

Harborne Primary School Proposal to Expand

*We Are Seeking Your Views on the
Proposal to Expand Harborne Primary
School by Expansion onto an Additional
Site*



Harborne Primary School

November 2014

Introduction

We, the Governing Body of Harborne Primary School, in collaboration with Birmingham City Council and the Governing Body of Lordswood Girls' School, are consulting on a proposal to expand from September 2016.

These changes are explained in the sections below. This consultation starts on 5th November 2014 and will run until 12th December 2014.

As this expansion plan is proposed by the Governors under the new regulations there is no requirement for statutory consultation however we would like to hear your view and seek to accommodate these in our proposed plan.

School Information

Harborne Primary School is a community school located within Harborne ward of the Edgbaston District. The school caters for pupils aged 4 to 11. Currently the school can accommodate 630 pupils in Years Reception – Y6. The school is popular and oversubscribed, all 90 places in Reception for September 2014 were filled and there are waiting lists in many year groups. Currently the school operates at 90 places (3 classes) per year group. The majority of Harborne Primary's pupils live within the local area.

What changes are proposed?

In response to the published Education Sufficiency Requirements¹ from Birmingham City Council in November 2013, the governing body of Harborne Primary submitted an Expression of Interest form, in conjunction with Lordswood Girls' School, to consider expanding the existing school from three-form entry to a five-form entry school from September 2016 - with the additional two-form entry provision at an annex on a separate site.

We are proposing to expand the school by two additional forms of entry in the primary age range. The proposal will mean that the school will be able to accommodate 150 pupils per year group from Reception through to Year 6 on a permanent basis.

The current school site is restricted and will not support a school expansion; therefore an additional site within the grounds of Lordswood Girls' School at Knightlow Road, Harborne, B17 8QB has been identified to provide the space required to accommodate a new school annex for the proposed expansion with planning permission also being sought for a separate entrance from Knightlow Road. The governing body of Lordswood Girls' School is fully supportive of this venture and the aspiration is for a 2 form entry 2FE² school from Reception to Year 6 to be built on their grounds. The current 3FE school will remain on the Station Road site.

¹ Publication from Birmingham City Council in November 2013 detailing the additional school places that would be needed within Birmingham between 2014-19 to meet anticipated growth. Please see www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/esr for more details.

² A form of entry is how many classes a school has per year group. So a 2 form entry (FE) school has 2 classes per year group.

We are proposing to offer a total of 150 places in Reception for September 2016 entry, with 90 places at Station Road and 60 places at Knightlow Road. We are confident that we have the capacity to establish the new primary school without impacting on our current provision.

We are planning for the school to take its first increased intake in Reception from September 2016. It is anticipated that the growth of the school will be gradual as an additional 60 pupils will be admitted into Reception and work their way through the primary school, however, there is also the possibility for the school to offer additional places on the Knightlow Road site in Years 1 – 5 dependent on need, in agreement with Birmingham City Council and as appropriate for the school to manage.

Why do we want to do this?

Harborne Primary is a very popular, over-subscribed school with many families from within our local community wanting their children to have the opportunity to receive the high standard of educational provision which is offered at our school. Places in our school are in high demand with over 70 families this year on our waiting list for places. Although the new proposed school is on the Lordswood site it will occupy a separate location with its own access. It has a large, open field with woodlands along the boundary. We will benefit from sharing resources and skills with the popular and successful Lordswood Girls' School. This will enhance the challenge and learning opportunities for all of our pupils who will be able to access modern science and ICT facilities for example as part of their daily lessons. We are aiming to create centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning and will work together in a partnership to offer the highest possible educational provision across our schools on both sites.

