

# School Organisation Consultation

On a proposal to enlarge Ashford Park Primary School  
Station Crescent, Ashford



## The Proposal

Surrey County Council, in conjunction with the Governing Body of Ashford Park Primary School, is proposing

- To expand the school to allow for a roll of 630 pupils (three forms of entry or 3 FE) with effect from September 2015. A form of entry is normally 30 pupils.
- To provide sufficient classrooms to accommodate the gradual increase of pupils on site

## The current position at Ashford Park Primary School

The school was originally built in the 1970s and has permanent accommodation for up to 420 pupils. It is currently 2 FE. There is a private pre-school using accommodation on site and a Key Stage Two Specialist Centre for up to 18 pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties also operates within the school. There is no suggestion that either of these units will expand; only the mainstream school is being considered.

The school is situated in a residential area close to a local recreation ground and to the rear of the school is a large expanse of land currently being used as a mineral quarry. Ashford Park is one of 7 schools in the Ashford Planning Area these are: Ashford Church of England Primary, Kenyngton Manor Primary, St Michael's RC Primary, Spelthorne School (5-11 primary), The Echelford Primary and Clarendon Primary.

Ashford Park Primary is a popular and rapidly improving school that has been over-subscribed recently and is school of first preference for a growing number of local parents. For September 2013 the school received a total of 155 preferences for 60 places. Of these 57 parents named Ashford Park as their first choice.

At its last OFSTED inspection in December 2012 the school was judged to require improvement in terms of the learning outcomes of pupils, although inspectors noted that the quality of teaching, behavior and safety were all good. Since then it has received support from the Local Authority and at its last monitoring visit inspectors noted that senior leaders have a clear vision of what needs to be done and have secured improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. The school continues on this rapid trajectory of improvement and will be re-inspected in due course and certainly before the proposed expansion takes place.

## **What is being proposed**

This initial consultation is essentially about the educational need for more places in Ashford, specifically at Ashford Park Primary School. There will be other opportunities later in the process to consult with stakeholders on how this can be achieved in terms of building and any impact the expansion might have on the immediate residential area.

We are proposing to add one additional form of entry (Reception class) every year from 2015 up to 2020; by which time the school will be 3FE throughout each year group. The site covers 32,831 square metres and this is considered large enough to support 3FE. However if the school is to expand more classrooms will be required. Architects are looking at reconfiguring some areas to make maximum use of space, create 7 new classrooms, improve the circulation around the building and improve security at the reception office area. Drawings are at an early stage and staff and governors will play a role in the development of any final design if the expansion goes ahead.

It is proposed that the new classrooms will be based on or near the existing footprint of the school.

## **Why are we making these proposals?**

There is a growing need for additional school places in Ashford and more generally across the borough (see forecast information below). The requirement is for up to 30 more Reception places in this specific area and so it makes sense, both educationally and financially, to expand an improving or good school with good leadership rather than to build a new 1 FE school. This proposed expansion is part of a borough wide strategy to ensure there are sufficient school places across Spelthorne Borough.

## **School places forecasting for Ashford**

Both our forecasts and historical data show that school rolls have been rising steadily across Spelthorne over the last decade. Much of this rise is resulting from an increase in the birth rate; some is due to housing development and inward migration. Births have increased across the borough by 25.3% since 2002. In this period we have ensured that any 'spare' places are filled in schools with capacity; for example, we have permanently expanded Spelthorne School. We have also provided temporary or 'bulge' classes in Clarendon Primary and in schools in adjacent planning areas, such as Stanwell and Shepperton. Consequently we need to take account of this trend and provide additional permanent school places in Ashford.

Not all of the schools in the Ashford planning area are suitable for expansion. Some are on very small sites, some have already been expanded and others are currently struggling to provide a good standard of education and should not be

distracted from the task of raising standards. We believe that Ashford Park has the space and the capacity to expand in 2015.

