



New primary school for Kingsgrove/Crab Hill, Wantage

**School specification document for potential sponsors of a
primary school in NE Wantage, Oxfordshire**

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Section 1: Introduction and context

Oxfordshire County Council has identified the need to establish a new primary school in NE Wantage to open in September 2020. Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (the 'free school presumption') where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an academy.

The new school will chiefly serve a permitted new housing development of 1500 homes now called Kingsgrove, previously referred to as Crab Hill, construction of which is underway. This school forms part of the strategic planning for additional school capacity to meet the expected growth in pupil numbers arising from housing growth both permitted and proposed in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan.

The authority is therefore seeking proposals from appropriate providers to sponsor to this new school. This new school would be deemed a free school. Section 9 sets out how potential sponsors can apply.

1.1 Planned housing growth in Wantage and Grove

The host site for this new school is the 1500-home development permitted as application P13/V1764/O and now known as Kingsgrove.

The adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1 plans for significant housing growth across Wantage and Grove, including:

- 1500 homes at Crab Hill (Kingsgrove)
- 2500 homes at Grove Airfield
- 885 homes at Monks Farm, north of Grove.

A further 400 homes are proposed in the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031 Part 2 which was submitted to the Secretary of State on Friday 23 February 2018 for independent examination.

Over 1000 other new homes on smaller sites across the Wantage and Grove area have been either permitted or completed in recent years.

1.2 School capacity planning for Wantage and Grove

Oxfordshire County Council is planning school capacity strategically across Wantage and Grove to meet the needs of the recent and planned housing growth, as well as the existing population growth.

The first phase of primary school capacity growth has been implemented through expansions of existing schools in recent years:

- Charlton Primary School – from 1.5 form entry to 2 form entry
- Grove CE Primary School – already expanded from 0.5 form entry to 1 form entry, and now in feasibility to expand to 2 form entry.

The school covered by this specification forms part of the second phase of primary school capacity growth, through the establishment of new schools. In addition to this school, new schools will also be included within the Grove Airfield development. As housing proposals develop, it may become necessary to plan for further school capacity growth.

Section 2: The Kingsgrove development and school

The 227-acre Kingsgrove development site will provide:

- Up to 1,500 homes, with the first expected to be completed by summer/autumn 2018.
- A new primary school
- A neighbourhood centre including:
 - community amenities
 - pub/restaurant
 - shops
 - sports and recreation areas
 - offices



(The nearest postcode to this location at the current time is OX12 7EE.)

The school is being designed and built by the developer, and is currently anticipated to open in September 2020.

Section 3: Size and type of school

This school will be:

- A 2 form entry school.
- Age range: 2-11.
- Admission number: 60
- Total places provided for Reception to Year 6: 420 places.
- Inclusive of a nursery for 2- and 3- year olds: the exact number of places to be confirmed.
- Co-educational.

The school will also be expected to contribute towards meeting local needs for wraparound care and childcare.

The school's catchment is expected to be primarily the Kingsgrove strategic development area in NE Wantage but may draw from a wider area to meet population pressures in Grove and Wantage.

The new school will be included within the county council's coordinated admission scheme, but the successful sponsor will be responsible for consulting on, and publishing, its specific admissions policy.

Information about Oxfordshire's school admissions and home-to-school transport is available at <https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/school-admission-rules-and-policies>

The school will need to be flexible in how it organises classes to respond to the growth in local school-age population, including children who move to the development after the normal age of starting school. Proposers will be expected to demonstrate how they will ensure the needs of new residents of the development are met without promoting or encouraging a large-scale relocation of existing pupils from other schools.

It would be expected that the school initially opens with an admission number of 30 Reception places; a mixed aged Year 1 and Year 2 class may also be appropriate in the first instance, depending on how the local population is growing. The school would then be expected to increase its Reception intake to 45 and then 60 in line with the local population growth. The nursery class would also be expected to open from the start.

Section 4: Educational Vision

Oxfordshire County Council's vision is for an autonomous and self-improving education system; we are committed to enabling schools and settings to promote excellence and lead their own improvement. This is set within the context of a well-planned continuum of provision from birth to 25 that meets the needs of children and young people in Oxfordshire. Our ultimate purpose is to improve attainment, achievement and well-being, including the progression into employment for young people, by developing collective capacity in the county.

