

Consultation on the proposal to expand Queensway Primary School

15 April 2013 – 27 May 2013

Produced by Oxfordshire County Council in partnership with
the Governing Body of Queensway Primary School



**Parents' informal drop-in session at Queensway Primary School, on
Wednesday 17 April at 2pm to 4pm**

**Your opportunity to discuss the proposed expansion with school and
Oxfordshire County Council representatives**

Introduction

Queensway Primary School is a community school in Banbury, north Oxfordshire. The school has an admission number of 30 and operates as a 1 form entry primary school, but admitted a “bulge” class in September 2012 due to exceptional demand for pupil places. The expectation is that a second bulge class will be admitted in September 2013 and this is being planned in full co-operation with the governing body.

The total number of children on roll at the October 2012 pupil census was 219 as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)*	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	56	30	28	21	25	29	30

*Bulge class admitted September 2012

Queensway Primary School was inspected by Ofsted on 13 November 2012 and the school was graded Good (Grade 2).

Why are we consulting?

Primary school applications in Banbury rose steeply in 2012 and all Reception places available were filled. Additional places were required to meet the need and the Governing Body at Queensway Primary School agreed to admit an extra class of Reception (F1) pupils.

In addition to the rising population, which is forecast to be sustained, new proposed housing developments will require expansion of primary school capacity in the town. The current forecast for primary age pupils in Banbury is as follows:

Banbury	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2013-14	712	645	604	570	534	491	544	4100
2014-15	691	691	641	594	546	530	488	4181
2015-16	694	673	690	633	571	541	527	4328
2016-17	696	679	675	685	612	567	538	4453

(These forecasts are for January of each year: more Reception children would be expected to arrive at primary school by the end of each school year.)

For Banbury Easington ward, which is where Queensway Primary School is located, Cherwell District Council has published a projection of 319 new homes to be built by 2019 in their draft Local Plan. Some of this housing has already been built.

What we want to do

Oxfordshire County Council, supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, wishes to increase Queensway Primary’s admission number from 30 to 60 from September 2014. If, following the statutory consultation process, it is decided to permanently change the admission number to 60 there will be a need for extra classroom spaces at the school to ensure sufficient accommodation for the extra pupils is available. The county council will undertake a feasibility study in partnership with the Headteacher and governors,

to look carefully at the school site and buildings to see how additional classrooms and other accommodation might be provided.

OCC Highways & Transport carried out traffic surveys at locations on walking routes to Queensway Primary School in November 2012 and found no issues of concern, and noted that there have been no reported pedestrian accidents in the vicinity for the last twelve years. Highways officers would be consulted by the feasibility study team at a very early stage of the process.

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 Queensway Primary School 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 on a permanent basis.

Stage One:

Public consultation is taking place until 27 May 2013. You have until midnight on that date to respond. This consultation is to help inform the decision on this proposal. The decision to proceed to the next stage rests with the County Council's Cabinet or Member for Education. If, following this consultation, a decision is made to proceed, 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 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 September / October 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, and this is currently planned to be in November / December 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: queensway2013-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 **27 May 2013** at the latest.

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Annex 1
Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of
Queensway Primary School, Banbury

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Address (optional)

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

Tick all that apply

Please return by 27 May 2013 to:

Diane Cameron

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

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