

School Organisation Consultation

A proposal to permanently expand Brookwood Primary School from 1 form of entry (210 pupils) to 2 forms of entry (420 pupils)

3 June 2013

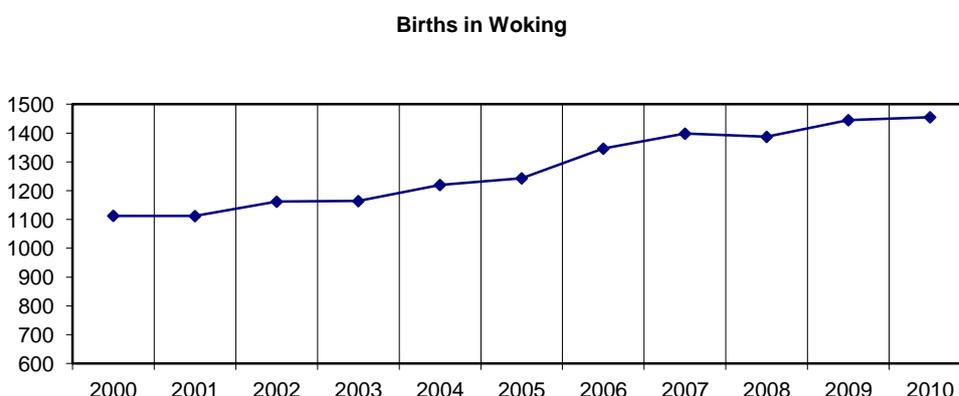
The Proposal

1. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Governors of Brookwood Primary School is proposing that the school expands from a 1 form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 30 (total capacity of 210 pupils), to a 2 form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 60 (total capacity of 420 pupils). The school will operate as a 'split site' primary school with a new junior school building to be developed to the south of the Brookwood Farm Housing development. Subject to consultation, this proposal will become effective from September 2014.

Why is this proposal being made?

2. Demand for school places – Demand for school places has increased significantly in Woking in recent years. In 2011 the County Council commissioned over a thousand additional school places in the Borough, permanently expanding primary schools including Westfield, Beaufort, St Dunstan's, The Marist and Goldsworth as well as temporary expansions at Sythwood, St John's and Pyrford (projects being in various stages of completion). Even with these additional places, most primary schools in Woking are expected to be full and to continue to be full in the future.
3. There are a number of different factors that can affect the demand for school places in an area. The most important is the birth and fertility rates in an area. Based on figures provided by the Office for National Statistics, births in Woking dipped from 1997 to a low point in 2001. Births then rose quite sharply year on year to 2007 before flattening out through to 2008. Births then rose again in 2009 and 2010. It should be noted that the recent increases in applications are unlikely to be the result of the number of births alone. There are other factors such as additional pupils from housing growth, inward and outward migration, parental preferences and the changing percentage of parents applying for independent or private provision - all of which can affect the number of applications in any given year making applications more difficult to model.

Chart 1 – Births in Woking (ONS)



4. Table 1 below shows the demand profile the Local Authority is working to. It identifies the total number of available primary places in Reception in Woking (the PAN) and including the recent expansions, compared with the projected pupils in reception year. This provides the number of spare places across the Borough (a negative figure in the spare column shows a shortage of places compared with the current PAN). Parental preferences are given to indicate the demand for places each year.

5. Projections have underestimated demand in Woking in 2011 and 2012 so the 2011 projections have been inflated to reflect this recent experience. On the basis of the below the Local Authority is projecting a need for a minimum of 3 further forms of entry from 2014. Brookwood Primary School would meet one of the 3 additional forms of entry that are required.

