



Bishop Fox's High Standards & High Expectations

Proposal to amend the catchment area of Bishop Fox's School to include the catchment areas of Trull, Churchstanton and Thurlbear Primary Schools.

The Trustees of Bishop Fox's School are consulting on a change to the 2027/28 admission arrangements for Bishop Fox's School. The proposal is to extend the current catchment area of Bishop Fox's School to create a dual catchment with the Castle School. This includes the catchment area of Trull and Churchstanton Primary Schools and the remaining catchment area of Thurlbear Primary School. This would also include a small pocket of land on the Killams estate which is identified within the local plan for housing development (Mattravers Way and Foden Close) that currently sits outside of Bishop Fox's catchment area (see map below).

Currently, the catchment area for Thurlbear Primary School sits within the catchment area for Bishop Fox's School. However, there is a small area in the Thurlbear Primary School catchment, around the village of Corfe, that is within The Castle School's catchment area. Also, the Killams estate is solely in Bishop Fox's School's catchment area, however the small new build development around Mattravers Way and Foden Close is split by the catchment boundary lines with The Castle School. This postcode is 0.68 miles from Bishop Fox's School, whereas The Castle School is over 2 miles away.

Trull Primary School and Churchstanton Primary School currently sit within the catchment area for The Castle School. However, because of the large amount of housebuilding on the edge of Taunton and associated pressure on places at The Castle School, there is some uncertainty that pupils of Trull and Churchstanton would receive a place at The Castle School. Trull Primary School is 2.2 miles from The Castle School and 2.7 miles from Bishop Fox's School; including the village of Pitminster which is 4 miles from Bishop Fox's. Churchstanton is nearly 10 miles away from The Castle School, and Bishop Fox's is 9.2 miles away from Churchstanton Primary School.

Bishop Fox's continues to admit pupils from outside of its catchment and therefore should have the capacity to accommodate the small number of additional pupils applying from the new extended catchment area. Journey times between homes in the Trull and Churchstanton catchment areas and Bishop Fox's are similar to those to The Castle School. Somerset Local Authority have agreed to provide travel assistance to pupils who have a statutory entitlement and attend Bishop Fox's School from the extended catchment. The Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP) do not propose to consult on reducing the catchment area of The Castle School at this present time. This means that pupils living in the Trull and Churchstanton catchment areas will have a priority as catchment pupils for both The Castle School and Bishop Fox's School.