What we feel are the main benefits to our school and children:

- The facilities and resources available for our children will improve their educational experiences
- Improved outside playing and learning space and a games field which can be used by all of our pupils
- Closer links to secondary education with access to specialist teachers and older buddies to act as pupil mentors
- A Joint development programme for improving teaching and learning across our school partnership
- Access to Specialist teaching areas and resources at Lordswood Girls' School
- The development of Master classes for gifted and talented pupils
- A chance for teachers and support staff to work across two sites to share and develop their teaching skills and expertise.
- An opportunity to develop additional specialist primary teachers who are able to support pupil learning on both of our sites.
- A chance to give parents a choice of location for their children's education under the banner of one school
- Closer links to secondary education with access to specialist teachers and older buddies to act as pupil mentors
- As a larger school, we will benefit from economies of scale. This should be a major benefit to the older Station Road site, while we should be able to achieve savings at the newer more modern site

The Local Authority View

The city of Birmingham has a growing population with one of the youngest populations in Europe and the number of births in the city has risen rapidly over the last few years. To compound this Birmingham is also experiencing high levels of in-year growth due to net migration into the city. Birmingham has been proactive in addressing increased demand through our Additional Primary Places programme. Since 2010, up to and including Sept 2014, nearly 12,000 additional places have been provided for Primary aged pupils in large part through the permanent expansion of 49 mainstream schools.

In addition to the benefits already identified, the use of space at Lordswood Girls' is in line with our Basic Need Strategy¹ to 'make optimum use of existing space, buildings and sites to provide sufficiency, suitable, high quality additional places' and enable effective use of our Basic Need grant from the Department for Education (DFE).

Projected pupil numbers show that an additional 1020 Reception places will need to be provided for September 2016 entry. The Harborne ward in the Edgbaston district is one area of the city experiencing high levels of demand for primary places. Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority, has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all the children and young people living in Birmingham. Unless action is taken, there is a possibility that there will not be sufficient places for each child and young person living in Harborne.

Why has this school been chosen?

Following the publication of the Education Sufficiency Requirements¹ from Birmingham City Council at the end of 2013, all schools were invited to submit a proposal if they were interested in expansion. The governing body of Harborne Primary submitted an Expression of Interest, in conjunction with Lordswood Girls' School.

To decide which schools should be expanded, our Expression of Interest was assessed by the Local Authority against a number of key criteria:

- Location in relation to Basic Need i.e. how well the additional places are located to meet growth
- Standards in the school: it is expected that schools that expand will be Outstanding or Good
- The capacity of the school to provide suitable accommodation, within existing space and within planning / buildability constraints
- Popularity of the school
- Potential of any expansion to create overprovision in an area

Harborne Primary School is central to the area of demand, is extremely popular with local families and whilst the current school does not have capacity for expansion, they have identified a suitable alternative site for the additional intake. With an Ofsted judgement of 'Outstanding' for Leadership & Management we believe that it will be able to sustain the planned growth. We are also confident in the partnership

established with Lordswood Girls' School in order to deliver this proposal, and Birmingham City Council shares these views.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The building works for the proposed additional intake will take place on the Lordswood Girls' School site and therefore the Station Road site will not feel any changes. The plan is for the school to grow by 60 pupils per year group so the change in pupil numbers will occur gradually year on year however, there is also the possibility for the school to offer additional places earlier dependent on need, in agreement with Birmingham City Council and as appropriate for the school to manage. Class sizes will remain the same with no pupils asked to move to a new class on the new site during the academic year. We are confident in maintaining the excellent provision which we currently offer at Harborne Primary School.

Expanding Harborne Primary School will enable a greater number of local pupils to access its successful provision and benefit from its supportive and committed staff team. Harborne Primary has an excellent teaching record, with high achievement and progress for its pupils well above National Standards.

A decision on the increased admission number for Harborne Primary School will be sought in March 2015. If approval is received new parents will be informed of the opportunity to apply for 150 places at Harborne Primary for September 2016.

The proposed site for the new annex provision is the current Lordswood Girls' School site on Knightlow Road which is 0.8 miles/1.29 km from the current Harborne Primary site. The school will work with the Local Authority to allocate the places across the two sites appropriately.

The following admissions criteria will be applied for any remaining vacancies:

- a. Looked After or previously Looked After Children
- b. Children with a brother or sister already at the school who will still be in attendance in September 2016
- c. Children who live nearest to the main school site (Station Road, B17 9LU)

How will this affect staff?

A larger school will offer more opportunities for professional development and provide access to more resources and expertise to enable staff to develop new learning experiences to continue to deliver successful provision for its pupils. The growth of the school will require appropriate staffing recruitment to meet the need and to maintain the quality of provision at the school. As the school expands additional funding will allow us to create additional leadership roles as well as having more staff responsible for different areas of the curriculum.

