

Consultation on the proposal to expand Wolvercote Primary School

16 January 2013 – 6 March 2013

**Produced Oxfordshire County Council
with the Governing Body of Wolvercote Primary School**



**Meeting for interested parties at Wolvercote Primary School, First Turn,
Oxford OX2 8AQ at 7pm on 20th February 2013**

**Your opportunity to discuss with school and Oxfordshire County Council
representatives**

Introduction

Wolvercote Primary School is a community school in Wolvercote, north Oxford, and is a member of the Cherwell partnership of schools. The school has an admission number of 30 and operates as a 1 form entry primary school, but admitted a one-off “bulge” class in September 2010 due to exceptional demand for pupil places from families living in Wolvercote.

The total number of children on roll at the time of writing is 229 as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	30	30	56*	31	31	29	22

*Bulge class admitted September 2010

Wolvercote Primary School was inspected by Ofsted on 11/12 December 2012 and at the time of writing the expectation is that the inspection report will be published in mid-January 2013 at www.ofsted.gov.uk. In its last full inspection in January 2008 the school was graded Good and this was sustained in its Interim Assessment in January 2011.

Why are we consulting?

The school is consistently oversubscribed, and for the September 2012 intake, the 30 available places in the Reception class were allocated as shown below:

- 52 first preference applications received
- 30 places allocated
- 36 applicants refused

The applicant living furthest from the school to be offered a place lived 0.7 miles away (in lower Wolvercote which has priority for places at this school). The first applicant refused a place lived 0.5 miles away.

Oxford City Council’s Core Strategy for Growth to 2026 was approved by the Secretary of State in autumn 2010, and sets out the intention to provide at least 8,000 additional dwellings in Oxford city between 2006 and 2026, including 579 dwellings allocated to the Wolvercote ward by 2019. More school places will be needed in the Wolvercote area to meet the local population growth expected as a result of this housing. Expanding Wolvercote Primary School will also ensure more parents can send their children to their first preference school.

There is also a need for more school places across Oxford as a whole. The current forecast for primary age pupils in Oxford is as follows:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2012-13	1424	1286	1329	1273	1224	1207	1038	8782
2013-14	1459	1412	1269	1324	1271	1273	1204	9213
2014-15	1522	1453	1402	1271	1329	1331	1281	9588
2015-16	1560	1512	1438	1397	1269	1382	1331	9889
2016-17	1581	1548	1495	1433	1394	1324	1380	10154

(These forecasts are for January of each year: more Reception children would be expected to arrive at primary school by the end of each school year.)

What we want to do

The County Council, supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, wishes to increase Wolvercote Primary's admission number from 30 to 45 from September 2014. If, following the statutory consultation process, it is decided to permanently change the admission number to 45, there will be a need for more classrooms to be built. A feasibility study has begun, in partnership with the Headteacher and governors, which is looking carefully at the school site and buildings to see how additional classrooms and other accommodation might be provided.

We think that this is a popular school at the heart of its community, which should expand to meet demand for places from a growing population. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see Wolvercote Primary School grow to admit 45 pupils each year into Reception and operate as a 1.5 form entry school.

Your views

Please take the time to tell us what you think. This consultation is about the principle of increasing the number of children at the school. The changes to the buildings will require Planning Permission, offering a separate opportunity to comment on the proposed building layout and design as part of the planning process.

Stage One:

Public consultation is taking place until 6 March 2013. You have until that date to respond. This consultation is to help inform the decision on this proposal. The decision to proceed to the next stage rests with the County Council's Cabinet or Member for Education. If, following this consultation, a decision is made to proceed, 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 June / July 2013. The County Council Cabinet (if there have been objections) or the Cabinet Member for Education (if there are no objections) will then make the final decision on this permanent change, and this is currently planned to be in July 2013.

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: <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>
There are several ways to respond:

- complete the response form at the back of this document, or write your own response, and send it to the address shown on the form
- respond online at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>
- email your response to: Wolvercote2013-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 **6 March 2013** at the latest.

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

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Address (optional)

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

Tick all that apply

Please return by 6 March 2013 to:

Diane Cameron

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

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