

School Organisation Proposal

to expand

Cheswick Green Primary School

A Prescribed Alteration

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND CHESWICK GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

In respect of a Council Proposal: School and Council details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB

School	Address	Type of School
Cheswick Green Primary School	Cheswick Way Shirley Solihull B90 4HG	Community

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1st September 2022

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on any part or all of the proposal by emailing the School Place Planning Team at researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk or by writing to the School Place Planning Team, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB.

The last date for comments is **5 pm on 25 February 2021**. Full details on the proposal, including copies of the public notice can be found at www.solihull.gov.uk/consultations.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

This proposal seeks an expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School by enlargement. The school currently has a capacity of 210 places (30 places per year).

This proposal is to expand the school permanently to 420 places, 60 places per year, over a 7 year period. The school will increase their intake to 60 pupils per year with effect from 1 September 2022, becoming a full two-form entry school by September 2028.

The School currently operates a 30 part-time place nursery which can expand to meet demand up to a maximum of 60 part-time places, split morning and afternoon. The School also offers nursery wrap around provision, as well as before and after school clubs and activities.

Expansion to the school building is proposed.

School capacity

5.(a) Details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

School	Current Net Capacity	Proposed Net Capacity
Cheswick Green Primary School	210	420

In addition the school has capacity for up to 60 part-time nursery pupils and before and after school provision.

(b) Details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

	Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Cheswick Green Primary School	Pupils on roll at October 2020	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210
	Proposed Places September 2022	60	30	30	30	30	30	30	240
	Proposed Places September 2028	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420

It is anticipated that the growth of the school will be gradual with an additional class being admitted at Reception each year until the school reaches its capacity. The need to provide places in older year groups for families moving into the developments with older primary age children will be considered on application and dependent on the school's ability to accommodate the additional pupils.

In addition the School offers early years provision.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

This proposal is for permanent expansion at the school by 210 pupils, admitted at Reception, from 1 September 2022. The school also offers early years provision on site.

- (d) Where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not Applicable

- (e) A statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

At October 2020 pupil census, the total number of pupils on roll was:
210 plus **24** early years pupils.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

This proposal relates to a community school and is to be implemented by the Council, in partnership with the Governing Body. The Council is managing and procuring the expansion of the school building. The Governing Body of the School will implement the increase in pupil numbers through an increase in admissions to the school.

7. Additional Site

No additional site is required for the expansion of the school building. Analysis of options around alternative access to the school site are still under consideration.

8.Changes in boarding arrangements

The proposal does not make any changes to boarding arrangements.

9.Transfer to new site

This proposal does not require the school to transfer to a new site.

10. Objectives

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

This proposal seeks to expand Cheswick Green Primary School by 210 places, from September 2022. The School also offers early years provision on site. The nursery at the school currently caters for up to 30 part-time pupils but can increase up to 60 part-time places if there is sufficient demand.

This expansion will ensure that there are sufficient school places for families moving to new developments at Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley Park. These two housing developments sit within the catchment area for Cheswick Green Primary School which is the closest school.

Cheswick Green Primary School was rated as 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2014, and this was confirmed in a short inspection in March 2018. This expansion will enhance the number of places offered in good and outstanding schools in Solihull.

The Headteacher and Governing Body are supportive of the proposal, in principle, and are clear about the benefits that this expansion can provide to current and future pupils.

11. Consultation

All requirements in relation to the proposal to consult have been complied with. All interested parties have been consulted and their views considered by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills on 11 January 2021, before this statutory proposal was published. The full report outlining the pre statutory consultation process that has been undertaken can be found on the website at www.solihull.gov.uk/consultations.

The main concerns raised through the consultation process were around traffic congestion and parking and the sufficiency of the proposed new building to meet the needs of the increased cohorts of pupils.

Traffic and Parking - The Council has commissioned an independent transport assessment as part of this process. This will be submitted as part of the planning application so that traffic and parking can be given full consideration by Planning Committee when considering whether to allow expansion of the school building on the school site.

