



SURREY



School Organisation Consultation

Proposal to expand
Ashley Church of England Primary School in
Walton on Thames

The Proposal

1. Ashley Church of England Primary School, in conjunction with The Good Shepherd Academy Trust and Surrey County Council, is seeking the views of parents, staff, residents and other local stakeholders on a proposal to permanently expand the school.
2. This document is part of a statutory consultation process which opens on **Monday 30 November 2015 and closes on Sunday 10 January**. At the end of the consultation period a decision will be taken by the Governing Body and the Academy Trust as to whether to make the changes described below.
3. This consultation relates only to the educational and organisational debate about providing more school places locally, it is not a planning consultation. Only if a positive decision is made to expand the school will a formal planning application be submitted; this will have its own separate consultation that will take into account comments about the building proposals and traffic and parking issues around the school site.

4. Details of the proposed changes to the school

Changes to the Admissions Arrangements

5. It is proposed that Ashley Church of England Primary School becomes a three form entry primary school (3FE) from September 2017 with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 90. As the school is an academy within The Good Shepherd Academy Trust, the school is its own Admissions Authority. This means that the governing body of the school sets and annually reviews the admissions arrangements.
6. In conjunction with the proposal for expansion the Governing Body is also consulting on a change to its admissions policy for September 2017. The Governors only intend to implement this change if the school expands. If the size of the school remains the same then the Admissions policy will not change in 2017.
7. This separate admissions policy consultation is outlined in the document attached to this leaflet. Parents may respond to both consultations on the attached response form or may make separate responses by email to the school.

Changes to the size of the school

8. If the proposal to enlarge the school were to go ahead it would mean that from September 2017 Ashley would admit three classes into its Reception year group on a permanent basis. An infant class may legally comprise of up to 30 pupils therefore this would be a maximum of 90 pupils in the 2017 Reception cohort. The older year groups would remain unchanged as they move through the school, but each Reception intake would be 90 pupils from 2017 onwards.
9. As the school has already agreed to a temporary expansion in September 2015, and may again do the same in 2016, (aside from the decision being made about its permanent expansion), this means that by September 2017 all of the infant cohort would be 3 FE and the junior cohorts from Y3 upwards would be 2 FE (or 60 pupils per year group).
10. Consequently the school would increase in size gradually so that by September 2021 it could be expected to have reached its maximum size, which would be 630 pupils (3 FE in every year group).
11. The proposal also includes some new building and internal remodelling of the school's accommodation to provide sufficient rooms to enable it to operate as a 3 FE primary school. The details of what is required, including staff parking and school travel plan, are still being developed with the governors. A building programme will be the subject of a separate planning consultation once the principle of whether the school will be expanded has been agreed. It should be noted that the school expansion building programme would be funded by Surrey County Council as this is considered to be a project aimed to meet the basic need for more primary places in the area.

Why are we making these proposals?

• Providing Sufficient School Places

12. The 1996 Education Act places a duty on Local Authorities to ensure that there are sufficient school places within their jurisdiction. Surrey has had an unprecedented increase in demand for primary school places over the last ten years and Elmbridge Borough has reflected this trend. SCC's pupil forecast data indicates that there is still a need for more primary school places across Walton and Hersham. A number of primary school expansions have already been completed in the wider area and the residual demand is now for one more form of entry in this locality.
13. The five primary schools serving Walton and Hersham have a combined Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 420 places per year and the forecast demand indicates a need for one more permanent form of entry (1 FE) i.e. 30 more Reception places each year. This should be sufficient for the immediate and longer term.

	PAN	added	+/_	YR	Y1	Y2	I	Jun inc bulges	Jun +/-	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	J	Total
2015/16	420	90	30	460	436	392	1288	0	0	404	346	291	260	1301	2589
2016/17	420	0	- 50	470	459	435	1364	0	0	395	403	344	293	1435	2799
2017/18	420	0	-28	448	471	459	1378	0	0	440	395	402	343	1580	2958
2018/19	420	0	-28	448	449	472	1369	0	0	465	440	395	402	1702	3071
2019/20	420	0	-15	435	447	449	1331	0	0	476	464	438	393	1771	3102
2020/21	420	0	-11	431	433	445	1309	0	0	451	473	461	436	1821	3130
2021/22	420	0	-6	426	428	431	1285	0	0	447	449	471	458	1825	3110
2022/23	420	0	-1	421	424	426	1271	0	0	433	445	446	468	1792	3063
2023/24	420	0	1	419	419	421	1259	0	0	428	430	442	443	1743	3002
2024/25	420	0	3	417	417	416	1250	0	0	423	425	428	439	1715	2965

The chart above represents the situation in the Walton and Hersham planning area **if we do nothing more**. The third column (added) and column 9 indicate where we have added temporary expansions or bulge classes either in Reception or Year 3 to meet the demand arising from the annual admissions round. It indicates that there is an anticipated shortage of places in Reception up to 2021.

Why are we proposing that Ashley becomes 3FE?

14. The forecast demand clearly demonstrates a basic need for one more form of entry in this planning area up to 2021. After this the forecast is less reliable as it is based on trends as opposed to actual birth and housing data.
15. The Local Authority has considered all the local schools as options for expansion but has concluded, for a number of reasons, that Ashley would be the most appropriate school. This is why Surrey County Council has approached the Governing Body of Ashley and The Good Shepherd Trust and asked them to consider the possibility of 'growing' the school to 3 FE over a period of time.

