



# **Consultation on the proposal to extend the age range at Woodeaton Manor School**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council and the Governing Body of  
Woodeaton Manor School**

## About Woodeaton Manor School

Woodeaton Manor School is a Special School which provides education for children and young people aged 11 to 18 years old. It is designated as a special school for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social disorders (BESD), but has a particular focus on those with emotional and social difficulties. The vast majority of pupils have autistic spectrum disorders.

The school became a Foundation School on 1 April 2008. The premises consist of a number of Grade II and II\* listed buildings, which include an 18th century manor house, in extensive private grounds. The pupils live within the boundaries of Oxfordshire though this means that some have to travel quite a distance each day.

Woodeaton Manor provides flexible boarding arrangements for up to four nights a week for up to 10 pupils. A team of residential staff takes responsibility for these pupils after the school day until the following morning. The total number of children (October Pupil Census 2011) is 52, as shown below:

Year Group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pupil Number	3	9	6	17	9	5	3

## Why are we consulting?

The school has until now always admitted secondary school age children, from across Oxfordshire, who attend Woodeaton Manor School to benefit from its expertise in teaching BESD pupils, particularly those with autistic spectrum disorders. The school has an excellent track record and is currently rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

The proposal is to extend the age range of the school to admit a class of primary age pupils (aged 7 to 11) with the same special needs. The school hopes that in addressing the particular needs of these children at an earlier age, the scope for quicker educational advancement and better individual outcomes would be improved. More primary school places are needed in Oxfordshire for children with BESD, leading to a potential delay before the children receive the particular special care that enables them to thrive and achieve their full potential.

The governors and staff of Woodeaton Manor School are committed to the education and needs of BESD children across Oxfordshire who attend this school. They wish to extend the school's age range to admit a new class of six Key Stage 2 primary age children in 2012.

**We think that this is a popular, well-respected school at the heart of the Oxfordshire special educational needs provision, which should expand to help meet the county demand for special care at primary school age. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see the school grow to include primary age pupils.**

## What we want to do

We are planning to extend the school's age range from 11-18 to 7-18. This means that pupils of primary school age would be admitted to Woodeaton Manor School.

The proposal is to extend the age range of the school in 2012 on a permanent basis. There will be a maximum of six new primary pupils who will be taught together, separately from the older children, and the proposal is to accommodate them in a new classroom on the school site. The classroom will be a prefabricated unit and is likely to be on the same location that was previously occupied by a similar unit some years ago. The new classroom will meet the standards set out in BB102 (Building Bulletin 102) which is the most recently published set of standards for Special School accommodation. The classroom will meet the needs of the new pupils as required by the staff and governing body at the school, and will be installed in full consultation with them.

## Your views

This consultation is to gather the views of any interested parties on the proposal to permanently extend the age range of the school. This is a two stage process:

### Stage One:

Public consultation open to parents, Oxfordshire Special Schools, local residents and any other interested parties about a permanent extension to the age range at Woodeaton Manor School. That will take place until 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012. You have until that date to respond (see details below).

This consultation is to help inform the plans and decision on whether to proceed with the proposal. The final decision rests with the County Council. If, as a result of the consultation, a decision is made to go ahead with the expansion, Stage Two will follow.

### Stage Two:

The County Council will publish a *public notice* in the local paper and at the school. There will then be a *statutory notice period* of 6 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 extension of provision at Woodeaton Manor School, you must do so during the statutory notice period even if you have already responded to the consultation during Stage One. We currently expect the statutory notice period to be in April / May 2012. The County Council Cabinet (if there have been objections) or the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement (if there are no objections) will then make the final decision on this permanent change, and this is currently planned to be in June / July 2012.

## 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:  
**[Woodeaton2011-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Woodeaton2011-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 **9<sup>th</sup> February 2012** at the latest.

**Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of Woodeaton Manor School**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature .....

Name .....

Address (optional) .....

- Parent of a child at Woodeaton Manor School
- Parent of a child at another school
- Parent of a child not yet at school
- Governor/staff at Woodeaton Manor School
- Local resident
- Other (specify) .....

*Tick all that apply*

**Please return by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to:**

**School Organisation and Planning**

**FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(No stamp required)**

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