

School Specific Responses

School: Aylward Primary School

Primary Planning Area: North East

The projections for this planning area indicate increased demand above the 360 permanent Reception places available in September 2013 requiring additional Reception places of between 50 (in September 2014) and 101 (in September 2019) pupils per year.

Demand for primary school places in the North East Primary Planning Area is already filling available places. There is significant new housing development in this planning area. The phases of the development at the site of the former government offices off Honeypot Lane have now been completed and additional applications for school places have been received, particularly at the Whitchurch schools nearest to the development. Development of up to 347 housing units is also planned at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital site.

In the context of the current projections it is expected that at least a further two primary schools in this planning area will need to be permanently expanded and possibly a third school. Accordingly, two schools are proposed for permanent expansion in Phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme to meet future demand for places.

The proposals are:

Year	Permanent expansion	Temporary Reception Classes
September 2014	Aylward Primary School	Whitchurch First School
September 2015	Whitchurch First School	One class if required

Proposal for Aylward School Primary School

Permanent expansion with effect from September 2014.

(The school opened a bulge Reception class in September 2013)

School Response

Aylward Primary School Governors support the primary school expansion plan including the plans to expand the school.

General Consultation Responses (including individuals, organisations and on-line)

A summary of the number of responses is presented in the table:

Yes	No	Not Sure	Total
29	28	7	64
45.3%	43.8%	10.9%	

A number of comments were made in support of the expansion to meet increased demand for school places. A large number of responses were made about the chronic traffic congestion created by North London Collegiate and Aylward Primary School in the local area. A few comments were made about the poor buildings and the need to improve them for the expansion. One commented on the importance of the expansion to raise the profile of the school.

Officer Comments

The permanent expansion of Aylward Primary School would contribute to the need for places in the North East Planning Area. The permanent expansion would increase the school from two forms of entry (60 places) to three forms of entry (90 places). Aylward Primary School has already contributed to the need for additional school places in its locality by opening a bulge Reception class in September 2013. It is considered that this expansion would consolidate the school moving forward on its school improvement programme.

This is a large school site and has operated as a larger school previously. The school is included in the Government's Priority School Building Programme because of the priority need to address the poor condition of the school building and to ensure an appropriate and safe learning environment for the children. This is a national programme to address school building condition issues and will deal with the concerns raised about the current buildings. In accordance with the Government's programme, the school will be rebuilt / extensively refurbished by the Education Funding Agency by the end of 2016. The school will be rebuilt as an expanded school if the expansion proposal is approved. The council will work with the school to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation during the interim period before the school is rebuilt under the Priority Schools Building Programme.

The major concern is the traffic in the area and Dalkeith Grove was raised a number of times in the responses. To mitigate the traffic impact the Council will complete a transport assessment and work with the school to develop the School Travel Plan to reduce the use of car journeys and raise road safety awareness. The transport assessment will be used to inform parking and other restrictions that may assist with the specific congestion areas. A coordinated cross-council approach is being adopted by officers to address the traffic and school travel planning issues. This is intended to ensure that all that can possibly be done to address traffic problems and to influence travel behaviour is done. This corporate approach is described in more detail in the Cabinet report.

Officer Recommendation

Statutory proposals are published to increase Aylward Primary School by one form of entry (30 places) to be a three form of entry (90 places) school with effect from September 2014.