Table 1 – 2011 Projection for Woking Borough

	PAN	1Pref	Spare	%	YR	Y1	Y2	I	JunPI	JSpare	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	J
2010/2011	1075	1061	1	0.1%	1074	1014	998	3086	954	-32	986	897	941	873	3697
2011/2012	1180	1173	31	2.6%	1149	1070	1014	3233	994	2	992	964	899	934	3789
2012/2013	1260	1232	20	1.6%	1240	1154	1070	3325	1024	16	1008	984	966	901	3859
2013/2014	1230		-6	-0.5%	1236	1245	1153	3356	1065	2	1063	1000	985	966	4014
2014/2015	1170		-82	-7.0%	1252	1240	1244	3319	1155	14	1141	1053	1002	983	4179
2015/2016	1170		-92	-7.9%	1262	1256	1239	3757	1260	26	1234	1128	1052	1001	4415
2016/2017	1170		-106	-9.1%	1276	1265	1254	3795	1230	4	1226	1222	1127	1049	4624
2017/2018	1170		-117	-10.0%	1287	1279	1262	3828	1170	-71	1241	1213	1219	1123	4796
2018/2019	1170		-123	-10.5%	1293	1290	1275	3858	1170	-79	1249	1228	1210	1215	4902
2019/2020	1170		-127	-10.9%	1297	1295	1287	3879	1170	-92	1262	1236	1225	1206	4929
2020/2021	1170		-124	-10.6%	1294	1299	1292	3885	1170	-106	1276	1249	1232	1221	4978

6. Housing development in the Borough - In January 2013 Woking Borough Council approved the development of 297 new homes on the Brookwood Farm site. Given that all primary schools in the Borough are currently full there will be a need for more school places arising from this development. The County Council welcomes the opportunity to create new school provision on new land, rather than having to expand existing schools on their existing sites and the County Council wishes to make additional school provision available to meet the future need arising from the Brookwood Farm community. Given the proximity of the land identified for new school provision to Brookwood Primary School, it makes good sense to expand the existing primary school rather than build a new stand alone school with separate Governing Body / Head Teacher and teaching staff.
7. Returning families to Pirbright Barracks - In May 2012 the Army indicated that around 120 families of servicemen from 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment were expected to be returning to the UK from Cyprus next year (for a September 2013 start). At the time, the Local Authority proposed to expand Bisley Church of England Primary School to meet this demand (expansion on the existing Brookwood Site was not possible). Following the national restructure of the Army, it was no longer planned for the 2 Yorks to return to Pirbright and in March 2013 the Ministry of Defence published a new basing plan indicating that the Welsh Guards would return to Pirbright Barracks instead. The expected number of returning pupils is expected to be lower but the actual numbers and the dates of their return are still not yet clear. Expanding both Bisley Church of England and Brookwood Primary School would risk putting in too many additional places into the area and would be cost prohibitive. Given that there is an opportunity to secure land for new school provision, the County Council is committed to the expansion of Brookwood Primary School and it is envisaged that this will be sufficient to meet the demand arising both from the housing development and returning families to Pirbright Barracks in the future.

Current number of places available at Brookwood Primary School

8. The table below shows the total number of places that are currently available at the school by year group and in total.

Table 2 – Current Available Places

Brookwood Primary School	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
2013	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

Proposed number of places at Brookwood Primary School

9. The table below shows the proposed number of places at Brookwood Primary School that would be available in the future. This proposal would create an additional 210 places at the school in total but not all of those school places will be available at once. This is largely because the additional demand generated from the Housing development will take some time to follow through as and when houses are built, sold and occupied by new families. The table below identifies the planned profile that the Governors of Brookwood Primary School and the Local Authority is currently working to and the additional school places that will be provided as part of this project. The Published Admission Number of the school (the number of children the school would admit up to in Reception) would change from September 2014 from 30 to 60. The school will also admit more pupils in other year groups according to the profile set out below. Whilst most school expansions are phased up from reception onwards (e.g. only 30 additional children joining the school each year), in this case, children returning to Pirbright Barracks area and children generated from the new housing at Brookwood Farm could be in any year. It is therefore important to offer more places across year groups. There is inevitably some uncertainty as to how many children will actually attend the school in the future so the Local Authority will put a case to Schools Forum (a forum of schools that decides on the level of financial support offered to 'growing schools funds') to guarantee the funding for the profile below for the first three years. A decision on this will be taken in July 2013.
10. The junior building is expected to be available for use in September 2014. From this point onwards the infant pupils would remain on the existing Brookwood Primary School site and the junior age pupils would start to use the new junior school. It is unlikely that the school will fill up to these numbers straight away but it is important to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the growing demand in the area. It will be for the school to determine how to organise classes depending on the actual numbers that arrive at the school. However, theoretically, if the school admits to the numbers in the table below then there may be a need for some mixed age classes.

Table 3 – Proposed places to be available at Brookwood Primary School from 2014

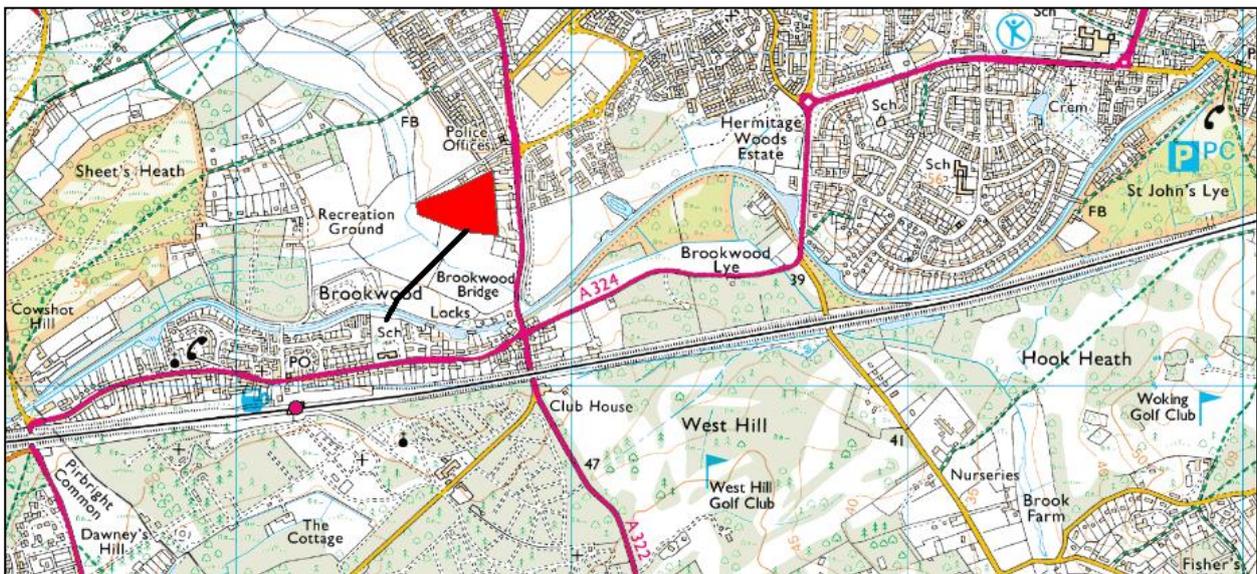
Brookwood Primary School	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	Classes/ Teachers
2014	60	45	45	45	45	45	45	330	11
2015	60	60	45	45	45	45	45	345	12
2016	60	60	60	45	45	45	45	360	12
2017	60	60	60	60	45	45	45	375	13
2018	60	60	60	60	60	45	45	390	13
2019	60	60	60	60	60	60	45	405	14
2020	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14

Admissions to Brookwood Primary School in the future

11. This proposal does not change the admissions criteria for the school, only the Published Admission Number and hence how many places there are to offer at the school. For details of the admissions criteria for the school please visit <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-admissions>

Where is the proposed site for the junior building and how will it be laid out?

12. The map below shows the proposed location of the school site in relation to the existing school. Broadly speaking, a new single story junior building with outdoor play facilities will be provided. This part of the site will be secure and for use only by the school. In addition, 2 junior size pitches and a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) will be provided on the site. There will also be a sports pavilion located on the site. The playing pitches and pavilion will be available for use by the school but will also be available for community use outside of school hours. An outline planning application for the new school buildings was submitted and approved at the same time as the detailed planning application for the Brookwood Farm Housing development in January this year. There is agreement 'in principle' for a new school to be located on this site but the exact site layout, building footprint and design has not been agreed at this stage and remains the subject of consultation with the Local Authority / Woking Borough Council and Brookwood Primary School and its local community. We will try and provide further information on the proposed site layout and building design at the public meetings identified at the end of the document but not all of this detail will have been agreed at this stage and it should be noted that this consultation paper is focused on the principle of expansion rather than how the accommodation will be delivered and exactly what building solution will be put in place.



