



# Consultation on a proposal to expand Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School

**28 September 2015 – 8 November 2015**

Christopher Rawlins Church of England (VA) Primary School is located in the village of Adderbury in Cherwell District, the school is part of the Bloxham area partnership of schools. The school is a 1 form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 30 (i.e. the school admits up to 30 children each year in to the reception class). The school was inspected by Ofsted on 18 September 2014 and was graded Good.

The total number of children on roll at the start of September 2015 academic year was 223 (including the Nursery children) as shown below:

Year Group:	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Number of Pupils:	17	30	30	30	30	30	26	30

## What is being proposed?

### Expansion

The Diocese of Oxford and Governing Body of the school, supported by Oxfordshire County Council, propose to increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2017 from 30 to 45. This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2017 onward would consist of up to 45 places, making a maximum total of 315 pupils across the whole school eventually.

The year groups already in the school pre-expansion would be expected to stay at 30 in size 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 45 children are admitted into the Reception class, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. However, should housing development lead to large numbers of older primary children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to expand the older year groups as well.

There would also be a corresponding increase in the number of nursery places offered at the school, from 40 (part-time equivalent) to 52.

## **Class size unaffected**

Where possible, county council policy is to expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 per year group (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This helps schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 45 as standard. This does not mean that there are 45 pupils in a class; class sizes remain the same, but more classes are run and some are mixed year group classes (e.g. a class of 30 might be run mixing 15 pupils from Year 1, and 15 pupils from Year 2). The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school and the new buildings will be designed to support different models; for example the foundation stage will have 2 reception classrooms located alongside the nursery. Class size is restricted by law in Key Stage 1 to a maximum of 30 children per class.

## **Reasons for proposal**

Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. There has been a steady increase in demand for primary school places in this part of Oxfordshire: the school now has very few spare places, and is completely full in most year groups. For September 2015, there were more applications for children living in the school's designated area than the number of Reception places the school could offer.

Surrounding schools such as Deddington CE Primary School, Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary School and Bloxham Primary School also have very few spare places.

There are a number of housing developments approved for Adderbury, which are expected to increase the demand for primary school places over the next few years. The Cherwell Local Plan identifies Adderbury as a sustainable location for some further housing growth, along with some surrounding villages, such as Bloxham, Deddington and Steeple Aston.

The county council, working with the Oxford Diocese and local schools, has considered the potential for each of the local schools to expand. Bloxham Primary School has already increased in size to a 2 form entry school; further afield Hook Norton Primary School is expanding from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry in 2015.

To meet the needs of the growing population in Adderbury and the surrounding area, an additional half-form of entry in primary school capacity is now required.

Having considered both the expected pattern of population growth and the site constraints of the local schools, detailed options appraisals were commissioned to identify what additional accommodation would be needed for Deddington CE (VA) Primary School or Christopher Rawlins Primary CE (VA) Primary School to be able to expand.

Having considered the results of these options appraisals, the governing body at Deddington CE (VA) Primary School voted unanimously against expansion at the current time. The governing body at Christopher Rawlins's CE (VA) Primary School has decided they think it appropriate to expand the size of the school to meet local demand both now and in the coming years.

To provide some context, for entry into the school for Year 1 in September 2015, there were 85 initial applicants for the 30 places on offer which included over 40 requesting Christopher Rawlins as first choice leading to a situation where villagers were excluded due to their proximity to the school. This was before the full impact of the two larger housing developments were realised as they were not fully inhabited at the time of application.

If Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School expands to 1.5 form entry it will have sufficient places to meet the scale of population growth expected within its designated area. There may be some years when exceptional population pressures in the partnership

mean that surrounding schools cannot meet the demand for places within their own designated areas; expansion of Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School to 1.5 form entry will therefore also help to ensure that sufficient school places can be provided to all children within a reasonable distance of their homes.

