Potential Expansion of Beaconsfield Primary School

This consultation document is addressed to everyone involved in Beaconsfield Primary School and its environment.

We want to hear your views

There will be a meeting on the 1st of December 2014 in the School Hall to discuss the future expansion of the school. There will be two sessions 9:00am and 6:00pm.

The Governing Body, Headteacher and Senior Staff of Beaconsfield Primary School are currently considering a proposal initiated by Ealing Council to permanently expand the number of pupil places at the school through an investment in new buildings on the school site. We want to canvas the views of parents and local people before making the decision to progress with further feasibility and statutory consultation. The proposal is at a formative stage and no final agreement would be made until consultation is completed.

The Proposal
The proposal under consideration is the introduction of an additional form of entry into Reception from September 2016. This would mean two classes of 30 in Reception in 2016 (there is currently one class per year group) and then as these pupils move up through the school, there would be an extra class each year until 2021.

Building works would be required to provide additional classrooms and learning spaces to accommodate the extra pupils. Additional teaching and non-teaching staff would also be recruited.

There are ongoing discussions between the school and Ealing Council on the potential of introducing a bulge class into Reception for September 2015; this will mean two classes of 30 in Reception. This is an agreement made between the school and Ealing Council in response to immediate local demand and does not pre-judge this consultation on permanent expansion.

The proposal is likely to include:
- New classrooms, additional teaching rooms (for groups etc.), staff spaces and everything associated with such an expansion
- Additional work to areas such as playground, landscaping, fencing, access onto the school site etc.

The Governing Body is clear that any proposals should maintain the amount of external playspace for current and future pupils.

Why?
For several years many local children have not been able to gain a place at the school. The possibility of expansion has been prompted by Ealing Council in response to the projected numbers of pupils requiring places within the borough and pupils being unable to obtain a place at their local school, including those requiring a place at Beaconsfield Primary.

In the Southall North planning area, within which the school is situated, there has been over a 25% increase in births over the last seven years. The Council has been expanding primary schools since 2008 adding 30 permanent forms of entry in response to the increase in demand for schools within the borough, and other local schools have taken bulge classes too. However, despite these
expansions, the numbers of applications for school places and projected demand for future years indicate that further expansions will be required in order to meet the needs of local families.

What next?
We need your views to assist the Council and us in making a decision as to whether this proposal should be progressed. We have discussed the proposal and summarise below our views to the pros and cons as we see them. We recognise that this list is not exhaustive and have left space on the attached questionnaire for you to add your views.

If the plans are progressed there would be further statutory consultation processes to go through and there would be further opportunities to have your say. Any building works would also be subject to the planning process. We will keep you informed at every stage.

Pros
- The school would be better able to meet the needs of the local community who wish to attend their local school.
- Job creation and greater career progression opportunities for members of staff. The expansion of the school would provide at least a further 6 additional teaching posts and additional classroom assistants posts (by 2021) (1 may be created by the bulge classes).
- Increased financial flexibility and resourcing
- New, modern facilities for teaching and learning, improved catering & dining facilities and a continued commitment to adult learning for the community

Cons
- The school size would increase (excluding nursery) over seven years. It would be vital to preserve a “family” feel so that pupils know the staff in their area and don’t feel lost. Some disruption would occur (as a project of this size and length is a large undertaking).
- Access to the site for plant and machinery, and storage of building materials would need to be located on the school site but this would be governed by Health and Safety regulations.

Security of the site would obviously be given a very high priority as would the consideration given to minimising disturbance to learning during any construction period.

What happens next?

- November 2014 initial consultation starts
- December 2014 deadline for responses to the consultation
- January 2015 governors consider consultation responses and decide whether or not to proceed
- January 2015 statutory notice to be published in local paper, with further month to comment on the proposals
- February 2015 the London Borough of Ealing take final decision on proposals
- Preparations begin for September 2016 implementation.

Please take time to complete the attached questionnaire so that we can take account of your views. Please return the questionnaire to school by close of play on 12th of December 2014.
Beaconsfield Primary School - feedback form

Please indicate your views on the proposal to expand Beaconsfield Primary School by one form of entry from 2016 by ticking the most appropriate box.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expansion would mean we could:</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve educational facilities for Beaconsfield pupils:</td>
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<td>Help meet the growing demand for school places:</td>
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<td>Offer more places to children within the local area</td>
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<td>I support the proposal:</td>
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Please add other comments on the proposal (continue overleaf if necessary):


For your views to be counted, you must provide your full name and address. Only one response per person will be accepted. We will not pass on your personal information to a third party. Your views will be treated as strictly confidential.

Name: _______________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________

I am a:

Parent/Carer  [ ]  Member of Staff  [ ]  Local Resident  [ ]
Governor at School  [ ]  Prospective Parent  [ ]  Other, specify  [ ]

Please return the questionnaire to school by close of play on 12th December 2014. Boxes for completed forms will be placed in the school office reception area. Alternatively, please post to:

Beaconsfield Primary School
Beaconsfield Road
Southall
UB1 1DR