



Consultation on a proposal to expand Drayton Community Primary School

11 January 2016 – 21 February 2016

Drayton Community Primary School is located in Drayton village, southwest of Abingdon in Vale of the White Horse district. It is part of the Abingdon area partnership of schools and has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 20 (i.e. the school admits up to 20 pupils into Reception each September). The school was inspected by Ofsted on 4 February 2014 and was graded Good.

The total number of children on roll at September 2015 pupil census point was 141 as shown below:

Year Group:	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Number of Pupils:	23	18	19	21	19	23	18

What is being proposed?

Expansion

The Governing Body of the school, working with Oxfordshire County Council, proposes to increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2017 from 20 to 30. This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2017 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils across the whole school eventually.

The year groups already in the school pre-expansion would be expected to stay at their current size as they move through the school. The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 30 children are admitted into the Reception class. However, should housing development lead to significant numbers of older primary children moving into the village and needing school places, the school may review whether it is possible to expand the older year groups as well.

Class size and organisation

Where possible, county council policy is to expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 per year group (i.e. half or a full form of entry). 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 30 as standard, and it is often considered one of the most straightforward ways to organise a school, as it means that classes need not be composed of more than one year group. A school with a PAN of 30 is called a 1 form entry school, because one form of 30 pupils is admitted each year and simply moves up to the class above each September. Class size is restricted by law in Key Stage 1 to a maximum of 30 children per class.

Reasons for proposal

Drayton Community Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. Primary schools in and around Abingdon have been under increasing pressure in recent years, and there is very limited spare capacity, especially in younger year groups where many schools are full.

Drayton Community Primary School agreed to admit above its PAN of 20 in September 2015 to help meet demand, and now in response to proposed housing growth in the village, Oxfordshire County Council is working on a feasibility study looking at how the school's accommodation might expand. An expansion to 1 form entry is expected to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed sites for new housing identified in the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan (*Drayton 2020*).

To provide some context, for the September 2015 school admission allocation, all Reception places in primary schools across the Abingdon partnership were filled and one school agreed to run a "bulge"¹ class in order for the county council to be able to meet its duty to ensure sufficient places for all children of statutory school age.

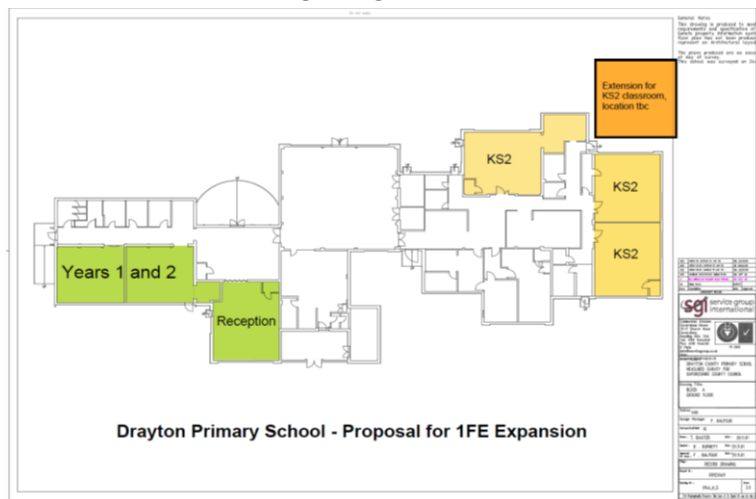
If Drayton Community Primary School expands to 1 form entry it will have sufficient places to meet the scale of population growth expected within its designated area. There may be some years when exceptional population pressures in the partnership mean that surrounding schools cannot meet the demand for places within their own designated areas; expansion of Drayton Community Primary School will therefore also help to ensure that sufficient school places might be more easily provided to children within a reasonable distance of their homes.

Buildings

To accommodate the extra children, Oxfordshire County Council is planning to provide additional accommodation. 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.

A detailed feasibility study, managed by the county council, is in progress to identify how the school could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided. A draft expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school. While this is not the final scheme, it may be useful to give an idea of how the expansion might be achieved on site:

¹ A 'Bulge' class is a one-off additional form of entry agreed with the county council to overcome pressure for school places.



We think that this is a good school which can and should expand to meet the demand for places from a growing population. We want to know your views about the proposal to expand.

Important points to remember

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

The Governors of Drayton Community Primary School fully endorse the proposed expansion of the school to one form entry, in order to accommodate planned population growth in the village. We note that additional accommodation will be provided, enabling year groups to be taught separately, and that existing facilities will be adjusted as required by an increase in pupil numbers.

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Drayton Community Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Vale of White Horse District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to the District Council.
- This consultation is taking place until **21 February 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, would be for a final decision on expansion to be confirmed by the Governing Body of the school. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families would also formally decide whether to support the proposal, but she is not the final Decision-Maker in school-led proposals such as this one.

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:

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- 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 DRAYTON EXPANSION in the subject line;
- complete the response form at the back of this leaflet and post it to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, **FREEPOST** Oxfordshire County Council (you do not need to use a stamp)

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(No stamp required).