



Consultation on a proposal to expand Wallingford School

27 February 2017 – 10 April 2017

Wallingford School is a secondary school serving the Wallingford area in South Oxfordshire District. The school currently has a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 190 (i.e. the school admits up to 190 children each year in to its Year 7 classes) and it has a total capacity of 1211. The school was last inspected by Ofsted on 22 November 2012 and was graded Good.

The total number of children on roll at the October 2016 Pupil Census was 1208 as shown below:

Year Group:	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13(+)	Total
Number of Pupils:	196	192	202	190	189	134	105	1208

These figures show that Wallingford School is operating at capacity in its current accommodation.

Pupil numbers already at primary schools in the area show that in future years Wallingford School's current admission number will not be enough to provide places for all local children:

Current year group (2016/17	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Year of transfer to secondary school	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Current cohort size, Wallingford partnership schools	220	210	206	207	207	179	208

As these cohorts move on to secondary education therefore, additional accommodation will be required for them.

What is being proposed?

Expansion

The Governing Body of the school and the Directors of the Academy Trust, working with Oxfordshire County Council, propose to increase the school's PAN from September 2018 onward from 190 to 216 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2018 onward would consist of up to 216 pupils, eventually reaching a maximum total of 1080 pupils plus the Sixth Form across the whole school. Wallingford School teaches, as a rule, in classes of 27 pupils or so, rather than the conventional 30, in part because of the size of many of the existing classrooms.

The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 216 children are admitted into Year 7, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. However, should housing development lead to significant numbers of older children moving into the area and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to also expand the older year groups early. The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.

Reasons for proposal

Wallingford School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. The number of pupils in the local primary schools has increased in recent years and there will be increased demand for secondary school places in the Wallingford area from September 2017 onwards. There are also multiple housing developments permitted or planned within the school's designated (catchment) area and this will further increase the demand for secondary school places over the next few years at this school. The data shown above evidences the current lack of spare places available in the school; it cannot accommodate the size of cohorts currently working through the catchment primary schools, or with a further increase in demand within its catchment area.

To meet the needs of the growing local community, an expansion of capacity is now sought. If Wallingford School expands to a PAN of 216 it is anticipated to then have sufficient accommodation to meet the current scale of growth in demand expected within its designated area the earlier phases of the planned housing development. This would help prevent pupils having to travel further, at public expense, to access their secondary education at a different school.

It is expected that the school will need to expand by another form of entry to meet longer term housing growth, and the design of the school's expansion allows for a second phase of building work. However, no commitment is yet being made to this further expansion, as it will depend on the scale and speed of local housing growth.

Buildings

To accommodate the additional demand from population growth within its catchment area the school is planning a new 2-storey classroom accommodation block.

It is expected that the cost of expanding the school will be met from S106 developer contribution funding that Oxfordshire County Council has secured from developers building houses in the area.

The design work for the construction project, managed by Wallingford School, is advancing and will identify how the school could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided.

To see a possible floor plan of the proposed new building, go to <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> and click through on the link to the Wallingford School consultation. You will then be able to view a PDF of the plan. Note that this is not a final plan and is subject to alteration.

The Governing Body of Wallingford School has made the following statement:

Governors of Wallingford School are very keen to continue to serve the current catchment area, which combines the town of Wallingford and surrounding villages, as successfully as we have in recent years. We are delighted that this proposal allows the school to retain its character, in the face of considerable population growth, without threatening provision in other schools in the area. Although such a project brings its challenges, we are pleased that we will be adding to the facilities of the school and that there will be a more modern and attractive element of our provision at the front of the site.

Important points to remember

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Wallingford School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by South Oxfordshire District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to South Oxfordshire District Council.
- It is also **not** about the details / layout of the new building, which will be subject to planning permission in the usual manner.
- This consultation is taking place until **10 April 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 school to submit the proposal to expand to the Regional Schools Commissioner, who makes the final decision.

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 **WALLINGFORD EXPANSION** in the subject line;
- hand in your response at Wallingford School's office.