This is an exciting time for the school so we will be looking to incorporate the building works and expansion programme into the curriculum for the children. Staff may be asked to move between sites as required, particularly in the early stages of growth.

How will this affect local schools?

We do not anticipate negative effects on other local schools in terms of their future admission numbers or pupil numbers and are keen to keep them well informed throughout the process. Birmingham City Council have established the need for additional school places in the area, and the demand for further primary school places across Harborne Ward and the Edgbaston District from 2016 according to school place forecasts (November 2013). The additional places will help support Harborne pupils and their families to access a local school place.

Will there be changes to the current school building?

No. The additional places will be accommodated at a new 2FE school annex to be built on the Lordswood Girls' site. It is anticipated that the building will operate as a 2FE primary school and will be fully functional with its own entrance to include all teaching spaces and facilities required to operate successfully.

Birmingham City Council's Education and Skills Infrastructure team will ensure that the new classrooms are designed and built in line with government standards and that pupils' learning will not be unduly disrupted. Proposals will be subject to planning permission and appropriate DFE approval. Other works to ensure that the facilities are suitable and ready for all year groups will be ongoing with timescales to be determined, but it is anticipated that the full works are completed by summer 2016 before the first intake of additional pupils arrives in September 2016. The building works will be funded through the Local Authority's Basic Need grant.

Will this definitely happen?

Following the outcome of the consultation period, your views will be fully considered in order to accommodate these within our proposed plans. Birmingham City Council will formally propose an increase to the Admission Number of Harborne Primary for September 2016 onwards with places offered across the two sites.

This project has been identified as a possibility and has the commitment of the Governing Body of both schools and Birmingham City Council subject to the outcome of full feasibility studies and associated planning approvals.

What will happen if this proposal is not taken forward?

If a decision is taken that Harborne Primary School should not be permanently expanded then the school will continue to operate at its current number of pupils, operating at 90 places per year group from Reception to Year 6 at the Station Road site. It is likely that Birmingham City Council will need to pursue alternative solutions for providing additional primary places in the area as a result of projected growth and this may mean that some parents will have to travel much further to take their child to school. It could also possibly leave this school open to an increase in admission appeals for primary places, which can result in larger class sizes.

How can I make my views known?

During this consultation period, you have the opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposed expansion of Harborne Primary School. You can make your views known by visiting www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/harborneprimary (live 10th November 2014) or by completing the attached consultation response form and returning it to the school office.

Please contact the school office and School Principal with any queries on this proposal. Please see the timetable at the end of this page with dates of meetings for staff, governors, parents and local community.

Please note the closing date for comments is **12th December 2014**. Although it may not be possible to respond to individual comments, all of the issues raised during the consultation will be considered when we decide whether or not to move to the next stage of this process.

What happens next?

The following timescale for the proposal to be implemented is for guidance only. At any point during the process, the proposal might be withdrawn or rejected by either the Governing Body of Harborne Primary or Lordswood Girls', or the City Council.

Possible Consultation Timeline for Expansion

Action	Date
Consultation begins	3 rd November 2014
Staff Information Sharing	3 rd November 2014
Parents Information Sharing	7 th November 2014
www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/harborneprimary goes live	10 th November 2014
Parents Forum meeting	17 th November 2014
Local Community meeting	1 st December 2014
Consultation ends	12 th December 2014
Consultation on 2016 Admission Number and Admission Arrangements begins	19 th December 2014
Consultation on 2016 Admission Number and Admission Arrangements ends	13 th February 2015
Cabinet decision made into increased admission number	16 th March 2015
School is expanded	1 st September 2016

Consultation Response Form

Proposal to expand Harborne Primary School from 1st September 2016

Please help us analyse these responses by indicating your interest in the proposal:

Parent / carer of a pupil

☐

Governor

☐

Member of staff

☐

Other

☐

If other, please specify interest

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Please provide any comments or suggestions you might have on the proposal to expand Harborne Primary School.

Please return this form to the address provided **by 12th December 2014.**

To provide comments please -

Visit: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/harborneprimary (from 10th November 2014)

Post or Return this form to: School Office

Thank you for taking the time to respond.