An academy sponsor is sought to work with the county council to achieve this vision. In particular, prospective sponsors will need to demonstrate how they will help meet the following outcomes.

4.1 High Educational Quality and Standards

The school should:

- Provide sustainably good or outstanding education with an exciting and inspiring broad and balanced curriculum.
- Rigorously focus on educational standards to ensure that every child achieves their potential, and goals and national expectations are met or exceeded.
- Ensure an inclusive learning environment in which all pupils, including those with special or additional educational needs and those with disabilities, are supported and enabled to make appropriate progress.
- Develop a strong moral and caring ethos, ensuring care and support for the whole child.
- Seek out and share best practice within and beyond the school, promoting innovation and creativity in learning and teaching.
- Maintain outstanding and dynamic leadership, management and governance.
- Attract, retain and develop the highest quality teachers and support staff to ensure good or better teaching and learning, and effective and motivated workforces.

4.2 Support for Vulnerable Learners and Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

The school should:

- Promote inclusive opportunities for the most vulnerable children and have a strong focus on equalities, early intervention, and supporting the needs of the local community.
- Provide specialist support to address each learner's specific needs and to improve their progress.
- Provide a learning environment for learners to benefit from specialist small group teaching and interventions as part of a personalised learning programme.
- Ensure suitably qualified and trained staff to advise and support the local workforce to deliver quality teaching and learning experiences for children with special educational needs, and support for their families.

4.3 Safeguarding, Well-being and Community Development

A key component of selection will be the proposers' willingness to work in collaboration with other providers and local partners to develop services which meet the needs of local children, young people and families in a coordinated way.

The school should:

- Work in partnership with the county council and other educational providers to contribute towards meeting the collective responsibility to secure the best for all Oxfordshire's learners, including participating in school-to-school support, and a commitment to cooperating with Fair Access protocols.
- Implement strategies to ensure that attendance of children matches the attendance rates of the highest performing authorities.
- Support the strategic responsibilities of the county council to ensure sufficiency of high quality school places and improved educational outcomes through agreed sharing of data and information.
- Engage parents/carers in supporting and encouraging their children's learning.
- Support the county council in delivering effective early intervention services, ensuring school readiness and supporting our most vulnerable learners and families.
- Work in partnership with wider services such as social care services, health and police to keep children safe, support families and build stronger communities.
- Be outward facing, playing a key role within its immediate community and the wider local economy, for example through opening up facilities to the community, and participating in community activities.

- Develop strategic alliances, partnerships and networks to better meet the needs of children and families in the Wantage area.

Section 5: Education Plan

Prospective sponsors should submit details of:

- An ambitious, broad and balanced, deliverable curriculum plan which is consistent with the vision and pupil intake.
- A staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels, with a focus on outstanding teaching (including strategies for recruitment, retention and effective performance management).
- Strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets.
- Rigorous processes of self-evaluation and continual improvement, including recognising the importance of Pupil Voice in these processes.
- Strategies for ensuring that the needs of all children are fully provided for, and that the school will be fully inclusive.
- Strategies for ensuring safeguarding and well-being responsibilities are met.
- How the new school will support the collective responsibility to educate Oxfordshire's children and young people, including the school's approach to Fair Access.
- How the school will seek out and share best practice within and beyond the school.
- Enrichment and extended services, for example, breakfast clubs, sports clubs, homework clubs and music/art clubs.
- The school's approach to: PHSE; the Prevent Duty; safeguarding and welfare; and promoting fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs).
- Groups and organisations seen as being key partners, and plans for engagement and joint-working with those partners both during the pre-opening period and after opening.

Section 6: Capacity and Capability

Prospective sponsors should demonstrate:

- Their prior experience of successfully providing the nature of education required in this specification.
- The resources available to support the development of the new school by the opening date.
- Clear evidence of the skills and abilities necessary to set up and then run a school effectively, including: managing school finances; leadership; project management; marketing; human resources; safeguarding; and health and safety.
- How the school would be organised and what the governance arrangements would look like, including a diagram of the proposed structures.

