



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PROPOSAL

Expansion of Edward Feild Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Edward Feild Primary School, Bicester Rd, Kidlington OX5 2LG from 01 September 2018.

The Local Authority proposes to expand Edward Feild Primary School to a standard 2 form entry size, rising from the current Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 45 to one of 60 from September 2018 onward. This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2018 onward would consist of up to 60 places, organised as two classes of 30, making a maximum total of 420 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

Children would be admitted into Reception in two full forms of 30 each, and would most likely stay in that single age class as they progressed up through the school.

Schools across Kidlington have experienced rising demand for places in recent years, and there has been a pressure on availability of places across the partnership for the younger children. Edward Feild Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community and since 2014 has, at the request of the county council, been above its PAN of 45, welcoming in up to 60 children into Reception in those years, to meet local demand. A decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school to an annual intake of 60, or return it to an intake of 45.

The most recent available forecast for primary pupil numbers across Kidlington is shown below. Note that this forecast does NOT include additional pupils generated by any new housing development in the area and is therefore viewed by the county council as a conservative estimate:

| YEAR | R | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | TOTAL |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 2016 | 185 | 199 | 200 | 169 | 193 | 170 | 177 | 1,293 |
| 2017 | 213 | 182 | 199 | 199 | 168 | 190 | 166 | 1,318 |
| 2018 | 185 | 212 | 182 | 198 | 198 | 167 | 188 | 1,329 |
| 2019 | 190 | 183 | 212 | 181 | 197 | 197 | 164 | 1,324 |
| 2020 | 187 | 187 | 182 | 211 | 180 | 195 | 194 | 1,337 |
| 2021 | 186 | 185 | 187 | 181 | 211 | 178 | 192 | 1,319 |

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If Edward Feild Primary School were to return to an admission number of 45, the Kidlington partnership of schools jointly would provide 195 primary places per year; if Edward Feild Primary School permanently expands to an admission number of 60, the partnership would jointly offer 210 places per year.

The County Council considers that for effective school organisation, a margin of “spare” school capacity is necessary, to provide some flexibility for unexpected influxes of children and expressions of parental preference. The Department for Education (DfE) considers it “*reasonable for authorities to aim for between 5 and 10 per cent primary surplus to allow them some opportunity to respond to parental choice*” and that 5% is “*the bare minimum needed for authorities to meet their statutory duty with operational flexibility, while enabling parents to have some choice of schools*”.¹ The figures above show that, without permanent expansion of Edward Feild Primary School, the number of surplus places in Kidlington falls below what is considered reasonable to accommodate parental preference and natural fluctuations in pupil numbers.

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the demands of the existing population, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into any new homes built within the village. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in Kidlington, a permanent expansion of Edward Feild Primary School is now sought.

If Edward Feild Primary School expands to 2 form entry (PAN 60) on a permanent basis, there will be sufficient places to meet the current scale of population growth.

The school has very recently been rated Good by Ofsted: expansion will ensure sufficiency of good quality education to children living within the village as its population grows, and that there is an effective operation of parental choice.

The total estimated cost of expansion is £365K, and this will primarily be funded from Basic Need funding for required additional school places. Future housing developments may also be required to contribute s106 contributions retrospectively.

This full proposal can be viewed under the Current Consultations listings on the Oxfordshire County Council public website at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be requested by contacting:

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County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND
Tel: 07795301254 or Email: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Any person may object to or make comments (representations) on the proposed expansion by sending them to the Local Authority using the online feedback form located on the Oxfordshire County Council website as detailed above, or by email or post to the above address.

¹ 2013 National Audit Office report *Capital Funding for New School Places*

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All representations must be received by midnight on 11 October 2017.