

# **Consultation on the proposal to expand Charlton Primary School, Wantage**

**17 January 2011 – 7 March 2011**

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## **About Charlton Primary School**

Charlton Primary School is a community primary school for 4-11 year-olds on the eastern edge of Wantage. It is currently organised as a 1.5 form entry school, with an admission number of 45 for September 2011 (increased from 40 up to September 2010). Its most recent Ofsted inspection (September 2009) judged the school to be good with outstanding features.

The current number of children in each year group when the October 2010 pupil census was taken was 309, as shown below:

<b>Reception (F1)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
45	42	44	44	40	44	50

(Two more children have since joined the school.)

## **Why are we consulting?**

In recent years the Wantage and Grove area has experienced a significant and sustained rise in primary pupil numbers, due to recent housing development within Wantage and also a rise in the birth-rate. Schools in the surrounding villages have been used to provide additional places, but we need to increase the number of primary school places within Wantage.

We have looked at all three Wantage primary schools to see which could be expanded. We have decided that Charlton Primary School would be the most appropriate school to expand because Oxfordshire County Council prefers to provide primary schools with the admission number set in whole forms of entry – for example, 30 or 60. This allows more flexibility in organising teaching, for example single-age classes. Charlton is the only school in Wantage which does not already have an admission number of 30 or 60.

**We want to know your views and whether you are happy to see the school grow.**

## **What we want to do**

We are planning to permanently increase the school's published admission number in September 2012 from 45 to 60. This means that each year group would consist of up to 60 places, taught in two classes, making a maximum total of 420 pupils.

Although the admission number for September 2011 has already been published as 45, if the permanent increase to 60 is agreed, and if we are able to provide accommodation in time, the school may agree to accept more than 45 children in 2011 if the number of children applying for places in Wantage exceeds the published admission numbers of the three schools.

The year groups already at the school would be expected to stay as 1.5 form entry as they move through the school, so classes of children already at the school would not need to be reorganised. The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 60 children are admitted to the reception class, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size.

Catchment areas for schools in Wantage and Grove will also be reviewed, but this will be the subject of a separate future consultation.

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To accommodate the extra children, we are planning to provide a new Foundation Stage building. We plan to extend the main building slightly to create four new classrooms for Key Stage 1/2 children; this would allow the current temporary classroom to be removed. We are also looking at how other spaces, such as a small hall, can be provided.

### **Your views**

We need to make sure that the proposal to expand Charlton Primary School is supported locally.

**This consultation with parents, local schools and others will take place until Monday 7 March 2011. You have until that date to respond (see details below).**

This consultation is to help inform the plans. If, as a result of the consultation, the county council wants to go ahead with the expansion, we 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 this consultation. We currently expect the statutory notice period to be in May/June 2011.

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 in summer/autumn 2011.

### **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](http://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](http://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 [charlton2011-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:charlton2011-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if you have more than one child at the school. Return your form as soon as possible, but by Monday 7 March 2011 at the latest.

There will be a meeting for parents of children at Charlton Primary School on Thursday 3rd February 2011 at 7.30pm to discuss the proposal. This will be an opportunity to ask questions of the headteacher and county council staff, and see draft plans of the proposed building extension.

**Response form**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

.....  
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.....  
.....  
.....

Signature.....

Name.....

Address (optional) .....

Parent of a child at Charlton Primary School

Parent of a child at another school

Parent of a child not yet at school

Governor/staff at Charlton Primary School

Local resident

Other (specify) .....

*(Tick all that apply)*

**Please return by Monday 7 March 2011 to:**

**School Organisation and Planning**

**FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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