

Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of St Nicholas Primary School, Oxford

8 June 2009 – 20 July 2009

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council and the Governors of
St Nicholas Primary School**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



About St Nicholas Primary School

St Nicholas Primary School became a primary school in 2004, having previously been an infant school.

The current number of children in each year group (May 2009) is shown below:

N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
40	53	43	49	44	46	45	46	366

*N = Nursery, R = Reception. Together they make the Foundation Stage.
A number of these places will be part time.*

Why are we consulting?

Until now the school has planned to admit 45 children each year. For September 2008, 57 parents chose the school as their first choice. Due to rising numbers across Oxford City, 60 children will be admitted to the school in September 2009.

Primary Care Trust records and the annual census of local children in early years settings show that the demand for places is likely to continue to be above the planned admission number. Other nearby schools are also expected to be full or nearly full, and pupil numbers across Oxford are expected to rise further.

We think that this is a popular school at the heart of its community, which should expand. 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 admission number from 45 to 60. This means that each year group would consist of up to 60 places, with 2 single-age classes per year group. For example, instead of Years 1 and 2 being taught together in three mixed-age classes, Year 1 would be taught in 2 classes and Year 2 would be taught in 2 classes. Classes will have up to 30 children.

This increased admission number will allow more parents in Oxford to get their first choice of primary school for their children.

To accommodate this growth in pupil numbers, we will need to build at least two more classrooms and other spaces by September 2010. The amount of hall space will be increased by creating a separate external storage space for furniture currently kept in the hall. Until then the school will have enough room.

Your views

Because of the large increase in the proposed size of the school we need to make sure that the proposal is supported locally.

This consultation with parents, local schools and others will take place until Monday 20 July 2009. You have until that date to respond (see details below).

If as a result of the consultation the county council wants to go ahead, we will publish a *public notice* in a local newspaper and at the school. This would be the final opportunity for people to comment on the proposal. The County Council Cabinet or the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement will then make the final decision in December 2009.

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 three ways:

- complete the response form at the back of this document and send it to the address shown on the response form
- write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
- email your response to the email address shown on the response form.

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 20 July 2009** at the latest.

There will be a meeting for parents of children at St Nicholas School on Thursday 2nd July, at 7.00pm in the school hall, to discuss the proposal and the plans for building new classrooms. This will be an opportunity to ask questions of the headteacher and county council staff.

A separate meeting will be arranged with the Marston local community.

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I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Parent Governor Local resident Other (specify)

Tick all that apply

Please return to:

**School Organisation and Planning
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

No stamp required.

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