

School Specific Responses

School: Grange Primary School

Primary Planning Area: South West

The projections for this planning area indicate increased demand above the 540 permanent Reception places available in September 2013 requiring additional Reception places of between 73 (in September 2014) and 101 (in September 2015) pupils per year. There is little housing development planned for this planning area after 2015/16, which causes the projections for the following years in this planning area to plateau.

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. Accordingly, two schools are proposed for permanent expansion in Phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme to meet future demand for places. Other schools proposed for expansion in the neighbouring North West planning area draw some children from this planning area and the impact would be monitored.

The proposals are:

Year	Permanent expansion	Temporary Reception Classes
September 2014	Grange Primary School	Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School
September 2015	Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School	One class if required

Proposal for Grange Primary School

Permanent expansion with effect from September 2014.

School Response

The Governing Body has responded positively to the Local Authority expansion proposal. In its response the Governing Body noted it is not an expansion in the true sense (because the school site has accommodated more children in the past), but rather a re-configuration of rooms. Parents were very clear about their concerns and provided creative answers as to what would make a difference, particularly in relation to travel e.g. zebra crossing, lighting at the back, go slow (20mph). The main concern was that some parents park in local residents driveways. Pictures of the offending drivers have been passed onto the Council and the School stated that it does not support anti-social behaviour, including from the parents. The School would seek support from the Council with regards to this.

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
50	16	5	71
70.4%	22.5%	7.0%	

In general comments were supportive of the proposed expansion and providing more local places. A few comments were made about the strength of the school and the need to consolidate the progress made so far and the potential size of the expanded school. A number of comments were made about the traffic issues in the surrounding areas and the need to reduce car journeys.

Officer Comments

Grange Primary School has made a valuable contribution to increase the number of school places in the south west and has opened additional reception classes in September 2009, 2011 and 2013. This proposed expansion will consolidate the temporary increases of pupils in the school.

Grange Primary School was previously organised as two separate three form entry schools, including Year 7 pupils prior to the change of the age of transfer. As part of the amalgamation the combined school was reduced to two forms of entry. However, there is sufficient accommodation on the school site for a combined three forms of entry school with minor modifications. The modifications will improve the accommodation, the site and layout of the school. The school has made significant progress and is in a good position to consolidate as an expanded school and continue its improvement. The local authority will continue to support the school.

The local authority will work with the school to develop the school travel plan and other traffic mitigation measures as identified in the transport assessment. 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 Grange Primary School by one form of entry (30 places) to be three forms of entry (90 places) schools with effect from September 2014.