

Consultation on a proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Primary School, Chinnor

8 January 2018 – 19 February 2018

St Andrew's CE Primary School is located in the village of Chinnor, in South Oxfordshire District. The school is part of the Thame area partnership of schools and currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 (i.e. the school admits up to 45 children each year in to the Reception class).

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in May 2013 and is graded as Outstanding.

The total number of children on roll at the current time is 297 as shown below:

Year Group:	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Number of Pupils:	45	51	46	40	32	43	40

What is being proposed?

Expansion

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the leadership team of the school, proposes to increase St Andrew's PAN in September 2019 from 45 to 60 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2019 onward would consist of up to 60 places, making a maximum total of 420 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 60 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 expand the older year groups too.

Class organisation

Where possible, county council policy is to organise and expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 children 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 45 to 60 is that the children would be admitted in two forms of 30 each, and would potentially stay in those single age classes as they progressed up through the school, rather than being taught in mixed-age classes.

There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 60 as standard. The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school, and would be dependent on the number of children admitted.

Reasons for proposal

At the time of writing, 460 new homes have gained planning permission in St Andrew's catchment area alone since 2012, with significantly more applied for and awaiting a planning decision. The county council considers it essential to expand St Andrew's CE Primary School in order to ensure sufficient pupil places are available in Chinnor.

The Governing Body wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community and in September 2016 it agreed to admit above its PAN of 45, welcoming in 50 children to Reception classes (as recorded on the October pupil census), to meet high local demand. This was enabled by a first phase of capital works to the school buildings, part funded by s106 housing developer contributions. A decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school to an annual intake of 60.

Current pupil forecasts indicate that St Andrew's Primary School will exceed its current capacity of 315 places by 2020, with intakes continuing to grow beyond that date. Pupil numbers are also forecast to grow gradually at Chinnor's other primary school, Mill Lane Primary School, so that will not have spare capacity to meet the needs of Chinnor's planned housing growth. Actual pupil numbers for 2017 are already higher than forecast, indicating that these forecasts are too conservative.

Year	R	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Total
2016 actual	49	44	39	31	44	38	51	296
2017 forecast	43	50	45	39	31	44	38	290
2018 forecast	46	44	50	45	40	32	45	302
2019 forecast	42	48	46	51	46	41	33	307
2020 forecast	45	43	49	46	52	47	42	324
2021 forecast	46	45	44	49	47	53	47	331
2022 forecast	47	47	46	44	49	47	53	333
2023 forecast	50	48	47	46	45	50	47	333
2024 forecast	52	50	48	47	47	45	50	339

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet 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 around the village. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in Chinnor, a permanent expansion of St Andrew's CE Primary School is now sought.

If St Andrew's CE Primary School expands to 2 form entry (PAN 60) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth.

Buildings

To accommodate a permanent increase to PAN 60, the county council would provide additional new classrooms and other related accommodation in a further phase of works.

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 Community Infrastructure Levies paid by any future developments not yet applied for.

Important points to remember

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding St Andrew's CE Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by South Oxfordshire District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to South Oxfordshire District Council when they are submitted for planning decision.
- Issues around traffic, parking and design will be addressed as the capital works for the extra accommodation goes through the process for planning permission, in the usual way.
- This consultation is taking place until **19 February 2018**. 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 Public Notice, which offers another opportunity for interested parties to respond to the proposal. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education would then formally decide whether to approve the proposal to expand the school.

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: nicola.jones@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **ST ANDREWS EXPANSION** in the subject line;
- hand in your response at St Andrew's CE Primary School's office, to be passed on to the county council.

You must respond by 19 February 2018.