

School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to enlarge Furzefield
Primary School**

**January
2016**



SURREY

Introduction

At present, Furzeffield Primary School is formulated as follows:

- The school is a 2 form entry Community Primary School, which accommodates children from Nursery to Year 6.
- The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 and typically admits this number each year into its Reception Year, giving an overall capacity of 420 places for mainstream pupils.

Proposal

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

- Enlarge Furzeffield Primary School from two forms of entry (2FE) at Reception to three forms of entry at Reception (3FE), to allow for a roll of 630, comprising three classes of 30 pupils in each year group.
- Build additional permanent classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.

The enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2016.

Rational for Furzeffield Primary School Enlargement Proposal

Reigate and Banstead is experiencing a significant increase in the demand for school places, reflecting both a significant rise in birth rate and increased house building and migration within the area. Births in the Borough in 2014 were 27.7% higher than births in 2002. A significant number of primary school places have 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 210 additional primary places within Merstham 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, Furzeffield 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 strong reputation and is oversubscribed for school places. For September 2015, the school received 67 1st preferences, and 107 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 additional buildings, thereby providing the requisite space to accommodate an increased pupil intake.

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 Merstham

Within Merstham, there is presently provision for 90 places per year in Reception Year, composed of the following:

- Merstham Primary School (offering 30 Reception places per annum); and
- Furzeffield Primary School (offering 60 Reception places per annum).

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

Year	YR PAN	YR Projection	Deficit
2015/16	90	96	6
2016/17	90	104	14
2017/18	90	105	15
2018/19	90	104	14
2019/20	90	103	13
2020/21	90	104	14
2021/22	90	105	15
2022/23	90	105	15
2023/24	90	106	16
2024/25	90	108	18

Due to the high degree of cross-area pupil movement, the above projected deficits should also be viewed in the context of projections of demand for school places across the wider Reigate & Redhill area (the numbers below incorporate the numbers above):

Year	YR PAN	YR Projection	Deficit
2015/16	870	944	74
2016/17	900	994	94
2017/18	900	979	79
2018/19	900	956	56
2019/20	900	945	45
2020/21	900	951	51
2021/22	900	957	57
2022/23	900	961	61
2023/24	900	966	66
2024/25	900	973	73

As can be seen from the above, there is a sustained need for additional Primary places within Merstham, as well as the wider Reigate and Redhill area. Whilst Surrey County Council managed the immediate pressure for September 2015 in Merstham and the wider area, via the delivery of a number of “bulge” year expansions (including 30 places at Merstham Primary School), the need for permanent expansions will remain. A core component of the strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of

Furzefield by a Form of Entry, which (if approved) would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 30 places.

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 Furzefield Primary School would like to know what the community thinks about this proposal. The consultation will open on **Monday 18 January 2016**.

You can respond by:

- a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: 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 (Furzefield Primary School Consultation)
Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston-upon-Thames
Surrey
KT1 2DN

FAO Oliver Gill (Furzefield Primary School Consultation) to:
schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

All responses must be received by noon on **Monday 15 February 2016**.

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:

Furzefield Primary School

On

Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 6:00pm

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:

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Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
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Surrey
KT1 2DN

email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

Consultation Response Form

Proposal to expand Furzefield Primary School from 420 to 630 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 Furzefield Primary School from September 2016?		
Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

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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Please tick if you have written comments on the other side

