

# **Consultation on the proposal to expand Watchfield Primary School**

Annex 1

**1 May 2013 – 12 June 2013**

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council  
in partnership with the Governing Body of Watchfield Primary School**



**An informal drop-in session for parents will be held at  
Watchfield Primary School  
from 3pm to 4pm on Thursday 16 May 2013**

**This is an opportunity to discuss the proposal with school  
and Oxfordshire County Council representatives**

## Introduction

Watchfield Primary School is a community school in the Faringdon Partnership of Schools in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire. The school is preparing to convert to an academy towards the end of 2013, to join the existing Faringdon Multi-Academy Trust.

Watchfield has an admission number of 45, operates as a 1.5 form entry primary school and experiences fluctuating pupil numbers due to movement of families in and out of the area relating to the nearby Defence Academy. It is important that the school has enough capacity to be able to respond flexibly to the unpredictable number of pupils arriving each year.

The total number of children on roll in Reception – Year 6 at the January 2013 pupil census point was 288 as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	49	42	45	48	40	32	32

Watchfield Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted on 3 November 2010 and was graded Good (Grade 2).

## Why are we consulting?

Watchfield Primary School has seen demand for pupil places rise, in part due to housing development in the area, but also due to RAF personnel relocated from RAF Lyneham being housed in Watchfield. Primary schools in this partnership overall are operating at below the county council's target level of spare places for rural areas. In addition, a new housing development of 120 dwellings has been approved to be built in the area, and an outline application for 100 dwellings is currently going through the Planning process at the district council.

For the September 2012 intake, there were 45 available places in the Reception class.

- 51 on-time applications were received, of which 31 were first preferences
- 27 late applications were received
- During 2012, the F1 year group grew to 49 children.

The latest pupil forecast figures for the Faringdon Partnership of Schools is as follows:

Faringdon	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2013-14	260	261	234	225	213	233	188	1614
2014-15	240	264	262	231	231	221	236	1686
2015-16	250	244	264	257	237	240	224	1717
2016-17	250	254	244	261	263	245	243	1760

## What we want to do

The county council, in partnership with the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, wishes to increase Watchfield Primary School's admission number from 45 to 60 from September 2014. If, following the statutory consultation process, it is decided to permanently

change the admission number to 60, there will be a need for more classrooms to be built. A feasibility study has begun, in partnership with the Headteacher and governors, which is looking carefully at the school site and buildings to see how additional classrooms and other accommodation might be provided.

**We think that this is a popular school at the heart of its community, which should expand to meet demand for places from a growing population. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see Watchfield Primary School grow to admit 60 pupils each year into Reception and operate as a 2 form entry school.**

## **Your views**

Please take the time to tell us what you think. This consultation is about the principle of increasing the number of children at the school. The changes to the buildings will require Planning Permission, offering a separate opportunity to comment on the proposed building layout and design as part of the planning process.

### Stage One:

Public consultation is taking place until 12 June 2013. You have until that date to respond. This consultation is to help inform the decision on this proposal. The decision to proceed to the next stage rests with the county council's Cabinet or Member for Education. If, following this consultation, a decision is made to proceed, 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 4 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 expansion, 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 September / October 2013. The county council Cabinet (if there have been objections) or the Cabinet Member for Education (if there are no objections) will then make the final decision on this permanent change, and this is currently planned to be in November 2013.

## **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: <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>  
There are several ways to respond:

- complete the response form at the back of this document, or write your own response, and send it to the address shown on the form
- respond online at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>
- email your response to: **Watchfield2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if you have more than one child at the school. Please return your form as soon as possible, but by **12 June 2013** at the latest.

**Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of  
Watchfield Primary School**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Signature .....

Name .....

Address (optional) .....

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

*Tick all that apply*

**Please return by 12 June 2013 to:**

**Diane Cameron**

**School Organisation and Planning**

**FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(No stamp required)**

Alternative formats of this publication can be made available. These include other languages, large print, Braille, Easy Read, audiocassette, computer disc or email. Please telephone 01865 816454 or email [SchoolOrgPlan@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolOrgPlan@oxfordshire.gov.uk)