

School Specific Responses

School: Priestmead Primary School

Primary Planning Area: South East

The projections for this planning area indicate increased demand above the 420 permanent Reception places available in September 2013 requiring additional Reception places of between 41 (in September 2014) and 94 (in September 2018) pupils per year.

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.

The proposals are:

Year	Permanent expansion	Temporary Reception Classes
September 2014	None	Kenmore Park Infant School Priestmead Primary School
September 2015	Kenmore Park Infant School Priestmead Primary School	One class if required

Proposal for Priestmead Primary School

Priestmead Primary School permanent expansion with effect from September 2015. A bulge Reception class in September 2014.

School Response

The Governing Body of Priestmead Primary School & Nursery agrees with the approach to creating additional school places in Harrow. The Governors are well aware of the shortfall of school places, and agree that it is the responsibility of the school to support the creation of more school places to educate the young people of Harrow.

The Governing Body of Priestmead Primary School & Nursery agrees on the permanent expansion of Priestmead Primary School & Nursery via an initial bulge class from September 2014 provided that the issue of our extreme lack of toilets is addressed and dealt with, the size of our very small kitchen for providing hot school meals is considered and dealt with and the safety matters relating to the service road are dealt with.

Concerns raised about traffic and parking problems at school starting and finishing times need to be addressed by the Local Authority as Governors, parents and local residents have raised them.

The governors are keen to understand how additional space will be provided for the two bulges classes that will be accommodated before the Priority School Building Programme building works are completed and to see detailed plans submitted for the approval of the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

The Governing Body has separately raised its concerns about safety issues surrounding the service road between Hartford Avenue & Ivanhoe Drive which has an entrance to the Junior playground immediately adjacent to one end of it. The governors would very much like this issue to be included in any responses or discussions appertaining to the proposed expansion

consultation. There is concern for the safety of children arising from vehicular speed and parking in front of the gates.

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
79	19	16	114
69.3%	16.7%	14.0%	

A few comments suggested opening new schools as the site was not sufficiently large to expand the school. The recent changes of headteacher were identified as a reason not to expand this school. Comments about the existing traffic challenges were made and the greater impact on the local area with an expansion. A number of comments were in support of the expansion as long as the education standards are preserved.

Officer Comments

Priestmead Primary School was established January 2009 as the result of the amalgamation of the two separate schools. The local authority considers that the school is in a good position to build on the foundation of the combined school in order to expand. 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. 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. During the rebuild process, there will be sufficient accommodation for the expanded school. In the interim the local authority will work with the school to ensure appropriate accommodation for the bulge class in September 2014 and for the additional children at the school until the PSBP building works are completed. The local authority will work with the school to develop the school travel plan and implement measures to mitigate the traffic identified in the traffic assessment.

Officer Recommendation

Statutory proposals are published to increase Priestmead Primary School by one form of entry (30 places) to be four forms of entry (120 places) from September 2015.