

## Informal Consultation

### Proposal to expand Hanslope Primary School by 1FE from Year R



This **ten week** informal consultation from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> May is to gather opinions on a proposal for **Hanslope Primary School** to expand the number of pupil places available, in order to meet a projected increase in demand from new housing. An additional form of entry would initially be available in Year R, to grow the school gradually. The school would eventually cater for an additional 210 pupils, 30 in each year group.

#### What is the current position?

Hanslope Primary School is a 270 place community primary school located in the village of Hanslope. The published admission number of the school is 30 from Year R to Year 2 and 45 for Year 3 to Year 6. The catchment area of the school for Year R to Year 2 is Hanslope Parish (except Miltford Leys, Lincoln Lodge, Bullington End and Leamington Farm) and from Year 3 to Year 6 the catchment area includes Castlethorpe Parish. The school is a popular choice for parents and is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

Outline planning permission was recently approved for up to 150 dwellings on Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope and a further 141 dwellings off Long Street Road. It is anticipated that this size of development would generate between 15 and 20 pupils per year group.

The council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of our population and ensure that our education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards; ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential. Where there is a strong community school with the desire to expand, the council will consult on expanding the school.

#### What is the opportunity?

The council has secured a parcel of land adjacent to the school's playing field that would be suitable for an expansion of the school. Because Hanslope Primary School is a long established and successful school situated in the area of new housing, the council has been in discussions with the Governing Body to consider expansion so that the number of places available at the school could grow in line with the proposed housing developments.

If the school expands by one form of entry in Year R, the accommodation would need to be expanded. It is intended for the additional places to become available in September 2021 with a project to expand the school building to be completed by this date. The building extension would be subject to the grant of planning permission for which there would be a separate consultation with local residents at that stage.

#### What are the benefits of expanding Hanslope Primary School?

- ✓ By opening additional school places at a popular, outstanding school we are addressing parental preference and providing the opportunity for more children to have a high standard of education.
- ✓ Local children will be able to attend their local school continuing their sense of community belonging and ensure a greater consistency of education for the children of the local area.

- ✓ Partnership between the school and the community will continue to be embedded, leading to greater cohesion in later years.
- ✓ The school's larger size would make it possible for the organisation to be even more efficient and effective.
- ✓ There would be greater opportunities for staff, making it more likely the existing high quality staff would be retained and high quality staff would be attracted to work at the school as it grows.
- ✓ Additional resources and staffing enabling greater opportunities to further develop the school as a learning community.

### **How can I find out more and contribute to this consultation?**

The school and the council have arranged two drop in sessions for parents and the community so that they can find out more and give their views. These will take place on:

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm-4.30pm and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.45am-8.45am at Hanslope Primary School**

This consultation seeks views from parents and staff directly involved with Hanslope Primary School, from other local schools and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. This consultation is also published online at

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations>

Please respond to this consultation by email, stating your name, relationship to school, whether you agree or disagree with the proposal and your comments, to:

[sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

or in writing to Education Sufficiency, Milton Keynes Council, Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HS.

**This informal consultation will end on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

### **Who has this consultation been sent to?**

All parents, staff and governors of Hanslope Primary School, as they are directly affected by this proposal; all schools in Milton Keynes, all Early Years providers within a two mile radius of the school; local MPs, Ward Councillors and Parish/Town Councils; neighbouring councils with schools adjoining our catchment areas.

This informal consultation is the first stage in a five stage process which will include:

1. This informal consultation for 10 weeks
2. Consideration in June 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families of the outcome of this consultation and whether to proceed with a statutory consultation
3. Statutory consultation lasting 4 weeks in July 2019. (If you respond to this consultation please do so again for the statutory consultation.)
4. Consideration in September 2019 by the Cabinet Member of the outcome of the statutory consultation and a decision whether to proceed with the expansion of the school
5. If the proposal is agreed a building project will commence with the intention of being able to offer additional places at the school by September 2021. This work will be subject to planning permission and will include another consultation with local residents who may be affected by the building works.