

Consultation on the proposal to expand New Marston Primary School, Oxford

17 January 2011 – 7 March 2011

Produced by Oxfordshire County Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



About New Marston Primary School

New Marston Primary School is a primary school for 3-11 year-olds in the north-east of Oxford. Its catchment area includes Headley Way and Northway. It opened as separate infant and junior schools in 1948, and became a primary school when the city's schools were reorganised in 2003.

The current number of children in each year group (October 2010 pupil census) is 268, as shown below:

Nursery (F2)	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
27	43	50	30	30	27	30	31

(Pupil numbers have since risen by 13.)

Why are we consulting?

Until recently the school had planned to admit 30 children each year. Due to rising numbers of children needing primary school places in Oxford, the school agreed to take more than its admission number in September 2009 and 2010. The school's admission number for 2011 was published at 60, and we now need to decide whether to permanently expand the school to 2 forms of entry (with an admission number of 60).

In recent years Oxford has experienced a significant and sustained rise in primary pupil numbers. To meet this demand, in 2008 an additional 105 primary school places across the city were agreed; in 2009 a further 245 additional places were created (including 30 at New Marston Primary School); and in 2010 another 238 additional places were created (including 25 at New Marston Primary School). Looking to the future, significant additional housing is proposed in Oxford City Council's Core Strategy, which will, in turn, lead to increased pupil numbers across the city.

The proposal to expand New Marston Primary School is one part of the County Council's strategy to meet the need for primary school places in Oxford. Several other schools across Oxford are also planned for expansion over the next few years.

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 30 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 (excluding the nursery). The school's site is large enough to support this many children.

The current Years 2-6 would be expected to stay as 1 form entry as they move through the school, so the school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 60 children are admitted to the reception class. The school would therefore reach its maximum size with 2 forms in every year group in 2015.

Work is under way at the school to improve the Foundation Stage area and to create an additional Year 1 classroom. At the end of these improvements a prefabricated classroom unit will remain on site. This will provide enough classrooms for the children arriving in 2011 and 2012.

If, following this consultation, it is decided to keep the admission number at 60 for 2013 and beyond, there will be a need for more classroom spaces. We will look carefully at the school's site and existing buildings to see how this can best be provided.

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 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 Oxford Mail 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

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 newmarston2011-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 New Marston Primary School on Wednesday 9 February 2011 at 2.00pm to discuss the proposal. This will be an opportunity to ask questions of the headteacher and county council staff.

Response form

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature.....

Name.....

Address (optional)

Parent of a child at New Marston Primary School

Parent of a child at another school

Parent of a child not yet at school

Governor/staff at New Marston 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

(No stamp required)

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