Planning committee will take into account any proposed mitigation measures as part of their assessment of the proposal. The independent transport assessment will consider potential mitigation options that could be implemented. These may include updating and implementing the School Travel Plan, use of staggered start/end times between year groups, encouraging park and stride initiatives, expanding provision of before /after school clubs, investigating the potential to increase parking, options for an alternative access to the school site and the use of school or public transport.

Additional parking provision for staff has been included in the feasibility study. The existing car park will be expanded to provide an additional 14 parking places.

To address the issue of inconsiderate parking it is likely that the focus on mitigation will be around the implementation of a revised school travel plan and the school's encouragement, particularly at new parent inductions and through parent newsletters for improved behaviours.

School building - The proposed expansion of the school buildings has been designed in accordance with Government building guidance contained within the Department for Education's Area Guideline for mainstream schools - Building Bulletin 103 which provides guidance on the space required for a two form entry school.

The Hall and proposed shared library exceeds the guidance. However a Food Tech Room, ICT suite and Art room do not correlate with the BB103 requirement for a new 2FE School, however it is acknowledged as an existing specialist curriculum provision, therefore this accommodation has either been re-provided within the remodelled proposal, or included within a shared resource space thus not omitted. To supplement Art and STEM curriculum the school has agreed to include sinks within each class base, or with the shared resource space and a dedicated 5m² Art Store has been included.

The reception class bases have been revised and achieve the guidance recommendation, all other class bases meet or exceed the area requirements. This proposal provides significant investment in the school building.

The Headteacher and Governing Body have been integral to the design proposal and have carefully considered the use of the school building as part of this process.

12. Project costs

A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The established budgetary provision for the progression of this proposal is contained within the Children's Services Capital Programme and funded by S106 funding paid to Solihull Council by the housing developer. An expansion of an existing school is the most cost effective way of creating the additional 210 places required.

The provisional budget based upon the feasibility scheme for the school is:

Children's Services Capital Programme	Estimated Funding
Cheswick Green Primary School	£3,000,000

13. Confirmation that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

All costs outlined in **12** above will be met by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Councils Children's Services Capital Programme, through the use of S106 funding.

14. Age Range

There is no change to the age range of the school.

15. Early Years Provision

The School already provides 30 part-time nursery places. As part of this proposal the nursery provision at the school can be expanded to a maximum of 60 part-time places if required. The School also offers nursery wrap-around provision.

16. Changes to Sixth Form Provision

This school is a primary school so no change is proposed to sixth form provision.

17. Special educational needs

No change is proposed to provision for special educational needs.

18. Sex of Pupils

No change is proposed.

19. Extended Services

The school will continue to offer nursery wrap around and before and after school clubs and activities.

20. Need or demand for additional places

If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for children living in its area.

Blythe Valley Park is a key strategic housing site that was given planning approval in 2016 to create a mixed development of residential and commercial properties. The residential development is expected to consist of a total of 750 dwellings when completed. Planning approval for the first two phases of residential development was secured in 2018.

Based on the latest analysis of primary pupils from completed housing developments in Solihull, the average number of pupils per year group per 100 houses is estimated to be 4. For a development the size of Blythe Valley Park this is expected to generate around 30 pupils per year group giving a total of 210 pupils across the 7 years of a primary school.

The Council can create sufficient school places to meet the demand from Blythe Valley Park through the expansion of an existing school. When considering a school expansion to meet this demand, feasibility work was undertaken to consider the options for expansion at the three most local schools.

The feasibility work demonstrated that Hockley Heath Primary School does not have sufficient site space to accommodate an expansion of this nature and that the existing building at St Patrick's CE Primary Academy does not lend itself to an expansion of school places. However, it did demonstrate that Cheswick Green Primary School does have site capacity to accommodate the additional buildings required to house an extra 210 pupils.

Blythe Valley Park sits within the catchment area for Cheswick Green Primary School and an expansion of this school would also meet the needs of the Cheswick Place development in Cheswick Green. By catering for pupils from both developments the viability of the expansion is secured.