

Consultation on the proposal to expand St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

16 January 2013 – 6 March 2013



**Produced by the Governing Body of
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and Oxfordshire County Council**

**Meeting for interested parties at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
Headley Way, Oxford at 6pm on 30 January 2013**

**Your opportunity to discuss with school, Catholic Archdiocese and
Oxfordshire County Council representatives**

Introduction

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It is situated in Headley Way, Headington, Oxford in the parish of St. Anthony of Padua but it also serves the parishes of Corpus Christi and Ss. Edmund and Frideswide (Greyfriars). The children attending the school come from most areas of Oxford and several of the outlying villages. The total number of children on roll at the October 2012 pupil census point is 318 as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	44	46	45	46	46	46	45

Why are we consulting?

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's published admission number is currently 45 and the school operates as a standard 1.5 form entry establishment, mixing year groups across its classes. The school is oversubscribed, and for the September 2012 intake, places were allocated as shown below:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Admission Number 45

- 67 first preference applications received
- 45 places allocated (all allocated to baptised Catholic children)
- 34 applicants refused, of which 10 were baptised Catholic

The last successful applicant offered a place lived within 1.4 miles of the school

St Joseph's is a popular school with local families. As a Voluntary Aided school, its designated area (catchment area) is wide, to cover several parishes, and includes Wheatley, Waterperry, Elsfield and Holton to the east of Oxford. It is therefore often the case that Catholic families applying for a place at St Joseph's, and living within the designated area, are unable to be allocated a place as St Joseph's as all of the available places are offered to applicants living closer to it.

Oxford City Council's Core Strategy for Growth to 2026 was approved by the Secretary of State in autumn 2010, and sets out the intention to provide at least 8,000 additional dwellings in Oxford city between 2006 and 2026.

The current forecast for primary age pupils in Oxford is as follows:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2012-13	1424	1286	1329	1273	1224	1207	1038	8782
2013-14	1459	1412	1269	1324	1271	1273	1204	9213
2014-15	1522	1453	1402	1271	1329	1331	1281	9588
2015-16	1560	1512	1438	1397	1269	1382	1331	9889
2016-17	1581	1548	1495	1433	1394	1324	1380	10154

What we want to do

The Governing Body of St Joseph's wishes to increase the school's admission number from 45 to 60. Because the published admission number for 2013 has already been decided, the school's admission number can only now formally change from 2014. However, the school may admit 60 in 2013 in agreement with the County Council as a temporary measure.

The school has sufficient classroom accommodation to admit up to 60 Reception (F1) pupils in September 2013, with some internal remodelling to ancillary areas. If it is decided to permanently change the admission number to 60, there will be a need for more classrooms to be built. A feasibility study has begun, managed by the Catholic Archdiocese, which is looking carefully at the school site and buildings to see how additional classrooms might be provided.

We think that this is a popular school at the heart of its community, which should expand to meet demand for places from a growing population. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see St Joseph's grow to admit 60 pupils each year into Reception and operate as a 2 form entry school.

Your views

Please take the time to tell us what you think. This consultation is about the principle of increasing the number of children at the school. The changes to the buildings will require Planning Permission, offering a separate opportunity to comment on the building layout and design as part of the usual Planning process.

Stage One:

Stage One public consultation is taking place until 6 March 2013. You have until that date to respond (see details below). This consultation is to help inform the decision on this proposal. As St Joseph's is a Voluntary Aided School the decision to proceed to the next stage rests with the Governing Body. If, following this consultation, they want to go ahead with the expansion, Stage Two will follow.

Stage Two:

The Governing Body 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 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 June / July 2013. The County Council Cabinet (if there have been objections) or the Cabinet Member for Education (if there are no objections) will then make the final decision on this permanent change in July 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>

There are several ways to respond:

- complete the response form at the back of this document, or write your own response, and send it to the address shown on the form
- respond online at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>
- email your response to: StJoseph2013-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 **6 March 2013** at the latest.

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St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Oxford**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Address (optional)

- Parent of a child at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School
- Parent of a child at another school (please specify).....
- Parent of a child not yet at school
- Governor/staff at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School
- Local resident
- Other (specify)

Tick all that apply

Please return by 6 March 2013 to:

Diane Cameron

School Organisation and Planning

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