

# **Consultation on the proposal to expand Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden**

**10 September 2012 – 22 October 2012**

**Produced by Oxfordshire County Council and the Governing Body of  
Five Acres Primary School**

**Open Drop-In Session at Five Acres Primary School:  
9am on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Your opportunity to discuss with Headteacher and Oxfordshire County Council staff**

## About Five Acres Primary School

Five Acres Primary School is a community school for children aged 4-11 in Ambrosden, near Bicester in the Cherwell district of Oxfordshire. Approximately half the children on roll are from Service families, who are posted to the Army base nearby and who form a significant section of the local community. The on-site Five Acres Nursery School is also governed by the school's governing body and run by the school's Headteacher.

The total number of children (January 2012 pupil census) is 283 (excluding the Nursery), as shown below:

Year Group	Reception (F1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	55	45	56	47	32	24	24

### Why are we consulting?

Five Acres Primary School's published admission number was until recently 30. However the school has admitted over this number for the last few years in agreement with the Local Authority, to meet growth in demand for pupil places and fluctuations as a result of troop movement. For September 2012 the Admission Number rose to 45, which more accurately reflects the actual intake of pupils into the Reception (F1) class each year. However demand for pupil places has increased still further due to small-scale housing development in the area and troop movements, and Five Acres agreed at the request of the Authority to admit up to 60 pupils in September 2012. Cherwell District Council has included Ambrosden in its list of villages in which it expects to approve housing under their Local Plan. This would further increase demand for places at the school.

The proposal is now to expand Five Acres Primary 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 popular 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. Because the published admission number for 2013 has already been decided, the school's admission number can only now formally change from 2014. However, the school may admit 60 in 2013 in agreement with the Local Authority as a temporary measure.

The school had sufficient classroom accommodation to accept up to 60 Reception (F1) pupils in September 2012. If, following this consultation, 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, which will look carefully at the school's site and buildings to see how classrooms could 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. The changes to the buildings will be subject to achieving Planning permission and the statutory planning process will be followed, offering a separate opportunity to comment.

This consultation is about the principle of increasing the number of children at the school. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October 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 January / February 2013.

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 March 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>

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:  
**FiveAcres2012-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 **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012** at the latest.

**Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

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Signature .....

Name .....

Address (optional) .....

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

*Tick all that apply*

**Please return by 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 to:**

**School Organisation and Planning**

**FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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