Our projections for this planning area are given in the table below. The 'PAN' columns refer to the combined published admission number for Reception and Year 3 classes in the planning area schools already mentioned. The 'spare' columns indicate the number of spare places available or a minus figure indicates the number of places we are short in the Reception or junior year. The later projection figures (ie 2018 and beyond) should however be treated with some caution as these are based on statistical trends rather than on actual births. We adjust the figures annually to reflect demographic changes.

**SP 4P  
Ashford**

	PAN	1pref	Spare	YR	Y1	Y2	I	JunPI	JSpare	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	J	Total
2007/8	450	416	23	399	375	387	1161	450	69	381	426	436	375	1618	2779
2008/9	420	399	43	407	398	382	1187	450	53	397	384	417	425	1623	2810
2009/10	420	357	32	388	416	400	1204	430	40	390	401	385	421	1597	2801
2010/11	420	421	-10	430	392	409	1231	430	23	407	387	393	376	1563	2794
2011/12	420	461	7	443	435	392	1270	420	13	407	400	384	390	1581	2851
2012/13	420	425	-25	445	445	423	1313	420	22	398	401	399	373	1571	2884
2013/14	420	389	-10	460	440	428	1328	420	2	418	384	388	382	1572	2900
2014/15	450		-20	470	455	425	1350	420	-3	423	403	372	372	1570	2920
2015/16	450		-23	473	465	439	1377	450	0	420	408	390	357	1575	2952
2016/17	450		-24	474	467	448	1389	450	-13	433	405	394	373	1605	2994
2017/18	450		-29	479	468	450	1397	450	-22	442	417	391	377	1627	3024
2018/19	450		-31	481	472	450	1403	450	-23	443	425	403	374	1645	3048
2019/20	450		-30	480	474	454	1408	450	-23	443	426	410	385	1664	3072
2020/21	450		-33	483	473	456	1412	450	-27	447	426	411	392	1676	3088

## Have Your Say

We would like to know what parents, staff, residents and other schools in the area think about this proposal. There is a consultation form on page 7 of this leaflet.

The consultation opens on **Wednesday 4 September** and runs for 6 weeks. We are also going to hold two public meetings at the school where you can express your views, obtain more information and have your questions answered. The meetings will be held at:

Ashford Park Primary      on **Monday 9 September**  
 2.00 - 3.15 pm  
 and **Tuesday 10 September**  
 7.00 - 8.15 pm

Please come and share your views. Please also complete the Consultation Response Form on page 7. You can email your views to: [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

## **The Consultation closes on Wednesday 16 October**

### **Next Steps**

We will analyse the consultation responses and include them in a report to Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Learning. If the educational need case is accepted Statutory Notices will be published in the local press, on the school's website and at the school gate. There will be a further period of 6 weeks for anyone to comment. (This excludes the school holidays).

Please note that the educational consultation process is separate to any subsequent planning application and planning notices which will include building and traffic considerations.

### **The final decision**

The responses to the Statutory Notices are analysed and a report is then prepared for the County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Learning who will make the final decision on whether or not to expand the school. This will most probably be in March 2014.

## Consultation Response Form

### Proposal to expand Ashford Park Primary School 60 to 90 places per year group

Please give us your views. 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.

Do you agree with the proposal to expand Ashford Park Primary School from Sept 2015?

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

Comments:

To help with our analysis of responses please will you tell us something about yourself? Tick the boxes that best apply to you.

A resident of Ashford living close to the school

A parent/carer of a child (in an early years setting) who may in future attend Ashford Park Primary school

A parent/carer of a child currently attending Ashford Park Primary school

A parent/carer of a child attending another local school

A member of staff at Ashford Park Primary school

A Governor of the school

Some other link to the school

Someone else with an interest – please give details

Please return by **Wednesday 16 October 2013** to:  
Melanie Harris Ashford Park Consultation, Room 326  
County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN

email:  
**schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk**

Please tick if you have written comments on the other side

Ashford Park Primary School expansion Consultation Response Form

Additional Comments

Lined area for writing comments, consisting of a large rectangular box with horizontal lines.

Please will you also give your postcode