



Consultation on a proposal to expand Edward Feild Primary School, Kidlington

6 June 2017 – 18 July 2017

Edward Feild Primary School is located in the village of Kidlington, near Oxford, in Cherwell District. The school is part of the Kidlington area partnership of schools and currently has a Published Admission Number of 45 (i.e. the school admits up to 45 children each year in to the Reception class).

The school has recently been inspected by Ofsted in May 2017 and is graded as Good. School performance data provides evidence of rapid improvement since the Ofsted inspection:

- By 2016, Early Years and Key Stage 1 outcomes were mostly at or above the county and national averages.
- By 2016, Key Stage 2 outcomes were still slightly below county or national averages, but had improved, and were above the DfE floor standard.
- Attendance rates are high and rates of persistent absence or exclusion are low.

The total number of children on roll at the January 2017 pupil census was 297 as shown below:

Year Group:	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Number of Pupils:	50	54	52	32	39	29	41

What is being proposed?

Expansion

Oxfordshire County Council working with the leadership team of the school, propose to increase Edward Feild's Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2018 from 45 to 60 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2018 onward would consist of up to 60 places, making a maximum total of 420 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 60 children are admitted into the Reception class, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. Should there be a demand for places in older year groups as a result of children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to expand the older year groups too.

Class organisation

Where possible, county council policy is to organise and expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 children per year group (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This helps schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. An advantage of this proposal to increase the Admission Number from 45 to 60 is that the children would be admitted in two full forms of 30 each, and would stay in those single age classes as they progressed up through the school, rather than being taught in mixed-age classes.

There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 60 as standard. The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school, and would be dependent on the number of children admitted.

Reasons for proposal

Schools across Kidlington have experienced rising demand for places in recent years, and there has been a pressure on availability of places across the partnership for the younger children. Edward Feild Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community and since 2014 has, at the request of the county council, been above its PAN of 45, welcoming in up to 60 children into Reception in those years, to meet local demand. A decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school to an annual intake of 60, or return it to an intake of 45.

The most recent available forecast for primary pupil numbers across Kidlington is shown below. Note that this forecast does NOT include additional pupils generated by any new housing development in the area and is therefore viewed by the county council as a conservative estimate:

YEAR	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL
2016	185	199	200	169	193	170	177	1,293
2017	213	182	199	199	168	190	166	1,318
2018	185	212	182	198	198	167	188	1,329
2019	190	183	212	181	197	197	164	1,324
2020	187	187	182	211	180	195	194	1,337
2021	186	185	187	181	211	178	192	1,319

If Edward Feild Primary School were to return to an admission number of 45, the Kidlington partnership of schools jointly would provide 195 primary places per year; if Edward Feild Primary School permanently expands to an admission number of 60, the partnership would jointly offer 210 places per year.

The County Council considers that for effective school organisation, a margin of "spare" school capacity is necessary, to provide some flexibility for unexpected influxes of children and expressions of parental preference. The Department for Education (DfE) considers it "reasonable for authorities to aim for between 5 and 10 per cent primary surplus to allow them some opportunity to respond to parental choice" and that 5% is "the bare minimum needed for authorities to meet their statutory duty with operational flexibility, while enabling parents to have some choice of schools".¹ The figures above show that, without permanent

¹ 2013 National Audit Office report *Capital Funding for New School Places*

expansion of Edward Feild Primary School, the number of surplus places in Kidlington falls below what is considered reasonable to accommodate parental preference and natural fluctuations in pupil numbers.

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the demands of the existing population, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into any new homes built within the village. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in Kidlington, a permanent expansion of Edward Feild Primary School is now sought.

If Edward Feild Primary School expands to 2 form entry (PAN 60) on a permanent basis, there will be sufficient places to meet the current scale of population growth.

Buildings

Oxfordshire County Council has already carried out the first phase of required works at the school in order to accommodate the additional children that were admitted in the last three academic years. This included internal works to make existing accommodation suitable for classroom use, and the provision of two additional classrooms. To accommodate a permanent increase to PAN 60, the county council would provide an additional new classroom at a later date.

It is expected that the cost of extending the school will be met from money the county council has secured from developers building houses in the local area. It may also require contributions from any future developments not yet applied for.

Important points to remember

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Edward Feild Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Cherwell District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to Cherwell District Council.
- Issues around traffic, parking and design will be addressed as the planned additional construction works for the final extra classroom go through the process for planning permission, in the usual way.
- This consultation is taking place until **18 July 2017**. You have until midnight on that date to give us your views. All responses received will then be considered.
- The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for the publication of a Statutory Notice, which offers another opportunity for interested parties to respond to the proposal. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families would then formally decide whether to approve the proposal to expand the school.

How you can respond to this consultation

This information is available online at the county council's website in the consultations section: <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>. We would like to hear from you if you

support this proposal as well as if you have any concerns. There are several ways you can submit your views:

- respond online at the above web address using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage
- email your response to: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **EDWARD FEILD EXPANSION** in the subject line;
- hand in your response at Edward Feild Primary School's office, to be passed on to the county council.

You must respond by 18 July 2017.