

Consultation on the proposal to expand Botley School

11 June 2012 – 23 July 2012

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

**Open meeting at Botley School on
Wednesday 4th July 2012 at 6.30pm (crèche provided)
Your opportunity to discuss with Headteacher, Governor and Local Authority**

About Botley School

Botley School is a community school for children aged 3-11 in the west of Oxford and forms part of the West Oxford partnership of schools. In 2011 the school merged with Elms Road Nursery School to create a single establishment. The governing body of this school also governs the on-site Children's Centre.

The total number of children at the school in years F1 (Reception) to Year 6 is 269 (January 2012 pupil census) as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	42	56	31	49	30	33	28

Why are we consulting?

Botley School's Admission Number was previously 45, but for September 2012 intake it was published at 60. However for the school to permanently expand to an admission number of 60 the statutory consultation process must be followed, without which the admission number would have to revert to 45.

At the request of the Local Authority, Botley School admitted an additional class (15 places) of F1 (Reception) class pupils in September 2010 to meet demand for pupil places within Oxford city. Demand for pupil places across Oxford city has risen and the expectation is that the rise in pupil numbers will be sustained. Similarly, the West Oxford partnership of schools, of which Botley School is a member, lies both within and on the outskirts of Oxford itself and is experiencing very high demand for places. Plans for additional housing within the school's catchment area are confirmed in Oxford City Council's Core Strategy.

The proposal is to expand Botley School to become a 2 form entry school with an Admission Number of 60 on a permanent basis. This would bring the number of children on roll at the school up to possibly 420 children (excluding the Nursery).

We think that this is a school at the heart of its community, which should expand to meet local demand. We want to know your views about whether you are happy to see the school grow.

What we want to do

We are planning to increase the school admission number from 45 to 60 on a permanent basis. Although the published admission number for 2013 has already been decided at 60, this admission number can only formally be confirmed as permanent from 2014.

The school has sufficient classroom accommodation to admit 60 Reception (F1) pupils in September 2012. In September 2013, F1 and Years 1, 2 and 3 would have up to 60 children. Gradually the 60 pupil year groups will progress through the school, so that seven years on, all year groups could potentially have 60 pupils.

If, following this consultation, it is decided to permanently change the admission number to 60, there would be a need for more classrooms to be built. A detailed feasibility study in

full consultation with the governing body is well underway, which looks carefully at the school's site and buildings to see how classrooms could best be provided.

Your views

Because of the increase in the proposed size of the school we need to make sure that the proposal is supported locally. This is a two stage process:

Stage One:

Consultation with parents, local schools and others about a permanent change to the admission number to 60. That will take place until 23rd July 2012. You have until that date to respond (see details below).

This consultation is to help inform the plans. The final decision rests with the County Council. If, as a result of the consultation, they want 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 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 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 November / December 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: <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

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 <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> - go to the *Consultation portal*
- write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
- email your response to:
Botley2012-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 **23rd July 2012** at the latest.

Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of Botley School, Oxford

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature

Name

Address (optional)

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

Tick all that apply

Please return by 23rd July 2012 to:

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

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