

Consultation into primary school provision in the Henley partnership

9 June – 21 July 2010

Produced by Oxfordshire County Council



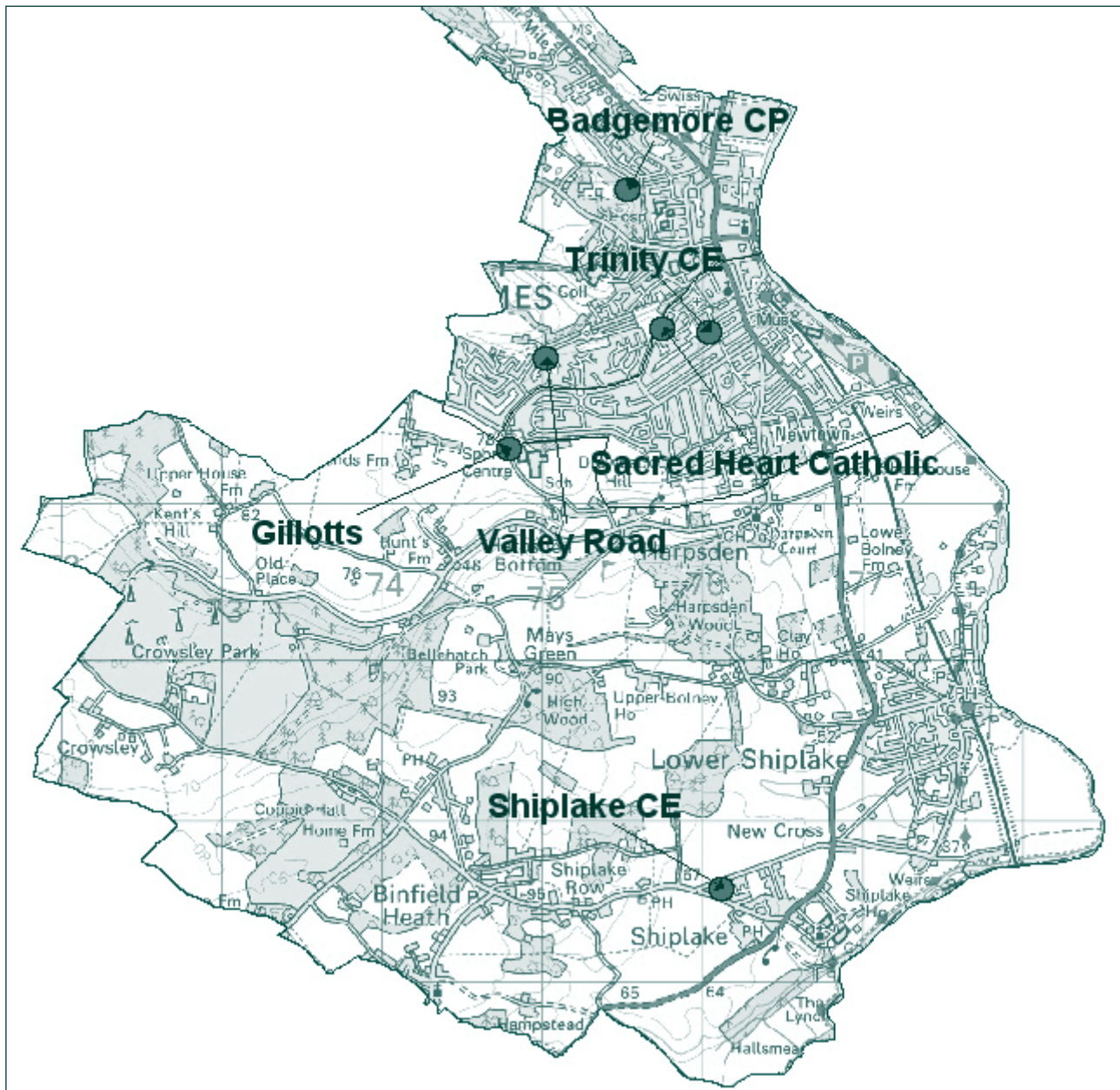
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About primary schools in Henley

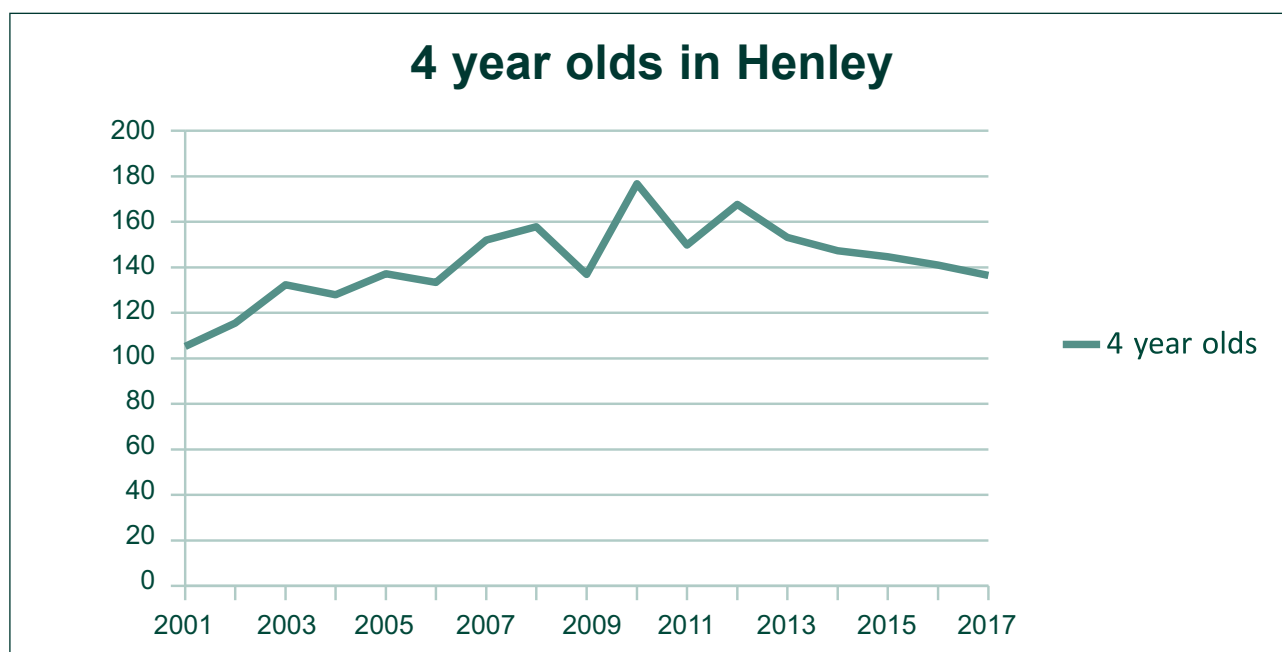
Henley currently has 4 state primary schools, with another primary school just outside the town in Shiplake.

	Admission number	Total number of places for 4-10 year olds	Number of pupils, January 2010
Badgemore Community School	15	105	79
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	30	210	194
Shiplake Church of England School	28	196	195
Trinity Church of England Primary School	45	315	322
Valley Road School	29	203	200
Total for Henley partnership schools	147	1029	990



Current and future demand for primary school places in Henley

The number of 4 year olds needing school places has risen over the last few years, and this has led to increasing pressure on primary school places across the town.



For September 2010 the four primary schools within Henley town received 144 first preference applications for 119 reception places. To accommodate all the children seeking places, Trinity CE Primary School has agreed to admit 55 pupils instead of 45, and Badgemore Community Primary School has agreed to admit up to 40 instead of 15, creating an extra 35 places. In September 2009 there was also a shortage of places, and this was met by Trinity CE Primary School agreeing to admit 60 children instead of 45.

Schools admitting over their admission number can only be a short-term response to a shortage of places. We now think that there is enough evidence to plan for a permanent increase in the number of primary school places in Henley. We would like your views on how we plan to achieve this.

How many extra primary school places are needed?

We think that an additional 30 places per year group will be needed, taking into account:

- Growth from the existing population.
- The suggested level of housing growth in the town by 2026; it is not considered likely that there will be significant housing growth before 2016.
- The need for a small amount of spare primary school places to allow for fluctuations in the local population and parental preference. (It is our policy to aim for 8% spare capacity across non-rural primary schools; at the January 2010 school census, the Henley partnership had only 4% spare capacity.)

This is the equivalent of a new 1 form entry school, or adding 0.5 forms of entry to 2 existing schools. A 1 form entry school is organised with one year group per class of 30 pupils. A 0.5 form entry school is organised with two year groups per class of 30 pupils.

How we plan to meet demand for primary school places over the next few years

We have identified two ways that we could increase the number of primary school places in Henley quickly enough to meet the current rise in numbers:

- Expand Badgemore Community Primary School from 0.5 form entry to 1 form entry. This means an increase in its admission number from 15 to 30.
- Expand Trinity CE Primary School from 1.5 form entry to 2 form entry. This means an increase in its admission number from 45 to 60.

Both Badgemore and Trinity have large enough sites to grow, but they will need some extension to their buildings. These expansions would allow the schools to teach in single-age classes instead of having to mix age groups.

Each expansion would create about half the places which we think are required.

Are we sure this will be enough?

It is very difficult to accurately predict pupil numbers more than a few years into the future, but all the information we have at the moment tells us that this is a suitable amount of additional school places to create. However, in the box on page 6 we are also asking your opinions on a possible longer term development in Henley's schools that could provide more primary places if they are needed.

Are there other ways to meet current demand?

We have also looked at other options, but we do not think they are suitable. If you disagree we would be interested in your reasons.

