



# Consultation on a proposal to expand Chilton Primary School

4 November 2015 – 16 December 2015

## Please help us to plan school provision for Chilton

Chilton Primary School is located in the village of Chilton in Vale of White Horse District; the school is part of the Didcot area partnership of schools. The school is a 1 form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 30 (i.e. the school admits up to 30 children each year into the Reception class). The school has been rated as "Outstanding" by Ofsted since 2009.

The total number of children on roll at the start of September 2015 academic year was 238 (including the Nursery children) as shown below:

Year Group	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Number of Pupils	26	30	30	30	30	32	29	31

## **What is being proposed?**

### **Expansion**

The Governing Body of the school proposes to increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2016 from 30 to 45. This means that each year group that starts Reception at the school from September 2016 onward would consist of up to 45 places, making a maximum total of 315 Reception – Year 6 pupils (plus nursery children) eventually.

The year groups already in the school pre-expansion would be expected to stay at 30 in size as they move through the school, so classes of children already at the school would not need to be reorganised. The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 45 children are admitted into the Reception class, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. However, should housing development lead to large numbers of older primary children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to expand the older year groups as well.

### **Class size unaffected**

Where possible, county council policy is to expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 per year group (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This helps 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 mixing 15 pupils from Year 1, and 15 pupils from Year 2). The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school. Class size is restricted by law in Key Stage 1 to a maximum of 30 children per class.

### **Reasons for proposal**

Chilton Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. There has been a steady increase in demand for primary school places in this part of Oxfordshire: the school now has no spare places. The school is regularly over-subscribed, and for September 2015, there were more applications for children living in the school's designated (catchment) area than the number of Reception places the school could offer.

Across Chilton and Harwell villages, since 2013 there have been planning applications to build over 700 new homes (excluding the housing at Great Western Park and Valley Park). This number of new homes would typically be expected to increase the demand for school places by approximately one form of entry. Not all of the applications have been permitted at this time, but the scale of housing growth will exceed the current capacities of the two schools.

The county council has discussed the potential for expansion with both Chilton Primary School and Harwell Primary School, and both schools have expressed an interest in expanding to 1.5 form entry, to meet the needs of their local populations. Feasibility studies have been commissioned into the buildings requirements at both schools. The county council is seeking developer contributions towards the costs of expanding both schools from all relevant housing developments.

The rate at which the local population is expected to grow would mean that one school would need to expand now, while the other will not need to expand for a few more years – the timing would depend on the speed of local housing growth. Expanding both schools at the same time would create too many school places in the short term, which would be damaging to the schools' ability to plan their staffing and budgets.

As Chilton Primary School is already full, oversubscribed, and faced with turning away children who live within its designated area, it is considered that the expansion of Chilton Primary School is more urgent than that of Harwell Primary School. If Chilton Primary School expands to 1.5 form entry it will have sufficient places to meet the scale of population growth expected within its catchment area.

This consultation aims to confirm whether the demand for places at Chilton Primary School will continue to exceed the school's current admission number and capacity, and whether there is local support for the school to expand.

The expansion of Harwell Primary School would be the subject of a separate consultation, when it is clearer how soon that school would need to expand.

### **Buildings**

To accommodate the extra children, the county council has commissioned a feasibility study to identify how the school could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided by this school. The school would not need more classrooms before September 2018, as it can reorganise its existing accommodation to provide sufficient space for 2016 and 2017.

The county council is responsible for securing sufficient funding for the buildings, either by negotiating financial contributions from developers building houses in the local area, or from the grant the county council receives from the government specifically for the purposes of providing school places.

### **Important points to remember**

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Chilton Primary School**. It is not about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by VoWH District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to VoWH District Council.
- This consultation is taking place until **16 December 2015**. You have until midnight on that date to respond to us. All responses received will then be considered.
- The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for a final decision on expansion to be confirmed by the Governing Body of the school, subject to the county council approving the necessary funding.

### **How you can respond to this consultation**

This information is available online at the county council's website in the consultations section: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/consultation>. We would like to hear from you if you support this proposal or if you have any concerns. There are several ways you can respond:

- go online, on the Oxfordshire County Council "Current Consultations" section on our main website. Type in the web address above and click on "Current Consultations";
- email your response to: [diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk) – please put CHILTON EXPANSION in the subject line;
- complete the response form overleaf and post it to:  
**Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning**  
**County Hall, FREEPOST, Oxfordshire County Council**  
(no stamp needed).

## Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of Chilton Primary School

*Tick all that apply to you:*

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

Comments:

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Name.....

Address or email address (optional) .....

**If you have children born on or after 1 September 2011, please complete the following section:**

Your postcode: ..... Your house number/name: .....

Date of birth of child	Do you want this child to attend Chilton Primary School?		
	Definitely yes	Maybe	Definitely no

**Please note:** this section is to indicate the likely future demand for places at Chilton Primary School. By completing this section you are neither committing to, nor reserving, a place at the school. For information on how to apply for a school place, go to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Please respond by 16 December 2015**