

## School Specific Responses

**School:** Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior 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 Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School**

Permanent expansion with effect from September 2015 and a bulge class is opened in September 2014.

### **School Response**

The Governing Body has discussed school expansion and identified issues such as health and safety, noise and learning, parking and access into the school as issues for further consideration. The school has requested certain criteria be applied to design work for expansion that incorporate current learning arrangements.

### **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
43	15	7	65
66.2%	23.1%	10.8%	

Some of the respondents considered that the small size of Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School was why the school was so successful and therefore an enlargement may risk this. Some respondents considered that there should be more new free schools opened to avoid making existing schools cramped. Other comments were raised about the site being small, and the small playground and small hall which impacted on school assemblies and performances. Other respondents supported the concept of a local school for local families and considered that the expansion would enable more local families to attend the school. A comment was also made about the importance of investing in education and that each school should contribute to the process of increasing capacity. A number of concerns were raised about the use of temporary addresses at the time of application to secure a place at the

school. Traffic issues and access to the school were raised, as was the impact for local residents and school during the proposed construction programme.

### **Officer Comments**

Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School is a popular and oversubscribed school, and meets the government's and Harrow's criteria for expansion. School expansions are creating larger schools including up to 4 forms of entry primary schools and Harrow's strategy considers that all schools are part of the solution. As one of two one form entry primary schools in Harrow, a proposed expansion contributes to the Council's strategy and aligns the school size with other schools in Harrow.

It is expected that some new build and reconfiguration of existing space in the school will be needed to enable the additional pupils in an expanded school to be accommodated. Successful application was made to the Government's Targeted Basic Need Programme for funding to expand Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School. The conditions of the Programme require the funding allocation to be spent and the new places to be available by September 2015. In order to meet these conditions, if Cabinet approves the publication of statutory proposals to expand the school, detailed design work would proceed in parallel with the statutory expansion processes before a final decision would be made by Cabinet in March 2014.

Traffic issues have been raised with all expansion proposals and coordinated cross-council approach is being adopted by officers to address the traffic and school travel planning issues. A transport impact assessment will be completed for expanded schools and suggestions made during the consultation will be incorporated into this assessment. This will inform the mitigation measures that could be taken on the highways to manage the traffic. 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.

As the Admissions Authority the council requires verification of home addresses for all applicants for school places. At the time of application and if incorrect address details have been provided, places can be withdrawn.

### **Officer Recommendation**

Statutory proposals are published to increase Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School by one form of entry (30 places) to be two forms of entry (60 places) schools with effect from September 2015 and to take a bulge reception class in September 2014.