

Consultation on the proposal to expand Orchard Meadow Primary School

1 November 2011 – 13 December 2011

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council and the Governing Body of
Orchard Meadow Primary School**

About Orchard Meadow Primary School

Orchard Meadow Primary School is a community school for children aged 3-11 in Blackbird Leys, Oxford.

The total number of children (October 2011 pupil census) is 299 (excluding the Nursery), as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	45	45	45	38	42	35	49

Why are we consulting?

Orchard Meadow Primary School's Admission Number was until recently 30. However the school has admitted over this number for the last few years to meet growth in demand for pupil places in Oxford. From September 2011 the Admission Number rose to 45, which more accurately reflects the actual intake of pupils into the Reception (F1) class each year. Demand for pupil places across Oxford city has risen and future plans for the regeneration of Blackbird Leys could include up to 1000 additional homes: therefore the expectation is that the rise in pupil numbers will be sustained.

As a result, the proposal is to expand Orchard Meadow Primary School to become a 2 form entry school with an Admission Number of 60. This would bring the number of children on roll at the school up to possibly 420 children (excluding the Nursery).

We think that this is a popular school at the heart of its community, which should expand to meet local demand. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see the school grow.

What we want to do

We are planning to increase the school admission number from 45 to 60. Because the published admission number for 2012 has already been decided, the school's admission number can only now formally change from 2013.

In September 2012, only F1 (Reception) year group would have up to 60 children. The school has sufficient classroom accommodation to accept 60 Reception (F1) pupils in September 2012. In September 2013, both F1 and Year 1 would have up to 60 children. Gradually the 60 pupil year groups will progress through the school, so that seven years on, all year groups could potentially have 60 pupils.

If, following this consultation, it is decided to permanently change the admission number to 60, there may be a need for more classrooms to be built. A detailed feasibility study has begun, which will look carefully at the school's site and buildings to see how classrooms could best be provided.

Your views

Because of the increase in the proposed size of the school we need to make sure that the proposal is supported locally. This is a two stage process:

Stage One:

Consultation with parents, local schools and others about a permanent change to the admission number to 60. That will take place until 13th December 2011. You have until that date to respond (see details below).

This consultation is to help inform the plans. The final decision rests with the County Council. If, as a result of the consultation, they want to go ahead with the expansion, Stage Two will follow.

Stage Two:

The County Council will publish a *public notice* in the local paper and at the school. There will then be a *statutory notice period* of 4 weeks, during which you can send any formal objections to the proposal to the County Council. These will be considered by the County Council Cabinet before making a final decision. If you wish to object to the expansion, you must do so during the statutory notice period even if you have already responded to the consultation during Stage One. We currently expect the statutory notice period to be in March 2012.

The County Council Cabinet (if there have been objections) or the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement (if there are no objections) will then make the final decision on this permanent change, and this is currently planned to be in April / May 2012.

How you can respond to this consultation

The information necessary for an informed response is contained in this consultation document, which is also available online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation

You can respond in one of four ways:

- complete the response form at the back of this document and send it to the address shown on the response form
- respond online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation - go to the *Consultation portal*
- write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
- email your response to:
OrchardMeadow2011-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if you have more than one child at the school. Please return your form as soon as possible, but by **13th December 2011** at the latest.

**Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of Orchard Meadow Primary School,
Oxford**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Address (optional)

- Parent of a child at Orchard Meadow Primary School
- Parent of a child at another school
- Parent of a child not yet at school
- Governor/staff at Orchard Meadow Primary School
- Local resident
- Other (specify)

Tick all that apply

Please return by 13th December 2011 to:

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

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