



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England)
Regulations 2013

Expansion of Radley Church of England Primary School

1. School and LA details

School: Radley Church of England Primary School
Address: Church Road, Radley, Abingdon OX14 3QF
Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council

2. Description of alteration

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the leadership team of the school, proposes to expand Radley Church of England Primary School to 1 form of entry. This would mean an increase in Radley's admission number in September 2021 from 15 to 30 on a permanent basis.

The proposed expansion of the school means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2021 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

From September 2021, total numbers would grow gradually each year as up to 30 children are admitted into the Reception classes, 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 speed up the expansion of the older year groups.

This proposal has been informed by the 4-week informal consultation held between 13 January and 10 February 2020.

To accommodate this expansion, the county council would provide 4 additional classrooms and other related accommodation. This accommodation may be through a standalone block or through an extension to the existing building. A detailed feasibility study is currently assessing the options, and once a decision has been made, a detailed design will be submitted for planning permission. Comments about the design of the additional accommodation should be submitted through the planning permission consultation.

During the informal consultation, queries were raised regarding the potential for expanding the school hall, and this is currently being considered by the Council. If this is not possible at this time, it will be ensured the current expansion project will not prevent the potential expansion of the hall at a later date, if additional funding becomes available. Additional land

has been made available for the school's expansion as part of a S106 agreement between OCC and Radley College, in order to provide sufficient site area to meet the government and the council's requirements for a 1 form entry school.

3. Evidence of demand

At the time of writing, outline planning permission has been granted for 240 new homes in Radley, as allocated in the Vale of the White Horse District Council Local Plan, with full planning permission also granted for 283 homes in South Kennington. While the latter dwellings will be closer in distance to St Swithun's CE Primary School in Kennington, they will sit within the designated area for Radley CE Primary School and so are likely to increase demand for places at Radley as well as at St Swithun's (which has recently been expanded to 2 form entry and is unable to expand further). In recent years nearly all children admitted have lived within the designated area for Radley CE Primary School; in some years the school has already had to refuse places to children living within the designated area. The county council therefore considers it essential to expand Radley CE Primary School to ensure sufficient pupil places are available in Radley. The school's Governing Body wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community, and a decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school from an annual intake of 15 to one of 30.

The need for the school's expansion is noted in the Radley Neighbourhood Plan, and is supported by Radley Parish Council. The school also offers nursery provision, and the proposed expansion would increase the number of nursery places provided from 48 part-time equivalent to 52 part-time equivalent.

Pupil Census Data from October 2019 shows that, at this time, Radley CE Primary School had 106 pupils on roll, so has already exceeded its capacity of 105. Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2019) indicate that numbers are expected to grow rapidly at the school, with an increasing shortage of places if the school does not expand. Reception pupil numbers are also forecast to persistently exceed the current admission number of 15.

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the forecast demands of the growing population in the area, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into new homes planned to be built around the village. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in Radley, a permanent expansion of Radley CE Primary School is now sought.

If Radley CE Primary School expands to 1 form entry (30 children per year group) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth.

To inform this proposal, Oxfordshire County Council ran an initial public consultation between 13 January and 10 February 2020. The initial consultation received 12 responses. Of these responses, 8 raised queries or concerns, as follows:

- Concerns about traffic and parking, and about the infrastructure required to enable children to travel safely to school from new housing developments.
 - These issues are being considered by Radley Parish Council as part of wider planning processes in Radley. Traffic and parking issues will be addressed in

detail through the planning process when the planning application is submitted. As part of the Planning Approval process there will also be a requirement for the school's Travel Plan to be updated to take account of the additional pupils.

- Concerns about whether the other areas of the school, such as the hall, would be also be expanded if pupil numbers at the school were to increase.
 - The County Council is currently exploring the detailed accommodation needs should the proposed expansion of the school be approved. As part of this, as discussed above under Section 2, the council is looking at the potential to expand the school hall. If it is not possible to include the expansion of the school hall in the works required to provide the necessary additional classroom spaces, the council will ensure that the ability to expand the hall at a later date, should additional funding become available, is not compromised by the expansion project.
- Concerns about the impact of the proposed expansion on other local primary schools with spare capacity.
 - The scale of the proposed expansion has been planned in line with housing development in Radley and Kennington, and subsequent population growth in the area. The only schools within walking distance of the planned developments are Radley CE Primary School and St Swithun's CE Primary School in Kennington. The latter school has already expanded to 2 form entry and numbers are increasing rapidly. Expansion of Radley CE Primary School is therefore required to ensure that children moving into new housing can attend a school close to where they live.

It should be noted that, despite some individuals also raising queries, 8 of the 12 respondents expressed support for the proposal overall.

A well-attended meeting was also held at the school on 29 January 2020 to discuss the proposal with parents.

4. Objectives

The proposed expansion would:

- Ensure the county council meets its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places, in an area where demand is expected to increase rapidly due to the cumulative effect of planned and permitted housing development.
- Be supportive of high educational standards and parental choice. Radley CE Primary School is rated Good by Ofsted (last inspected February 2019).
- Maintain parental choice for existing families and those moving into the Radley area.
- Provide necessary additional infrastructure to support local housing growth.
- Prevent unnecessary increases in travel time and costs for families in the area, who would otherwise have to accept places at schools outside Radley.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

A concern was raised during the informal consultation regarding the impact of the proposed expansion on other nearby schools. However, as discussed above under Section 3, Radley

CE Primary School is expanding in line with expected population growth in the area and will provide places for pupils from new developments that would otherwise be putting pressure on surrounding schools. It is not, therefore, expected to have a negative impact on other schools.

6. Project costs and funding

The capital cost of expanding the school will be met from money secured from housing developers (Community Infrastructure Levy) and capital funding provided by the county council.

The school will also receive grants from the county council totalling £66,000 towards the additional revenue costs it will incur as a result of setting up new classes.

Once pupil numbers increase, the school's budget will increase in line with pupil numbers.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

From 1 September 2021, the school will increase its intake into the Reception class from 15 to 30. It may choose to also admit into older year groups, if local population growth requires this.

8. Objections and comments

Comments or objections must be received by the local authority by **30 March 2020**.

Respond by:

- using the online questionnaire at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/radleyexpansion>
- emailing school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk (please quote 'Radley Expansion' in the subject line)
- handing in a written response at the reception office of Radley CE Primary School
- posting a written response to **Joanne Booker, Access to Learning, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND**, marking your envelope RADLEY EXPANSION

9. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is Oxfordshire County Council. The decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services at a meeting which is open to the public, and publicised on the county council's website. The decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period, and is currently expected on 13 May 2020.