

Consultation on the proposal to expand Windmill Primary School, Oxford

10 September 2012 – 22 October 2012

Produced by Oxfordshire County Council

**An open meeting will be held at the school at
7pm on 20th September 2012.**

Your opportunity to discuss the proposal with County Council and school staff.

About Windmill Primary School

Windmill Primary School is a community school for children aged 4-11 in the Headington area of Oxford city. Until recently, Windmill Primary School has been a two form entry school, with a published admission number has been 60. The school is very popular and many applications to the school each year are unsuccessful.

For the September 2011 and 2012 intakes, the school agreed to increase its admission number temporarily, admitting 90 children into Reception (F1) in order to help meet growth in demand for pupil places in Oxford. It was able to do this using its existing buildings, with some internal changes funded by the County Council.

At the last official pupil census in May 2012 there were 444 children on roll as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	88	61	59	59	62	59	56

In September 2012, 90 children are expected to start in Reception, and the total number of children is expected to be approximately 480.

What we want to do

We are planning to increase the school to three forms of entry, with an admission number of 90 on a permanent basis. The formal admission number for 2013 has already been published at 60, but if this proposal is approved the school will admit 90 children in 2013. The school's admission number can only now formally change from September 2014.

If it is decided to permanently change the admission number to 90, there will be a need for more classrooms to be built. A detailed feasibility study has begun, which looks carefully at the school's site and buildings to see how these additional classrooms and supporting spaces could best be provided.

We think that this is a very popular and successful 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.

Why do we want Windmill Primary School to grow?

Demand for primary school places in Oxford has risen rapidly over the last few years, and many schools have grown in response. There are over 300 more Reception places in 2012 than there were in 2006 – the equivalent of 10 additional classes.

High demand for places at Oxford primary schools in general, and at Windmill Primary School in particular, is predicted to continue. Windmill's site and buildings are suitable for expansion, and there is a shortage of school places in the Headington area. If Windmill Primary School grows, more children will attend their first choice primary school.

If Windmill Primary School does not grow, in 2013 it will return to admitting 60 children per year. More applications will be unsuccessful, and some children will have to travel further to go to school.

The proposed expansion of Windmill Primary School is one part of the County Council's strategy to increase the number of school places in Oxford. This strategy includes expansions already underway; other expansions still being explored; and new schools, including "Free Schools" and, in the longer term, new schools as part of major housing developments included in Oxford City Council's Local Plan.

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:

Public consultation with parents, local schools and others about a permanent change to the admission number to 90. That will take place until 22 October 2012. You have until that date to respond (see details below). This consultation is to help inform the plans. The decision whether to proceed to Stage Two rests with the County Council Cabinet. If, as a result of the consultation, the Cabinet 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 or comments 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 January / February 2013.

The County Council Cabinet will then make the final decision on this permanent change, and this is currently planned to be in March 2013.

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

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 : <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>
- write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
- email your response to:
Windmill2012-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if you have more than one child at the school. Please return your form as soon as possible, but by **22 October 2012** at the latest.

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I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Address (optional)

- Parent of a child at Windmill Primary School
- Parent of a child at another school
- Parent of a child not yet at school
- Governor/staff at Windmill Primary School
- Local resident
- Other (specify)

Tick all that apply

Please return by 22nd October 2012 to:

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

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