

Public consultation – Autumn 2017

Proposed expansion of Hanbury C.E. First School

This document contains information that will help you understand the issues surrounding this proposed expansion. An informal drop-in consultation has been arranged to explain the proposal and to answer questions:

Date	Monday 27th November 2017
Time	6.30pm – 8pm
Venue	Hanbury C.E. First School, School Road, Hanbury, B60 4BS

Dear Parents / Governors / Colleagues

Consultation on proposed expansion of Hanbury C.E. First School

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to consider an expansion
- The timescale for the consultation
- Who is being consulted
- What happens at the end of the consultation period

Have your say

It is very important that all those involved have a say. You can submit your comments by completing the online response form available on the Worcestershire County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.

Responses must be received by noon on Friday 8th December 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Payne
Headteacher

Responses required by Friday 8th December 2017

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to make sure that there are sufficient places for all of the children in Worcestershire who wish to attend a taxpayer funded school to do so. Taxpayer funded schools are those which are maintained by the Local Authority or receive funding direct from the government, such as Academies and Free Schools. Ensuring that there are sufficient places is known as Basic Need.

The County Council monitors information on the number of school aged children as well as pre-school children. The information on known pre-school aged children comes from Worcestershire Health Authority and allows the council and schools to plan for the future.

In 2017 the County Council began discussions to increase the number of places available in Bromsgrove First Schools in recognition of a higher than average number of pupils entering reception in 2016. A number of options are being consulted on to mitigate this; one of the options considered is to increase Hanbury C.E First School from 27 pupils per year up to 30 per year.

The Proposal

The school leadership feels that the time is right to consider an expansion up to 30 pupils per year group. Hanbury C.E. First School is graded 'Good' by Ofsted.

Moving to 30 per year group would offer a number of potential benefits to the school:

- Ensure the school is economically sustainable for the future.
- To safeguard an appropriate staff to pupil ration.
- Improve accommodation to ensure good teaching and learning environments

If approved the increase would take effect from September 2019.

Pupil Numbers

The table below shows the numbers of roll in the Bromsgrove Educational Planning Area over the last 5 years:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	Total
October 2012	661	669	652	639	633	3254
October 2013	630	670	675	646	645	3266
October 2014	691	633	673	681	640	3318
October 2015	677	703	643	673	677	3373
October 2016	733	679	701	651	676	3440

A bulge birth year entering Bromsgrove first schools in 2016 has created pressure on places. Schools across the educational planning area admitted 733 pupils against 730 places, leaving no room for families moving into the area or in-year movement.

The table below shows the numbers on roll at Hanbury C.E. First School over the last 5 years:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	Total
October 2012	24	23	23	21	19	110
October 2013	22	24	25	24	21	116
October 2014	25	23	25	25	22	120
October 2015	17	25	25	21	23	111
October 2016	26	17	27	25	19	114

Accommodation Required

Initial feasibility work has been undertaken to explore whether it would be possible to expand the school building to accommodate this increase in numbers. Two currently undersized classrooms would need to be increased to support the increase as proposed. Further feasibility work is currently underway to further explore these options.

The feasibility work is only intended to highlight any potential difficulties in providing the accommodation that would be needed if the increase went ahead and give an estimate of the costs involved. If the principle of expansion is supported, more detailed design work will take place to finalise the scheme to be taken forward. Any building work will be subject to appropriate planning permission being obtained and interested parties will have the opportunity to comment on the design at that stage.

The school is seeking support for this expansion from the County Council. Basic Need grants are given by the Government to the Local Authority responsible for education to address changes and increases in demand for school places across the County. If the County Council agrees to support this expansion then it will work in partnership with the school to deliver the necessary building work.

How the decision will be made

Local authorities and governing bodies of mainstream maintained schools can make limited changes to their school without following a statutory process. As this expansion does not increase the total capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils, the school does not need to undergo a statutory process to make a final decision. However it is expected that in making any changes, the governing body will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal.

In particular the Governors will consider:

- The response to the public consultation.
- The quality of current education provision at the school
- How the proposed expansion might improve quality at the school
- Demand for places at the school or in the local area
- The cost and feasibility of required building works

Who is being consulted?

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the named schools
- Staff and Governors of other local schools
- Immediate neighbours
- Diocesan authorities
- Local District and County Councillors
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Any other local stakeholder

What happens next?

Consultation Phase – Monday 30th October 2017 to Friday 8th December 2017

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options outlined in this document. This document, and the meeting detailed on the cover, form part of this consultation.

Submission of formal proposal to Local Authority - by Friday 15th December 2017

The governors will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period a decision will be made whether to submit a formal proposal to expand to the County Council, requesting their support.

If a formal proposal is made, officers at the County Council will then prepare a report for the Cabinet Member Responsible detailing the arguments for and against the expansion and the capital allocation that would be required to deliver the required accommodation. The responses of the public consultation will be shared with the Cabinet Member Responsible along with the governors' comments on the issues raised.

Cabinet Member Responsible Decision – April 2018

After review, the Cabinet Member Responsible will make a final decision for governors to implement the scheme.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by noon on Friday 8th December 2017 by completing the online response form available on the WCC website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.