How will the sites relate to each other and how will parents, staff and pupils travel from one to the other?

13. Brookwood Primary School will remain one school, with one head teacher and one Governing body. A priority for everyone is that it is as easy as possible to travel from the infant/children's

centre site to the new junior site. As part of the detailed planning application the Local Authority will propose for there to be a bridge over the canal and a walkway put in place from the infant to the to the junior site (as indicated on the map). The exact design of the bridge has not been agreed at this stage but it would have to ensure both pupil and staff safety as well as ensure that any boats that use the canal could still do so. The walk from one site to the next (door to door) would be expected to be about 450m or about 7-8 minutes at a normal walking pace if the pathway is direct. However, the exact route for the pathway has not been determined at this stage and is dependent on any potential flood issues that may need to be addressed as part of the full planning application for the new school.

14. It should be noted that it is not unusual for schools to operate from split sites. There are many such examples of primary schools in Surrey that work in this way very successfully and the school will receive additional funding to reflect the fact that there are additional costs associated with operating from two separate sites. Parents are likely to have a number of questions about how this will work in practice which will do our best to answer at this early stage at the consultation meetings identified below.

On which site will the Head Teacher be based? Will staff be expected to move from one site to the other?

15. The head teacher will have an office in both schools and could be at either site depending on the activities going on at the school. It will be a short walk from the infant to the junior school so the Head can access either site at relatively short notice if need be. Staff may need to move from site to site occasionally (whole school assemblies, staff meetings) but will largely be based in either the infant or junior school depending on what key stage they are teaching.

PART C - HAVE YOUR SAY

Surrey County Council and the Governing Body of Brookwood Primary School would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal. There is a consultation response form at the bottom of this document. Please complete this form and send back a copy of the response form to the following address. If you are viewing this document as a PDF you will need to print the consultation response form and send back a hard copy to the following address. Alternatively you can put your views in an email and send to the email address given below:

Kieran Holliday
Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston Upon Thames
KT1 2DJ

FAO Kieran Holliday to:
schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

All responses must be received by 28 June 2013

What happens next?

We will hold two public meetings for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. Meetings will be on the same day in the

afternoon and the evening to allow as many parents to attend one of the meetings as possible. As a public meeting anyone who wishes to, may attend. These meetings will be on the following dates. You need not register your attendance prior to the meeting.

For parents wishing to attend the 2.30pm meeting, the school will make provision available for children at Brookwood Primary School who finish their school day at 3.15 to be cared for until the end of the meeting.

- 12 June – 2.30 - 4.00pm - School Hall, Brookwood Primary School
- 12 June – 7.00- 8.30pm - School Hall, Brookwood Primary School

Please come and share your views. You do not have to have a child at the school to come to the meeting.

Following consultation, the responses received during the consultation will be analysed and put into a report that will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning on the 10 July.

If the Cabinet Member decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice will be published at the school, in a local newspaper and at a local community facility. There will be a further period of representations before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning in September 2013.

Consultation Response Form

We wish to hear your views on this proposal for Brookwood Primary School to expand to 2 forms of entry (PAN of 60).

Please tick the box that best shows what you think of the following questions. Also give us any comments you have. You can write on the other side of this sheet if you want more space to write comments.

Please will you tell us something about yourself? Please put an 'x' in the boxes that apply to you.

	Brookwood Primary School	Another School
A parent/carer of a child in a Nursery class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A parent/carer of a pre-school child	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A parent/carer of a child at school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Someone who works at school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Governor of a school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other link to the school – please give details in the box below on the right	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please will you also give your postcode?

1. There is a need for more school places in the area. Please put an x in the box that best represents your view.

Agree	Don't Know	Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Brookwood should permanently expand to become a 2-form entry primary school from 2014 on a split site as outlined in this consultation document.

Agree

Don't Know

Disagree

Please provide additional comments in the box below on what you think about this proposal. Please return to the response sheet to the address given above by no later than **28 June 2013** which is the deadline for all responses: