



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England)
Regulations 2013

Expansion of St Blaise CE Primary School

1. School and LA details

School: St Blaise CE Primary School, Milton

Address: School Lane, Milton Heights, Abingdon, OX14 4DR

Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council

2. Description of alteration

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the leadership team of the school, proposes to expand St Blaise CE Primary School to 1 form of entry. This will mean an increase in St Blaise's admission number in September 2020 from 15 to 30 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2020 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

The school may choose to admit over its current admission number of 15, accepting up to 20 pupils into Reception in September 2019 to gradually build up numbers. This would be achieved through the rearranging of classes and will not require any immediate physical expansion. From September 2020, total numbers would grow gradually each year as up to 30 children are admitted into the Reception classes, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. Should there be a demand for places in older year groups as a result of children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to speed up the expansion of the older year groups.

To accommodate this expansion, the county council would provide four additional new classrooms and other related accommodation, including extensions to the kitchen and school main entrance, and external works to provide extended car parking and playing field. The details of the accommodation are subject to planning permission, and an application has been submitted (R3.0150/18), which will be decided by the county council's Planning and Regulation Committee.

3. Evidence of demand

At the time of writing, planning permission has been granted for over 500 new homes in St Blaise catchment area since 2012, including a large site allocated in the Local

Plan. The county council considers it essential to expand St Blaise CE Primary School to ensure sufficient pupil places are available in Milton.

The school's Governing Body wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community and in September 2017 the school expanded from a PAN of 10 to 15, to meet high local demand for primary school places. To create additional space the community room was converted into a classroom and a small extension was built to provide a small store and resource area. This work was funded through a combination of Section 106 funding secured from housing developers and capital funding provided by the county council. A decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school from an annual intake of 15 to one of 30.

Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2018) indicate that St Blaise Primary School will exceed its current capacity of 105 places by 2020, with intakes continuing to grow rapidly beyond that date. Reception pupil numbers are forecast to persistently exceed the current admission number of 15. Actual 2018 pupil numbers are currently slightly higher than had been forecast, and significantly higher than 2017's numbers.

Year	R	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Total
2017 actual	16	12	12	7	9	9	9	74
2018 <i>forecast</i>	15	17	13	13	8	10	10	86
2018 actual	16	16	14	14	10	9	10	89
2019 <i>forecast</i>	17	17	18	14	14	9	11	100
2020 <i>forecast</i>	18	18	18	19	15	15	10	113
2021 <i>forecast</i>	21	20	19	20	21	17	17	135
2022 <i>forecast</i>	23	22	21	20	20	22	18	146
2023 <i>forecast</i>	24	23	22	21	21	21	22	154
2024 <i>forecast</i>	26	25	25	24	23	22	22	167
2025 <i>forecast</i>	26	26	26	26	24	23	23	174

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the forecast demands of the growing population in the area, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into new homes planned to be built around the village. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in Milton, a permanent expansion of St Blaise CE Primary School is now sought.

If St Blaise CE Primary School expands to 1 form entry (30 children per year group) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth.

To inform this expansion, Oxfordshire County Council ran an initial public consultation on behalf of the school, between 7th January 2019 and 4th February 2019. The initial consultation received no responses.

4. Objectives

The proposed expansion would:

- Ensure the county council meets its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places.

- Be supportive of high educational standards and parental choice. St Blaise CE Primary School is rated Good by Ofsted (last inspected October 2018).
- Maintain parental choice for existing families and those moving into the Milton area.
- Prevent unnecessary increases in travel time and costs for families in the area, who would otherwise have to accept places at schools outside Milton.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The school is expanding in line with expected population growth in the area and will provide places for pupils from new developments that would otherwise be putting pressure on surrounding schools. It is not, therefore, expected to have a negative impact on other schools.

6. Project costs and funding

It is expected that the cost of expanding the school will be met from money the county council has secured from housing developers and capital funding provided by the council.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

From 1st September 2020, the school will increase its intake into the Reception class from 15 to 30. It may choose to also admit into older year groups, if local population growth requires this.

8. Objections and comments

Comments or objections must be received by the local authority by **25/03/2019**.

Respond by using the online questionnaire at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultations
 or emailing karen.fowler@oxfordshire.gov.uk (*please quote 'St Blaise Expansion' in the header*)
 or in writing to **Karen Fowler, School Organisation & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND**

9. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is Oxfordshire County Council. The decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services at a meeting which is open to the public, and publicised on the county council's website. The decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period, and is currently expected on 24th April 2019.