

School Specific Responses

School: Pinner Wood School

Primary Planning Area: North West

The projections for this planning area indicate increased demand above the 480 permanent Reception places available in September 2013 requiring additional Reception places of 87 pupils per year in September 2014 which is the current projected peak in demand for places. There is little housing development planned for this planning area after 2014/15, 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 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 future demand for places. The proposals are:

| Year | Permanent expansion | Temporary Reception Classes |
|----------------|---|---|
| September 2014 | Pinner Wood School | Cannon Lane School <i>St John Fisher Catholic Primary School</i> |
| September 2015 | Cannon Lane School <i>St John Fisher Catholic Primary School *</i> | One class if required |

** Note: St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, a voluntary aided school located within this geographic planning area, is also proposed by its Governing Body for expansion in 2015. (See the voluntary aided schools section below). This school is located towards the south of the planning area and draws children from other planning areas also.*

Proposal for Pinner Wood School

Permanent expansion with effect from September 2014.

School Response

Pinner Wood Governing Body are in principle in agreement regarding expansion to three form entry as of September 2014. However the Governing Body expressed the following concerns which are:

- That admissions may not fill all the places and we would be left with an issue of transient pupils in a 'revolving door' scenario. There is also concern that some pupils may be travelling across the borough to reach the school or from out of Borough. Pupils travelling long distances to school can have an impact on attendance figures through being late, especially if reliant on public transport. This also introduces additional workload on the school if the pupils have SEN as money has to be recouped by the school from the Borough involved.
- There is much concern from the school and the local community regarding traffic and parking issues. There is already not enough on site staff parking and with the additional classes this will continue to worsen. Traffic issues at pick up and drop off times will also increase and be detrimental to our relationship with our neighbours. A conversation has already begun with the school, LA traffic department and the architects. We hope that this will continue and will provide insightful solutions to alleviate these problems worsening.

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 |
|-----|----|----------|-------|
| 9 | 19 | 6 | 34 |

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|--|
| 26.5% | 55.9% | 17.6% | |
|-------|-------|-------|--|

A number of comments were made about the traffic congestion and parking issues in a residential area that already experiences considerable disruption from school related traffic. Suggestions were made that new schools should be opened and school size should be maintained. A larger school might create additional pressure on the school and concerns were expressed about additional buildings on the playing field. Other respondents acknowledged the need to increase the number of school places and considered that the proposal to return the school to the former size was logical.

Officer Comments

Pinner Wood School is a successful school and has made a contribution to increase the number of reception places by opening bulge classes in September 2010 and September 2013. As it has been a larger school in the past with minor modifications and a small element of new build linked to existing building there is sufficient accommodation for an expanded school. There are no proposals to building on the school playing fields.

The school's concerns about whether places will fill and potential pupil mobility are understood and reflect experiences the school has had. An earlier proposal to expand Pinner Wood School was deferred in light of the school's concerns. However, the timing for expansion seems right now given the sustained increased demand for school places that is projected to continue for some years across the borough. The school is judged Outstanding by Ofsted and first and second Reception application preferences exceed three forms of entry.

Traffic issues have been raised with all expansion proposals and a 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.

Although there were a high % of respondents that did not support the proposed expansion of Pinner Wood School, there was a relatively low response rate of 34 replies and it is proposed that this expansion is progressed.

Officer Recommendation

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