What we could do	Why we have rejected this option
Expand Valley Road Primary School, Sacred Heart RC Primary School, or Shiplake CE Primary School from 1 form entry to 1.5 or 2 form entry.	These schools do not have large enough sites to grow. These schools already teach in single-age classes, and we would rather take this opportunity to allow the schools currently having to teach in mixed age classes to move to single-age classes.
Build a new 1 form entry school.	We do not currently have a suitable site that would allow us to build a new school quickly enough to meet current demand. A new school is likely to be significantly more expensive than extending existing schools.
Relocate an existing primary school to a new site to allow it to be expanded. We have considered whether Badgemore could expand to 1.5 form entry, with the possibility of growing to 2 form entry in the future if needed; or Valley Road Primary School or Sacred Heart Primary School could expand to 2 form entry. (Relocating Trinity Primary School would not create enough additional places.)	We do not currently have a suitable site that would allow us to relocate a school quickly enough to meet current demand. Also, a relocation and rebuild is likely to be significantly more expensive than extending existing schools, although the sale of the previous school site would help fund the new school.

What else would need to happen?

Because of the changes in the local population and school sizes there will need to be changes to schools' catchment areas. This may also help the pressure on places at Shiplake CE Primary School. Catchment areas will be consulted on separately as part of the annual consultation on school admissions, which takes place each winter.

If we decide to expand one or more of the existing schools, we will work with the schools to identify what additional space they require, and support them through the design and build process.

Schools which grow will receive more funding, as much of their budget is based on pupil numbers.

How will a decision be made?

This is an informal consultation, to help inform our planning. If, as a result of the consultation, the county council wants to go ahead with the expansion of Trinity CE Primary School and/or Badgemore Community Primary School, we will publish a *public notice* in the local paper and at the school(s). 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 a final decision is made. If you wish to object to the proposal, you must do so during the statutory notice period even if you have already responded to this consultation.

The following factors will influence the county council's decisions on how to increase school capacity:

- Our preferred educational model is for schools to operate at 1 form entry or 2 form entry wherever possible, and therefore where rising demand requires an expansion of schools, opportunities are sought to increase schools from mixed-age teaching to single age groups.
- School site sizes should meet Government recommendations for the proposed number of pupils.
- Where new schools are proposed, a suitable site needs to be available.
- We want schools to be as central as possible to the communities which they serve.
- We need to be able to fund any extensions or new buildings required.

There will also be a consultation about admissions numbers and catchment areas for September 2012 in the winter. This takes place every year and the admission number is then published the next spring for eighteen months hence. It is separate from this consultation, which is into the permanent size of schools which are required for Henley.

How you can respond to this consultation

We want to know your views on how we can best increase the number of places in the Henley partnership's primary schools.

This consultation with parents, local schools and others will take place until Wednesday 21st July 2010. 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 calendar*
- write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
- email your response to henley2010-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if they have more than one child at a Henley school. Return your form as soon as possible, but by Wednesday 21st July 2010 at the latest.

There will be a meeting to discuss future primary school places in Henley on Monday 5 July 2010 at 6.00 pm at Gillotts School.

Looking further into the future

With all the information we have at the moment, we believe that expanding Trinity CE Primary School and Badgemore Community Primary School will create enough primary school places in the Henley partnership. However, there is a possibility that in the longer term even more primary school places will be needed, so we are also asking your opinions on a possible longer term development in Henley's schools.

It has been suggested that, if funding becomes available, and if the demand for primary school places continues to rise, an additional way to increase the number of primary school places could be to rebuild Gillotts School as a 3-16 school.

This is not something that could happen for several years, so it does not offer a short-term solution. Future funding of school building projects is uncertain, so we cannot say how realistic this possibility is.

We do not yet have any 3-16 schools in Oxfordshire, although some have been built in other parts of the country. They offer new opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between primary and secondary teachers, and provide more continuity for young people as they move through the different stages in their education.

Because this would be a new type of school for the county, we would like to find out what your thoughts are about whether such a school might be suitable for Henley. If there is a future proposal to change Gillotts to a 3-16 school, there will be a full public consultation before a final decision is made.

Consultation into primary school provision in Henley

We would like your views on our proposals to increase the number of primary school places in Henley over the next few years.

What we could do	Your comments
Expand Badgemore Primary School from 0.5 form entry to 1 form entry	
Expand Trinity CE Primary School from 1.5 form entry to 2 form entry	

Do you have any other comments about how we can increase the number of primary school places in Henley over the next few years?

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Looking further into the future

We would also like to know what you think would be the good and bad things about a 3-16 school. This would be as well as the proposed expansions of Badgemore and/or Trinity, and would not happen for several years. At this stage, we are simply interested in your views to help shape future planning. If there is a future proposal to change Gillotts to a 3-16 school, there would be a full public consultation before a final decision is made.

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Please tell us about yourself:

Parent

Please show what age your children are (*tick all that apply*)

Under 3 3-4 5-10 11-16

Please tick any schools your children currently attend

- Badgemore Community School
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
- Shiplake Church of England School
- Trinity Church of England Primary School
- Valley Road School
- Other primary school
- Gillotts School
- Other secondary school

Governor at School

Staff at School

Local resident

Other (specify)

Tick all that apply

Name Signature

Address (optional)

Please return to:

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

(No stamp required)

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