

**September 2015**

School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to enlarge Downs Way School**

# **Introduction**

At present, Downs Way School is formulated as follows:

* + The school is a 1.5 form entry Community Infant School, which accommodates children from Reception Year to Year 2.
	+ The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 and typically admits this number each year into its Reception Year, giving an overall capacity of 135 places for mainstream pupils.
	+ For September 2015 entry, due to the demand for places in the area, the school has admitted an additional 15 pupils into the Reception Year.

# **Proposal**

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Governing Body of Downs Way School, is proposing to:

* Enlarge Downs Way School from one-and-a-half forms of entry (1.5FE) at Reception to two forms of entry at Reception (2FE), to allow for a roll of 180, comprising two classes of 30 pupils in each year group.
* Build an additional classroom and ancillary space to facilitate this.

The enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2016 and would effectively make permanent the temporary expansion that occurred at the September 2015 intake.

# **Rational for Downs Way School Enlargement Proposal**

Tandridge is experiencing a steady increase in the demand for school places, reflecting both a rise in birth rate and increased house building and migration within the area. Births in the Borough in 2014 were 9.2% higher than births in 2002. Additional primary school places have already been provided reflective of this demand and further growth is anticipated in the short- to medium-term, which needs to be accommodated via further expansions of school provision. If approved, this proposal would provide 45 additional infant places within Tandridge that would, in part, help to bridge the projected gap between the supply of and demand for school places.

Where possible, the Council’s strategy is to expand high quality provision that meets parental demand, whilst also ensuring that there is a diverse pattern of provision, so as to provide families with some element of choice. As an Ofsted-rated ‘Good’ school, Downs Way meets these aspirations, with this being the key rationale underpinning the Council’s proposal to take this expansion scheme forward on a permanent basis.

The school is on an attractive site close to pupil demand. The school has a solid reputation, which it is building on an ongoing basis. For September 2015, the school received 33 1st preferences, and 104 preferences overall. Expanding this school will promote parental preference, by allowing the Governing Body to admit further applicants who name the school as a preferred option.

A programme of building works will expand the school with an additional building, to provide the requisite space.

We also feel that there are specific education benefits of the school increasing in size, including:

* + Increased staff numbers, with a greater diversity of experience, leading to educational development and progress;
	+ Greater opportunities for staff development/recruitment;
	+ Greater flexibility with a larger budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively; and
	+ Greater opportunities for curriculum development and school clubs.

# **The Need for Additional School Places in Oxted & Limpsfield**

Within Oxted & Limpsfield, there is presently provision for 165 places per year in Reception Year, composed of the following:

* Downs Way School (offering 45 Reception places per annum);
* Hurst Green Infant School (offering 30 Reception places per annum);
* Limpsfield C of E Infant School (offering 60 Reception places per annum); and
* St. Peter’s C of E Infant School (offering 30 Reception places per annum).

Demand for primary school places has been rising in Oxted & Limpsfield, in line with the general increase across the whole of the Tandridge Borough. Projections of future demand for school places are presented in the below table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Inf. PAN** | **Inf. Projection** | **Surplus** | **Jun. PAN** | **Jun. Projection** | **Surplus** |
| 2015/16 | 165 | 159 | 6 | 150 | 152 | - 2 |
| 2016/17 | 165 | 170 | - 5 | 150 | 129 | 21 |
| 2017/18 | 165 | 173 | - 8 | 150 | 139 | 11 |
| 2018/19 | 165 | 160 | 5 | 150 | 139 | 11 |
| 2019/20 | 165 | 153 | 12 | 150 | 148 | 2 |
| 2020/21 | 165 | 153 | 12 | 150 | 150 | 0 |
| 2021/22 | 165 | 153 | 12 | 150 | 139 | 11 |
| 2022/23 | 165 | 153 | 12 | 150 | 133 | 17 |
| 2023/24 | 165 | 153 | 12 | 150 | 133 | 17 |
| 2024/25 | 165 | 153 | 12 | 150 | 133 | 17 |

As can be seen from the above, there is a need for additional Infant places in the area in the short- to medium-term. This is also a relatively popular area for admissions applications and, even in years where a projected surplus has existed, placing all children with a preference in the area has proved difficult. This ultimately culminated in the “bulge” year expansion of Downs Way School for the 2015/16 academic year. The proposed expansion of Downs Way School by a half a Form of Entry would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 15 places and add further surplus in other years, thereby augmenting the scope for parental preference.

# **School Building Requirements**

The school has capacity to expand in its existing location. A building programme will be required to provide the permanent facilities to allow for this increase. Appropriate capital has been approved to achieve this and a separate planning application (with its own consultation process) will be run subsequent to this education consultation. The planning application process provides an opportunity to raise issues relating to the proposed building and implications including traffic, school facilities, energy and the impact on the local community and access. Responses to the education consultation should focus on the educational implications of the proposed change.

**Have your say**

Surrey County Council and Downs Way School would like to know what the community thinks about this proposal. The consultation will open on **Monday 21 September 2015**.

You can respond by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the ‘Surrey Says’ website: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk)

and searching for the school’s consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.

b) Completing the consultation response form that is available at the end of this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below.

Oliver Gill (Downs Way School Consultation)

Room 326

County Hall

Penrhyn Road

Kingston-upon-Thames

Surrey

KT1 2DN

FAO Oliver Gill (Downs Way School Consultation) to:

schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

All responses must be received by noon on **Monday 19 October 2015**

# **What happens next?**

We are going to hold a public meeting at the School where you can express your views, obtain more information and have your questions answered. The details of the meeting are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Downs Way School****On****Wednesday 7 October 2015 at 7:30pm** |  |  |
| **Please come and share your views** |  |  |

At the end of the Consultation, the Council will consider the responses and decide whether to proceed with the proposal at a Cabinet Member Meeting. The outcome of the consultation process and the decision taken will be published on the Council website:

<http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=448&Year=0>

# **Where can I obtain further information?**

You can find out more by contacting:

Oliver Gill (Downs Way School Consultation)

Room 326

County Hall

Penrhyn Road

Kingston-upon-Thames

Surrey

KT1 2DN

email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

Consultation Response Form

 **Proposal to expand Downs Way School from 135 to 180 places, from September 2016**

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

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Do you agree with the proposal to expand Downs Way School from September 2016?  |
| Agree |  |  | Don’t know |  |  | Disagree |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |
| Comments: |

Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

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| --- |
|  |
| A parent/carer of a child at the school |  |
|  |  |
| A parent/carer of a child in an Early Years setting |  |
|  |  |
| A parent/carer of a child who may in future attend the school |  |
|  |  |
| A parent/carer of a child at another school |  |
|  |  |
| Someone who works at the school |  |
|  |  |
| A Governor of the school |  |
|  |  |
| Some other link to the school  |  |
|  |  |

Someone else with an interest – please give details

It would also be helpful if you could give your postcode

Please return to:

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Room 326

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Surrey KT1 2DN

email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  | Please tick if you have written comments on the other side |  |

Downs Way School - Consultation Response Form

Additional Comments

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