Section 7: Funding and Cost

Under Section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act, 1990, the county council has secured a 2.22ha site and school building, to be designed and constructed by the developer.

The school site will be owned by Oxfordshire County Council, and is expected to be made available to the academy on a 125-year lease, with the usual terms pursuant to the 2010 Academies Act.

The Department for Education will provide a one-off grant payment of £25,000 to the successful sponsor to cover the legal costs incurred in establishing the new free school.

School start-up costs will be provided by the county council to the total of £66,000 for pre-opening costs and £280,000 for post-opening costs, the phasing of these payments being agreed through negotiation between the county council and the successful sponsor.

Section 8: Impact and Equalities Assessment

As prescribed by section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the local authority must assess the potential impact of any new school on existing educational provision in the area. The local authority must also consider whether the new school would impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

The provision of a new school in NE Wantage is necessary as the scale of local housing and population growth is expected to generate more pupils than could be accommodated through expansion of existing nearby schools, and a new school in the heart of significant new housing developments is considered to be an important element of community building.

Current pupil forecasts for the Wantage/Grove school planning area (which includes surrounding villages) show that the current combined admissions numbers will only be sufficient to meet the expected demand for Reception places until 2019, with additional capacity becoming required by 2020. This school is therefore planned to open in 2020 to meet the needs emerging from the Kingsgrove development; by 2020 it is also planned to expand Grove CE Primary School to meet the needs of housing growth in Grove. In addition, the new schools on Grove Airfield will provide primary capacity for that development as well as additional secondary school capacity for the whole area.

Taking into account the high level of housing growth in Wantage and Grove the impact of this proposed new primary school is not likely to be significant in the medium to long term. In the short-term, there may be some turbulence in pupil numbers at local schools, as patterns of parental preference shift in reaction to the new provision. However, it is not considered that this would be sufficient to threaten the viability of any existing schools.

The county council has sought to minimise any risks to the existing schools by writing into the school specification that the eventual sponsors will manage school growth in such a way as to not adversely affect existing schools, and will work closely with the existing partnership of schools.

The new school is not expected to have an adverse impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

The new school is expected to have a positive impact on:

- Children and young people: the new school will help to minimise travel distances to school, and increase choice. If sufficient primary school places are not available within the heart of the community this can affect access to out of school activities, social contact with peers, travel patterns and community cohesion.

Section 9: How to Apply to Sponsor this New School

Oxfordshire runs a two-stage application process, first inviting outline expressions of interest from potential sponsors, and then shortlisting up to three applicants to submit a detailed proposal.

Key Dates (subject to change):

- 25 June – 20 July 2018: Expressions of Interest (EoI) invited from potential sponsors.
- July - August 2018: Shortlisting of EoI received, with reference to how well they meet the specification for the school.
- September – October 2018: Shortlisted potential sponsors develop detailed bids for submission by midday on 25 August 2018.
- 19 November 2018 (tbc): Interviews and presentations by shortlisted bidders.
- 13 December 2018 (tbc): OCC Member for Public Health & Education formally approves the county council's choice of preferred sponsor. This is communicated to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).
- February/March 2019: RSC makes the final decision on the sponsor for the new school.
- September 2020: New school opens.

The county council must receive Expressions of Interest by midday on 20 July 2018, and requires one hard copy and one electronic copy of all documentation.

In the first instance, Expressions of Interest should be submitted using the Oxfordshire County Council New School Expressions of Interest Form. The Expressions of Interest and this Specification Document are available to download from <https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/new-schools-oxfordshire>

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the requirements of this specification, and their ability to meet the following broad criteria:

- the quality of the places being added into the system, based on the proposer's vision and educational plan;
- the capability and capacity of the proposer to deliver their proposal to time and on budget, based on their expertise and experience.

Please note: it is essential that by the time of presentation, proposers have achieved DfE approved sponsor status. Without this, their application cannot be considered. Information about this process is available from www.gov.uk/government/collections/academy-sponsorship .

Further information is available from, and Expressions of Interest should be sent to:

Barbara Chillman, Service Manager – Pupil Place Planning
Education Sufficiency & Access
4th Floor
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND
Tel: 07554 103418
academies@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CONSULTATION DRAFT