

School Specific Responses

School: Norbury School

Primary Planning Area: Central

The projections for Central planning area indicate increased demand above the 480 permanent Reception places available in September 2013 requiring additional Reception places of between 114 (in September 2014) and 176 (in September 2021) pupils per year.

In the context of the current projections it is expected that at least a further three primary schools in this planning area will need to be permanently expanded. Two community schools are proposed for permanent expansion in Phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme to meet increased demand for places up until 2015/16.

The proposals are:

Year	Permanent expansion	Temporary Reception Classes
September 2014	Belmont School Norbury School	<i>St Anselm's Catholic Primary School</i>
September 2015	<i>St Anselm's Catholic Primary School</i> *	One class if required

* *Note: St Anselm's Catholic Primary School, a voluntary aided school located within this geographic planning area, is also proposed by its Governing Body for expansion in 2015.*

Proposal for Norbury School

Permanent expansion with effect from September 2014.

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

School Response

The Governing Body agrees with the approach to creating additional school places in Harrow. However, the Governing Body considers that this may not provide enough places in future and therefore Harrow Council must urgently identify possible sites for new schools (or schools on split sites) and protect them from being used for residential development.

The Governing Body of Norbury School strongly and enthusiastically supports the proposal to expand Norbury School but has some concerns:

- about plans to accommodate 30 extra children in September 2014 without the building works being completed;
- to be involved in design planning meetings and to have its suggestions considered;
- to be kept fully informed and consulted in the management of construction and refurbishment processes;
- Harrow Council to review traffic management options to ensure the safety of children and the community surrounding the school.

The Governors felt that that the new build would improve the site and play space and that they would be able to timetable the school day around some of these issues. The Governors concluded their response by stating that there is strong support for rebuild and expansion.

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
56	12	9	77
72.7%	15.6%	11.7%	

A number of comments were made by respondents about the location of the school in a busy area close to the town centre and the about the impact on nearby roads and local residents. Traffic issues are highlighted with many comments about traffic congestion and inconsiderate behaviour by drivers and concerns about the safety of children. Comments are made about the small school site area and the need to ensure the new build is available soon enough and to high quality. A number of comments were made in support of the expansion to make sure every child in the local community has access to school placement.

Officer Comments

The permanent expansion of Norbury School would provide school places in a good strategic location and would be a popular choice amongst parents wishing to secure a place. The permanent expansion would increase the school from two forms of entry (60 places) to three forms of entry (90 places). Norbury School has already contributed significantly to the need for additional school places in its locality by opening bulge Reception classes in September 2010, 2011 and 2013.

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 Norbury 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 Norbury 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.

Officers will have detailed discussions with the school about how the 30 extra children would be accommodated in September 2014 prior the building works being completed in 2015. A school expansion delivery team is being established to ensure appropriate engagement with the schools and involvement in the design and construction planning. Work will be undertaken with all the schools proposed for expansion to ensure a coordinated approach to addressing traffic issues as far as practicable.

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 Norbury School by one form of entry (30 places) to be a three form of entry (90 places) school with effect from September 2014.