



Consultation on a proposal to expand West Witney Primary School

14 September 2016 – 12 October 2016

West Witney Primary School is located in Witney town, in West Oxfordshire District and is part of the Witney area partnership of schools. It is a Local Authority run 1.5 form entry school, with a Published Admission Number of 45 (i.e. the school admits up to 45 children each year in to the Reception class). The school's most recent inspection by Ofsted was on 3rd February 2015 and the school was graded as Good.

The total number of children on roll at the start of September 2016 academic year was 310 from Reception to Year 6 plus a Nursery class as shown below:

Year	Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Pupils	21	60	45	42	41	44	45	33

What is being proposed?

Expansion

Oxfordshire County Council, supported by the Governing Body of the school, proposes to increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 on a permanent basis from September 2017. This means that each year group that starts at the school would consist of up to 60 places, making a maximum total of 420 pupils across the whole school eventually in Reception to Year 6.

The year groups already in the school pre-expansion would be expected to stay at 45 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 60 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 area and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to expand the older year groups as well.

Class organisation

It is the county council's policy to expand schools where possible 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 60 as standard, and it means that each year incoming pupils are organised into two classes of 30 and then stay in those classes as they move up the school. The exact organisation of 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.

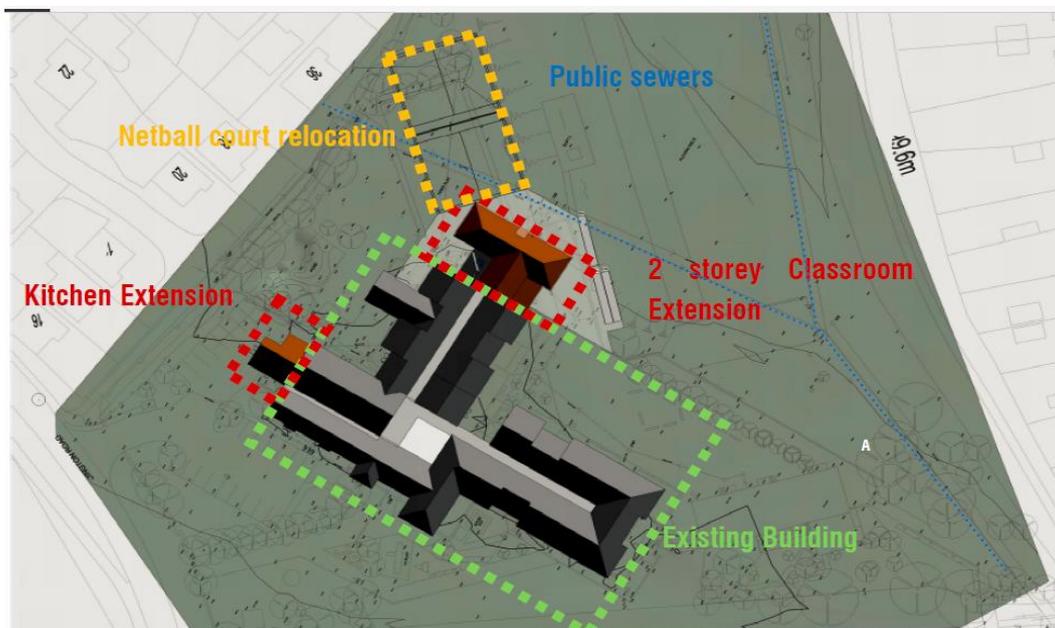
Reasons for proposal

West Witney Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. There has been an increase in demand for places at the school and across the Witney area generally. The school now has very few spare places, and is full in most year groups. For September 2016, the school agreed with the county council to admit over its Admission Number; offering 60 places instead of 45, due to demand. All 60 places were allocated to children living half a mile or less from the school.

There is housing development anticipated to come forward in the Witney area, which is expected to increase the demand for primary school places over the next few years above that already seen. To meet the needs of the growing population in the West Witney and surrounding area, an additional half-form of entry in primary school capacity is now required. This is ahead of, and in addition to, a planned new primary school which will serve the permitted North Curbridge housing development.

Buildings

The simple site plan below shows the final approved scheme for the physical expansion of the school buildings, and is the result of collaborative working by the school governors and by the county council through a feasibility study. There will also be internal remodelling works to the existing building. The scheme includes an enlarged school kitchen, additional classrooms and associated areas such as toilets, and external works.



It is expected that the cost of extending the school will be met from money the county council will secure from developers building houses in the local area.

Important points to remember

- The Chair of the Governing Body of the school has made the following statement:

On behalf of the Governing Body of West Witney Primary School, I endorse the proposal to expand the school, along the lines set out in this consultation document as part of our Strategic Intent. This includes a move to single year groups as a way to provide adequate provision for each child's development through their national curriculum year.

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding West Witney Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by West Oxfordshire District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to WODC.
- This consultation is taking place until **12 October 2016**. 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, will be for a Statutory Notice to be published on the proposed expansion. Following this, the final decision rests with the county council's Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families.

How you can respond to this consultation

This information is available online at the county council's website in the consultations section: <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>. We would like to hear from you if you support this proposal as well as if you have any concerns. There are several ways you can submit your views:

- respond using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>;
- email your response to: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting WEST WITNEY EXPANSION in the subject line;
- hand in a written response to the school's reception office.

Please respond by 12 October 2016