Ensuring a good quality education

16. When bringing forward proposals to provide more school places, Local Authorities and academy trusts are required to consider expanding existing popular and successful schools. That is to say, schools that have a good or outstanding OFSTED inspection report, a proven track record for providing a high quality education and are regularly over-subscribed.

17. Ashley was expanded in 2010 as a result of its popularity and its high academic standards. It has been over-subscribed each year for a number of years. In 2013 there were 95 on time first preferences for 60 places; in 2014 there were 73 and in 2015 there were 60 first preferences for 60 places. But a number of second preferences also. The school's most recent OFSTED inspection report was prior to its conversion to academy status and at this time the school was judged as outstanding.

Reducing journeys between schools

- In addition the proposal potentially reduces the need for car journeys by parents as the intention is to provide school places in the urban environment where people can feasibly walk their children to school. Given the school's strong 'green/eco' ethos many Ashley parents already do so.

How will this proposal be implemented?

Stage 1

Ashley Church of England Primary School has already agreed to two temporary expansions and so has taken/is preparing to offer 90 pupil places in its Reception classes in 2015 and 2016. Surrey County Council has provided funding for the academy to undertake some internal building works to provide sufficient classrooms for these two extra classes.

Stage 2

If the school were to permanently expand to 3 FE throughout it would need 21 classrooms in total. The second stage of this project would therefore fund further building work to ensure that there was sufficient provision, including some small group rooms and a hall extension to accommodate the additional 210 pupils that would eventually join the school. This would be a phased project which would be carefully planned to allow for pupil safety, minimum disruption to teaching and learning and ensure that every class had an appropriate teaching space during the construction. We would expect the whole project to be completed by September 2018 at the latest.

Have Your Say

We would like to know what parents, staff and residents think about this proposal. There is a consultation response form at the end of this leaflet which can be completed either on line or on paper.

The consultation opens on **Monday 30 November 2015** and runs for 6 weeks. We are going to hold two public meetings at the school for parents, staff and other stakeholders to come and express their views on this proposal, obtain more information and have questions answered as far as possible. **NB we will not be able to give any detailed answers to questions on the design of the building or the mitigation for traffic at this stage; these questions will be best addressed at the subsequent planning consultation meeting in the New Year (date to be arranged).**

Statutory Notice

The relevant Statutory Notice relating to a school expansion will be published in the local press, on the school's website, www.ashleyschool.org.uk and on the school gates.

Responses to this notice should be submitted to Surrey County Council using the email address below

schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

The meetings, for anyone interested in this proposal, are as follows:

**Ashley Primary School at 8pm on Wednesday 9 December 2015
and at 2.15pm on Tuesday 15 December 2015 – both meetings will be for up to one hour**

Please complete and return your Consultation Response by **Sunday 10 January 2016**

You can do this in a number of ways:

- By using the Surrey County Council consultation website www.surreysays.co.uk
- By completing the form attached to this document and emailing it to schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
- Alternatively, complete a written consultation response form and hand it in to the school office where it will be placed in a confidential ballot box

Next Steps

School Expansion Consultation

Surrey County Council's School Commissioning Team will analyse the consultation responses and a summary of them will be included in a report to governors.

The Ashley Governing Body will determine whether or not to go ahead with the school expansion proposal at a meeting in January 2016. If the decision is to proceed with the expansion, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) will be formally asked to confirm the expansion.

There is no right of appeal once the decision has been ratified by the RSC. The final decision should be confirmed in the spring of 2016.

Then the Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement will be asked to approve the budget in terms of the council's financial commitment to a specific building scheme. The Academy Trust will then commission the building scheme, including a full transport survey.

NB This consultation process is separate to any subsequent planning application. A planning application will be submitted to Surrey County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee if the Governing Body determines to go ahead with the expansion. The planning notices will include information on building design and traffic considerations. This separate consultation process will be advertised on both the SCC and Elmbridge Borough Council's websites and interested parties will have another opportunity to respond with comments.

School Admission Consultation

The School's Governing Body will determine whether to adopt the proposed changes to the admissions policy in conjunction with the approval to expand the school. The admissions arrangements for 2017 must legally be determined by 28 February 2016.

Ashley Cof E Primary Consultation Response Form

Proposal to Expand Ashley CE Primary School (an academy) to Three Forms of Entry from September 2017

Please give us your views. Tick the box that best shows what you think of the following questions. You can write on the other side of this sheet if you want more space to write comments.

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ashley a 3 FE Primary School from Sept 2017?

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

Comments:

If the school expands, do you support the proposed change to the admission policy for 2017? (See separate document for details). Please also use the following page to make any comments about the proposed admissions changes or email the school separately.

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

To help with our analysis of responses please will you tell us something about yourself? Tick the boxes that best apply to you.

A resident living close/adjacent to the school	
A parent/carer of a child who may in future attend Ashley Primary	
A parent/carer of a child already attending Ashley Primary	
A parent/carer of a child attending another local school	
Staff member at Ashley Primary School	
A Governor of Ashley Primary School	
Some other link to Ashley Primary School	
Someone else with an interest – please give (optional) post code here:	

SCC has a duty to monitor the impact of its policies under The Equalities Act. The law defines the following 'protected characteristics' and seeks to prevent discrimination on these grounds: age, sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership.

If you are in a protected group and believe that these proposals may have an adverse impact on you or your child, please indicate this on the response form overleaf.

Please tick if you have written overleaf

