university.

From the very start of an accelerated two year Key Stage Three, students will spend much time on core subjects as we know that excellent literacy and numeracy are essential for anyone to thrive across all subjects, and we believe in focused extra support for anyone needing it in these key areas. As a school with high ambitions for our students we will teach Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and Geography and History as full subjects from the first week rather than limiting quality by delivering Humanities and Science packaged together. Both business and universities constantly highlight the importance of languages, and we believe in a five year journey with children mastering at least one additional language to GCSE level, as well as being taught the essentials of grammar through exposure to Latin. Creative and practical subjects including Computer Science and coding provide the rest of a broad curriculum. During an extended Key Stage Four there is time to enrich and provide extra support for students as they take their GCSEs in core subjects and three options (which with appropriate support they choose to study), leading most students to gain the EBACC recognising the excellence of their achievements and giving them many opportunities going forwards.

The Sixth Form is due to open in September 2020. Students who join will be able to study a range of gold standard A Level subjects taught by specialist teachers. Their pathway will be directed towards places at university and higher apprenticeships. To complement this pathway the school will also consider offering Level 3 BTEC qualifications in areas such as Sport Management and Performing Arts.

Students will be supported by Academic Mentors through frequent 1-to-1 sessions and regular contact between parents and the school. With every member of the school community taking pride in their House, the House system permeates all aspects of school life, promotes healthy competition and encourages young people to do their best in everything they attempt whether that is achievement in lessons, helping other people, contributions to Drama, Music, Art, Sport or other Vocational or Academic Societies. There will be an extended school day, with all students taking part in a wide range of clubs and societies and also providing the opportunity for supported study.
PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

We firmly believe that success in life comes through hard work and taking full advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. We hope to see young people embrace participation in school and when engaging in clubs and societies during evenings and weekends. It is our job as a provider of a new school to do as much as we can to secure the necessary funding for amazing facilities.

We wish to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to develop a love of physical activity and that they are able to participate in activities with confidence. We hope to see this confidence branch outside of normal school hours into participating as part of local clubs and societies.

As a Trust which hopes to work in partnership with other schools in the local area, we believe that life skills should also be developed beyond the normal school day for all ages. It is for this reason that we are engaging with local clubs such as those below who share our enthusiasm for young people in sport.

Whatever your age there is something for everyone at Coombe Wood School.

The following clubs share our ideals:

Shelton Athletic Football Club has been built with the success of young people in mind. Its mission is to see girls and boys take advantage of targeted coaching provision so they can develop the skill and mind set required to be successful at football. In 2011 the club was awarded the FA Charter Standard and now seeks further recognition as a Community Club.

Tri Surrey Triathlon Club is looking to develop new provision for young triathletes through developing opportunities to cycle. With limited facilities in the local area the club is excited to hopefully benefit from facilities such as a 1 km cycle track and WATT Bike studio.

Volenti are a dedicated elite performance football academy who operate in the South Croydon area. Working closely with Volenti and Shelton Athletic Football Club, the school hopes to use its floodlit artificial 3G playing surface to run a number of coaching squads for all ages which will include students from Coombe Wood School and other local schools. Volenti also offer a sport management service supporting families whose children move towards professional football and together with Folio Education Trust the two organisations will ensure all players receive outstanding pastoral care during this journey.

We recognise that there will be other local clubs and primary schools who will wish to benefit from these new facilities. Nothing should prevent maximising their use so we welcome involvement from all.
Thank you for reading our response to the public consultation on the Croydon Council’s draft Local Plan. The Coombe Road Playing Fields site - Local Plan ref. 662 - is one of the proposed sites for new secondary schools in Croydon's draft Local Plan. We hope that our proposal to locate our school and associated enhanced sporting and creative arts facilities for local clubs has generated your interest and support. If you would like to comment, please contact us using the contact details at the beginning of this document.

Our Proposal

Folio Education Trust is developing a close relationship with St. Peter’s Primary School in South London who are currently the home of the Croydon Sports Partnership. So that the partnership can benefit from the new facilities that the school proposes to make available they may relocate to Coombe Wood School. This will provide additional learning space for St Peter’s Primary but also allow the partnership to continue their work developing opportunities for local schools to engage in sporting fixtures and events. By locating itself on Coombe Road Playing Fields the new school wants to ensure it continues to be a venue for local sport which the whole community can benefit from. Subject to capital funding the school hopes to have a fitness studio, weights gym and WATT Bike studio which will all be made available to the local community early in the morning before school starts and in the evenings and at weekends.