

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

Hook Norton Church of England Primary School [Voluntary Controlled school]. The Local Authority is Oxfordshire County Council.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

1 September 2015

Objections and comments

Any person may respond by 18 December 2014, sending their comments or registering an objection or support in writing to:

Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council, FREEPOST.

Responses may also be emailed to

diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting HOOK NORTON in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

The proposal is to expand Hook Norton CE Primary School from a 1 form entry school to a 1.5 form entry school.

School capacity

The current capacity of the school is 210 in Years Reception - 6. The proposed capacity would be 315.

The current number of pupils admitted to each year is 30. The proposed number of pupils to be admitted to each year is 45.

The number of pupils at the school at the time of publication of these proposals is:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
25	30	29	30	29	28	31	202

There is also a nursery class providing 30 full-time equivalent places for 3-year-olds. It is not proposed that the number of 3-year-olds places would change.

Implementation

The proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority.

No new or additional site will be required if these proposals are implemented.

Objectives and reasoning

The objective of the proposal is to provide sufficient primary school places for Hook Norton and its surrounding area.

Until now, in most years the school's current admission number has been sufficient to admit all catchment children. Births data indicates that this may not be the case in all future years, unless the school expands. In addition, there has been housing development permitted in the school's catchment area, and the district council's Local Plan indicates that more housing may be approved for Hook Norton. The school's current admission number of 30

will not provide sufficient school places for Hook Norton’s growing population.

The pupil forecasts for Hook Norton Primary School were last calculated in Spring 2014:

School	Year	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	Hook Norton Church of England Primary School	2014/15	30	28	30	30	30	32	30
2015/16		38	31	30	31	31	30	34	225
2016/17		35	39	31	32	32	31	32	232
2017/18		35	35	40	32	32	32	33	239
2018/19		34	35	36	40	32	31	33	241
2019/20		34	34	36	36	40	31	32	243

These forecasts do not include much of the housing planned or proposed for the area, and are therefore considered to be an underestimate of future demand for places.

The county council’s policy is, where possible, to expand primary schools by multiples of 15 or 30 (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This is to help 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 with 15 pupils in Year 1, and 15 pupils in Year 2). The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.

Work has been carried out to identify how Hook Norton CE Primary School could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided by this school. An expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school.

Consultation

Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Hook Norton CE Primary School, partnership primary schools, parents / guardians of Hook Norton CE Primary School pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams. The consultation leaflet was available to view on the county council website.

3 responses to the consultation were received. The respondents raised concerns about the proposal as follows:

- A concern about the effect on educational standards of mixed year group teaching.
- Concern about increased traffic and car parking.
- Concern about sufficient accommodation being provided and its funding.

The Governing Body of the school support the proposal, and the Headteacher made the following response to the concern about the impact on educational standards:

We teach to the needs of individual children not their age, regardless of class make-up. We already have a lot of joint planning between classes which has increased since the new curriculum was introduced in September - Key stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2.

We also already teach mixed age classes - our Foundation Stage Unit has three year groups, we teach across KS1 for phonics which has been hugely successful.

Looking at Outstanding schools with 1.5FE, pupil progress is unaffected, indeed, in some instances pupil progress is enhanced because there is more differentiation by ability and need than with 1 FE. Expectation can also be higher because of the mixed year groups.

There is also more flexibility in terms of class make-up to ensure a balance of pupils in each class and more expertise to draw upon with joint planning.

Local Authority officers responded to the concern about accommodation and traffic by confirming that the design would meet the county council's standards for sufficiency for a 1.5 form entry primary school. The following statement was made relating to traffic and parking:

Oxfordshire County Council's policy is to encourage local, and where possible other, journeys to be sustainable. In order to minimise traffic congestion we, supported by the governors of the school, would advise that pupils, the majority of whom do live within the village, walk, cycle or scoot to school. While we recognise that this is not always possible for all pupils, the county council does not construct car park provision for parents at its schools. Therefore families travelling by car need to be aware of this, and ultimately take responsibility for parking considerately, perhaps a short distance away, and walking the final few metres.

Project costs

The physical expansion of Hook Norton CE Primary School will be funded using money the council has secured from housing developers, to mitigate the impact of new housing in the local area (these are known as Section 106 contributions). The construction of the required new accommodation is currently estimated to cost £1.65m.

The accommodation improvement will be delivered by the county council.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

Hook Norton Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in 2013, when it was rated Good with Outstanding features. The school's performance data is consistently above the average national level, and is in the highest quintile when compared to other schools for many measures

The county council therefore considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply.