

Consultation on a proposal to expand Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School

2 November 2016 - 30 November 2016

Chesterton Church of England (VA) Primary School is located in the village of Chesterton, near Bicester in Cherwell District. The school is part of the Bicester area partnership of schools and currently has a Published Admission Number of 20 (i.e. the school admits up to 20 children each year in to the Reception class). The school was last inspected by Ofsted on 20 February 2013 and was graded Good.

The total number of children on roll at the start of September 2016 academic year was 130 as shown below:

Year Group:	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Number of Pupils:	20	21	14	20	20	18	17

What is being proposed?

Expansion

The Governing Body of the school, working with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford Diocese, propose to increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2018 from 20 to 30 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2018 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 30 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 organisation

Where possible, county council policy is to organise and 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. An advantage of this proposal to

increase the Admission Number from 20 to 30 is that the children would be admitted in a full form of 30 and would stay in that single age class as they progressed up through the school.

There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 30 as standard. The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.

Reasons for proposal

Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. There are housing developments permitted within the school's designated (catchment) area and this will further increase the demand for primary school places over the next few years at this school.

To meet the needs of the growing population in Chesterton and the surrounding area, an expansion in primary school capacity is now sought.

If Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School expands to 1 form entry (PAN 30) it will have sufficient places to meet the scale of population growth expected within its designated area.

Buildings

To accommodate the extra children, the county council is planning to provide new classroom accommodation and associated areas.

It is expected that the cost of extending the school will be met from money the county council has secured from developers building houses in the local area. It may also require contributions from any future developments not yet applied for.

A feasibility study, managed by Oxfordshire County Council, will identify how the school could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided.

Important points to remember

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Cherwell District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to Cherwell District Council.
- This consultation is taking place until **30 November 2016**. You have until midnight on that date to give us your views. All responses received will then be considered.
- The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for the publication of a Statutory Notice, which offers another opportunity for interested parties to respond to the proposal. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families would then formally decide whether to approve the proposal.

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 online at the above web address using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage
- email your response to: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **CHESTERTON EXPANSION** in the subject line;
- hand in your response at Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School's office, to be passed on to the county council.

You must respond by 30 November 2016