



FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England)
Regulations 2013

Expansion of Longworth Primary School

1. School and LA details

School: Longworth Primary School

Address: School Close, Longworth, Abingdon, OX13 5EU

Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council

2. Description of alteration

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the Governing Body of the school, proposes to expand Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry. This would involve an increase in Longworth's admission number in September 2020 from 10 to 15 on a permanent basis.

The proposed expansion of the school means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2020 onward would consist of up to 15 places, making a maximum total of 105 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

From September 2020, total numbers would grow gradually each year as up to 15 children are admitted into the Reception classes, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. Should there be a demand for places in older year groups as a result of children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to speed up the expansion of the older year groups.

The proposed expansion will involve the construction of a new classroom and associated facilities including new pupil toilets on the school site.

3. Evidence of demand

School capacity is being planned strategically across the Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and Longworth areas. Expansions of both primary schools in this area (Longworth Primary School and John Blandy Primary School) are planned to accommodate the expected increase in demand from housing growth. The expansion of John Blandy Primary School from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry has already been approved, and the county council is now proposing to expand Longworth Primary School. Between them, these schools will jointly serve the needs of housing planned and permitted across the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

Longworth Primary School has admitted over its Published Admission Number on a number of occasions in recent years to meet demand, and again agreed to admit over their admission number in September 2019. The school's Governing Body wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community and a decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school from an annual intake of 10 to one of 15.

Current pupil numbers (as of May 2019) show that Longworth Primary School has already exceeded its current capacity of 70 places. Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2019) indicate that numbers are expected to grow further in the future, with the school consistently above its current capacity.

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the current and future demand for places at the school, including the forecast demands of the growing population in the area, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into new homes planned to be built across the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in the area, a permanent expansion of Longworth Primary School is now sought.

Expansion of the school would also enable the school to move from a 3-class structure to a 4-class structure, resulting in a narrower range of year groups in each class and better alignment of classes to Key Stages. As such, the proposed expansion is expected to improve the effectiveness of teaching at the school. It will also help improve the school's financial viability in future, due to increased pupil funding and economies of scale.

If Longworth Primary School expands to 0.5 form entry (15 children per year group) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth.

To inform this expansion, the school has actively engaged with parents and the governing body, including:

- A letter was sent to parents in June 2019 regarding the proposed expansion, and a meeting was also held to discuss this.
- The proposed expansion is a standing item at governing body meetings.
- A school survey has been issued to parents, which gives respondents the opportunity to request further information about the proposed expansion.

4. Objectives

The proposed expansion would:

- Ensure the county council meets its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places in an area of rapid housing development.
- Be supportive of high educational standards and parental choice. Longworth Primary School is rated Outstanding by Ofsted (last inspected December 2010). As

part of the proposed expansion, the resulting change of class structure would improve alignment with the Key Stages.

- Improve the school's financial viability.
- Maintain parental choice for existing families and those moving into the village and the surrounding area.
- Prevent unnecessary increases in travel time and costs for families in the area, who might otherwise have to accept places at schools further away from where they live.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The school is expanding in line with expected population growth in the area. It is not, therefore, expected to have a negative impact on other schools.

6. Project costs and funding

The cost of expanding the school will be met from money the county council has secured from housing developers and capital funding provided by the council.

7. Related proposals

Longworth Pre-school and Longworth Primary School are consulting separately on a change of management which, if confirmed, would see the school extend their age range down to 2-year olds and the pre-school close. Continuity of the early years offer would be maintained, including transferring pre-school staff where appropriate. The age range extension does not require a statutory process and will be determined by the Governing Body. This would secure the future of early years provision in the village, which may otherwise be lost if the pre-school decided they could no longer operate. The outcome of the consultation on age range extension will not affect the proposal we are consulting on here.

If both expansion and age range proposals are approved, the school may make some changes to how classes are grouped, for example offering a mixed nursery/reception class rather than the current reception/Yr1 class.

8. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

From 1st September 2020, the school will increase its intake into the Reception class from 10 to 15. It may choose to also admit into older year groups, if local population growth requires this.

9. Objections and comments

Comments or objections must be received by the local authority by **2 December 2019**.

Respond by:

- using the online questionnaire at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/longworthexpansion

- emailing school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk (please quote 'Longworth Expansion' in the subject line)
- handing in a written response to the reception office at Longworth Primary School
- posting a written response to **Joanne Booker, Access to Learning, Oxfordshire County Council, 4th Floor, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND**, marking your envelope LONGWORTH EXPANSION

10. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is Oxfordshire County Council. The decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services at a meeting which is open to the public, and publicised on the county council's website. The decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period, and is currently expected on 18 December 2019.