

Consultation on the proposal to expand Woodstock CE Primary School

27 April 2011 – 8 June 2011

Produced by Oxfordshire County Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



About Woodstock CE Primary School

Woodstock CE Primary School is a voluntary controlled school for children aged 3-11 in Woodstock.

The total number of children (January 2011 pupil census) is 238, as shown below:

Year Group	Nursery (F2)	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	35	30	30	30	29	24	30	30

Why are we consulting?

Until recently the school had planned to admit 30 children each year. Due to growth in the local population of young children, in recent years the school has received more applications from within the Woodstock catchment area than it has been able to accommodate. For September 2010, there were 11 children from within the catchment area who could not be offered a place, and the school is oversubscribed to a similar amount for September 2011. Population data shows that this level of demand can be expected to continue. In addition, nearly 100 new homes are being, or have recently been built, close to the school, and this can be expected to increase demand for places at Woodstock CE Primary School.

The governors and staff of Woodstock CE Primary School are committed to accommodating and welcoming all local children who want to attend this school. This would require the school to become a 1.5 form entry school, eventually bringing the number up to possibly 315 children (excluding the nursery).

We think that this is a popular, well-respected school at the heart of its community, which should expand to meet local demand. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see the school grow.

What we want to do

We are planning to increase the school admission number (at F1 entry) from 30 to 45. Because the published admission number for 2011 and 2012 has already been decided, the school's admission number can only now formally change from 2013. However, the school would like to accept over its official admission number in 2011 and 2012 to allow all in-catchment children to attend. We therefore plan to accept up to 45 children into Reception (F1) from September 2011.

This coming September, only F1 would have up to 45 children. In September 2012, both F1 and Year 1 would have up to 45 children. Gradually the 45 pupil year groups will progress through the school, so that seven years on, all year groups could potentially have 45 pupils.

This means that some future class groups will be mixed age, for example, some Year 1 children and some Year 2 children will be taught together. However, this will not affect children currently at the school (already in F1 or above).

The school, with minor internal alterations, has sufficient accommodation to accept 45 reception pupils in September 2011. If, following this consultation, it is decided to change

the admission number to 45 permanently, there will be a need for more classrooms to be built. A detailed feasibility study will look carefully at the school's site and buildings to see how the new classrooms could best be provided.

Your views

Because of the increase in the proposed size of the school we need to make sure that the proposal is supported locally. This is a two stage process:

Stage One:

Consultation with parents, local schools and others about a permanent change to the admission number to 45. That will take place until Wednesday 8 June 2011. You have until that date to respond (see details below).

This consultation is to help inform the plans. The final decision rests with the County Council. If, as a result of the consultation, they want to go ahead with the expansion, 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 September 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 on this permanent change, and this is currently planned to be in late 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 Woodstock2011-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 **Wednesday 8 June 2011** at the latest.

There will be a formal meeting for parents of children at Woodstock Primary School on Tuesday, 17 May 2011 at 7.00 pm to discuss all aspects of the proposal. This will be an opportunity to ask questions of the Headteacher, Governors 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 Woodstock Primary School

Parent of a child at another school

Parent of a child not yet at school

Governor/staff at Woodstock Primary School

Local resident

Other (specify)

(Tick all that apply)

Please return by Wednesday 8 June 2011 to:

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

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