

**Consultation on  
the proposal for the  
expansion of  
St Christopher's  
Church of England  
Primary School,  
Cowley**

**5 November 2010 – 17 December 2010**

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## **About St Christopher's CE Primary School**

St Christopher's CE Primary School is a voluntary controlled primary school for 3-11 year olds on a spacious and green site in Cowley. It serves a socially and culturally diverse community. Pupils are from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and more than half the pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is higher than average; the majority of these have moderate learning needs.

A new Foundation Stage Unit was opened in January 2003 and a new Reception Classroom was completed summer 2008.

The current number of children in each year group (October 2010 pupil census) is shown below:

Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>59</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>

In May 2009 Ofsted decided that the school required special measures because of low standards. Since then the school has received extra help from the local education authority, and an Interim Executive Board has supported the headteacher. In the last year, Ofsted visits have found that the school is making satisfactory progress.

## **Why are we consulting?**

Until now the school has planned to admit 45 children each year. For September 2010, 50 parents chose the school as their first preference. Due to rising numbers of children needing primary school places in Oxford, the school agreed to take more than its admission number in September 2009 and 2010, accepting up to 60 children into the reception class. Planning permission for temporary classrooms has already been granted to allow for these extra pupils.

School pupil forecasts, based on population data and details of new housing, show that the need for 60 places per year is likely to continue. Several other schools in Oxford are also planned for expansion over the next few years.

## **What we want to do**

We are planning to permanently increase the school admission number from 45 to 60. This means that each year group would consist of up to 60 places, taught in two classes. The school currently has to teach in mixed age classes; with 60 children in each year group the school would be able to teach in single age classes. The total capacity of the school would rise from 315 pupils to 420.

To accommodate this growth in pupil numbers, there will be some extension of the school's buildings. We will look carefully at the school's site and existing buildings to see how this can best be provided.

## **Your views**

Because of the large increase in the proposed size of the school we need to make sure that the proposal is supported locally.

**This consultation with parents, local schools and others will take place until Friday 17 December 2010. You have until that date to respond (see details below).**

This is an informal consultation, to help inform the plans. If, as a result of the consultation, the county council wants to go ahead with the expansion, we will publish a public notice in the Oxford Mail 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 this consultation. The statutory notice period will normally be within one year of this informal consultation.

The County Council Cabinet or the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement will then make the final decision.

## **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: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation)

You can respond in one of four ways:

- complete the response form at the back of this document and send it to the address shown on the response form
- respond online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation) – go to the *Consultation portal*
- write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
- email your response to [scps2010-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:scps2010-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if you have more than one child at the school. Return your form as soon as possible, but by Friday 17 December 2010 at the latest.

There will be drop-in sessions meeting for parents who would like to discuss the proposal with the headteacher and county council staff. These will be publicised at the school.

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I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature.....

Name.....

Address (optional) .....

- Parent of a child at St Christopher's CE Primary School  
 Parent of a child at another school     Parent of a child not yet at school  
 Governor     Local resident     Other (specify).....

*Tick all that apply*

**Please return by Friday 17 December 2010 to:**

**School Organisation and Planning  
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

(No stamp required)

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