

## School Specific Responses

**School:** Aylward Primary School

**Planning Area:** North East

**Consultation Proposal:** Bulge class from September 2012 and permanent expansion with effect from September 2013

### School Response Governing Body

The Governors and Leadership Team are sympathetic to the need to expand the number of school places but consider that expansion would not be effective or contribute to the school's continuing success. A number of concerns were raised namely the risk of over provision in the area and across in Barnet and providing additional places to benefit Barnet.

The Governors urged the Council to re-consider and delay the expansion.

### General Consultation Responses (including individual, organisation and on-line)

A summary of the number of responses is presented in the table:

Yes	No	Not Sure	No Reply	Total
5	13	12	0	30

Concern was expressed about whether there will be sufficient demand to fill the school at 3 forms of entry, with associated mobility of pupils and putting at risk the school's ability to deliver its outstanding education. Also that expansion would predominantly provide places for Barnet children without the supporting LEA resources (e.g. for SEN). A wish was expressed to avoid a repeat of the decline in standards the school experienced when it reduced from 3 forms of entry previously.

### Feasibility study outcomes

Initial feasibility work has been undertaken to identify potential options for expansion and indicative costings for the building work required. If Cabinet decides to move these schools to the statutory process for permanent expansion, further work would be undertaken on options for expansion.

### Officer Comments

In the North East Planning Area from September 2011 there were two bulge classes and there was one in September 2010.

All local authorities plan their school provision based on the pupil and population projections for their area. Barnet Council are planning significant primary school expansions across their Borough. Broadfields Primary School, The Orion, and Blessed Dominic in the Hale, Edgware and Burnt Oak area will be expanded.

Aylward Primary School is the largest primary school site and has been a three form entry combined first and middle school. Reflecting the experience of reducing rolls, the planned admission number for the school was reduced from 90 to 60 in September 2005 and since the change in the age of transfer no longer has Year 7 pupils. There is other provision on the school site, including a unit for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Stanmore College provision and the Pre-school Language Unit, which have used some space that

became available. Permanent expansion of Aylward Primary School would require a combination of re-commissioning space and provision of additional accommodation.

Given the response of the school and their request for delayed implementation the permanent expansion of the school is not progressed at this stage. Aylward Primary School will be retained as a potential school for a temporary bulge class to meet increasing demand. If an additional class is opened the situation will be reviewed and there will be further consideration of permanent expansion.

### **Officer Recommendation**

1. At this time permanent expansion is not progressed.
2. Aylward Primary School will be considered for a temporary bulge class and/or permanent expansion as required in future.

### **Note about the North East Primary Planning Area**

The range of increased demand above current available permanent places in the North East Primary Planning Area is between an additional 35 and 53 pupils per year. The proposal for this planning area is to increase the permanent provision by at least 30 places, supplemented by temporary additional reception classes.

The Stanburn schools are recommended for statutory processes for expansion in this primary planning area subject to affordability. However, views were sought in the consultation about expanding Aylward Primary School also. This is because with only four community school sites in the North East planning area it would be difficult for the schools to meet demand, if it is sustained at the predicted high level, through temporary additional Reception classes. Weald Infant and Nursery School has already taken two bulge Reception classes in 2010 and 2011.

Also, demand for school places in the North East Primary Planning Area is already filling available places and there is significant new housing development in this planning area at the site of the former government offices off Honeypot Lane.