## Buildings

To accommodate the extra children, the governors of Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School and the Oxford Diocese are planning to provide new Foundation Stage accommodation, plus two additional classrooms and an enlarged school hall, alongside other improvements within the building.

It is expected that the cost of extending the school will be met from money the county council will secure from developers building houses in the local area.

A detailed feasibility study, managed by Oxford Diocese, is in progress to identify how the school could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided by this school. A draft expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school. While this is not the final scheme, it may be useful to give an idea of how the expansion might be achieved on site:



## School Development Plan

### The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education

Proposed Plans - Option A,  
20 March 2015

L:\Projects\1428\_Christopher Rawlins CE VA Primary School\Drawing\Plan1\_Base Drawing\1428\_Sk02\_Archival File.dwg

1428/SK02



Oxfordshire, t: 01295 22280 • Dorsetshire, t: 07791 12090  
e: email@thinking-buildings.co.uk  
www.thinking-buildings.co.uk

We think that this is a good school which can and should expand to meet the demand for places from a growing population. We want to know your views about the proposal to expand.

## Important points to remember

- The Governing Body of the school have made the following statement:

*“The governing body of the school support the expansion. It is the firm commitment of the governing body that all children in the village should have a place available at Christopher Rawlins, and that the organic growth of the school will ensure that this commitment can continue to be honoured. It is also important for the village infrastructure to maintain Adderbury as an inclusive, vibrant village that is a perfect place for families. Developing the school is an exciting project which will allow us to meet the needs of our children, giving us more flexibility in terms of pupil groupings and the opportunity to offer our high standard of education to more children. Furthermore, it has committed to ensure that any expansion work is carried out mindful that the education of existing children cannot be compromised.”*

- The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education have made the following statement:

*Part of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education mission is that quality education with a Christian ethos is available for parents and children in this Diocese who wish for this education and ODBE is keen to work with Local Authorities to provide the provision where possible. We bid for new schools in areas of high growth and are also sympathetic to existing schools expanding in response to increasing populations due to housing developments, birth rates and immigration.*

*Each district in Oxfordshire has a Local Plan and a target for numbers of new homes in those areas. Adderbury, as a rural area with good transport links, is attractive to developers and families. Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School, as the village school, is a vital part of the village landscape and economy. It is successful and popular with parents and offers pupils a varied and enriching education. We feel that if Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School does not expand, families in the catchment areas may be denied access to their local school and that would be detrimental to relationships and reputation. The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education therefore supports the proposed school expansion.*

- Adderbury Parish Council have made the following statement: *“APC supports the proposed expansion up to one and a half form entry on the existing school site, as the Parish Council believes this will ensure all Adderbury children will have the opportunity of a place at the village school. The report on the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire showed that the clear majority view of residents was to support the expansion of the school on its present site”.*
- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Cherwell District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to Cherwell District Council.
- This consultation is taking place until **8 November 2015**. You have until midnight on that date to respond to us. All responses received will then be considered.
- The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for a final decision on expansion to be confirmed by the Governing Body of the school. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families

would also formally decide whether to support the proposal, but she is not the final Decision-Maker in school-led proposals such as this one.

## How you can respond to this consultation

This information is available online at the county council's website in the consultations section: <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>. We would like to hear from you if you support this proposal as well as if you have any concerns. There are several ways you can submit your views:

- respond using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>;
- email your response to: [diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk) putting CHRISTOPHER RAWLINS EXPANSION in the subject line;
- complete the response form at the back of this leaflet and post it to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, **FREEPOST** Oxfordshire County Council (you do not need to use a stamp)

**Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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

Name: .....

Address or email address (optional): .....  
 .....

- Parent of a child at Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School
- Parent of a child at another school (please specify).....
- Parent of a child not yet at school
- Governor/staff at Christopher Rawlins CE (VA) Primary School
- Local resident
- Other (specify) .....

*Tick all that apply*

**Please return by 8 November 2015 to:**

Diane Cameron  
 School Organisation and Planning  
 County Hall  
 FREEPOST  
 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required).