



**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
OF
ASH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL &
NURSERY, MACCLESFIELD**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

To undertake formal consultations with parents and carers of pupils at Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery, and other interested parties before a final decision is taken regarding a proposal to expand the school from a 1 form of entry primary school to 2 forms of entry .

The Local Authority is proposing the expansion of Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery to provide an additional 105 places increasing the school from 105 places (half form of entry) to 210 places (1 form of entry) with a proposed completion date of September 2014.

INTRODUCTION

Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery is a successful school, achieving an “Outstanding” category from Ofsted at the latest inspection in March 2013

Originally operating as a 1.5 form of entry primary school, Ash Grove had an intake at the normal point of entry of 47 pupils up until 2005. It was subsequently reduced to a 25 intake following a review of school places undertaken by the former Cheshire County Council. A further reduction in the admission number was made in 2011 taking the school to an intake of only 15 places for admission at the normal point of entry to the school (reception class) and operating as a half form of entry primary school with an overall capacity of 105 pupil places.

To facilitate this reduction in capacity, classrooms were converted for alternative use by the school and a temporary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was located at the school, which has since been relocated. The Local Authority is proposing to reintroduce the classrooms and increase the school’s net capacity from 105 pupil places (half form of entry) to 210 pupil places (one form of entry) with an intake of 30 pupils into the reception class from 2014. This proposed expansion is therefore cost neutral.

RATIONALE

The proposal to expand Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery and return it to a one form of entry (210 place) primary school is to address the school’s growing popularity and increasing demand for places from the school’s local community.

There are no costs associated with this proposal as existing accommodation can be re-introduced allowing the school to return to a one form of entry primary school.

The number of children resident within the school’s catchment area has increased in recent years and, for the last 3 years, the number of first preferences for the school has exceeded the 15 places available in the reception class as shown in the following tables:

Year	Reception Places Available	Number of Children Resident in the Catchment Area
2010	15	74
2011	15	98
2012	15	108
2013	15	91*

*On 3 April 2013

Reception Admissions	Number of First Preferences
2010	7
2011	22
2012	24
2013	25*

*On 3 April 2013

In order to accommodate children resident in the school's catchment area for whom there was no other schools with vacancies within a reasonable distance, the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, agreed additional places over the school's published admission number for September 2011 and 2012 and has agreed admission of up to 30 children for 2013.

This proposal, which is fully supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, is made to address the pattern of parental preference in recent years and to provide sufficient places for the local community at a school within a reasonable distance. The benefit to the school and the local community is that it will be able to provide more places for families who seek admission at the normal point of entry to the school whilst continuing to provide an outstanding education as a 1 form of entry primary school.

Informal consultation with headteachers of the Macclesfield primary schools has been undertaken and the feedback received during this process has informed these proposals.

It is therefore recommended that the local demand for places in this area justifies expansion of this popular and successful school.

SITE AND BUILDINGS

Situated in a built up residential area of Macclesfield, Ash Grove Primary School and Nursery was built in 1935 to serve its local community. Following the admission of additional children in 2011 and 2012 from September 2013 the school will operate as a 1 form entry school with single age groups and 7 classes.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The proposed expansion of Ash Grove Primary School and Nursery is cost neutral due to the utilisation of existing classrooms.

TIMESCALES

It is proposed that the programme for the implementation of any change would be:

30 April 2013 to 4 June 2013	Formal Public Consultation
10 June 2013	Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holder for permission to issue a Public Notice
17 June 2013 to 15 July 2013	Representation period
22 July 2013	Cabinet decision
29 July 2013	Implementation
September 2014	Proposed completion date.

HOW DO I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS

You can complete our electronic feedback form which can be accessed on the Council's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk. All views expressed during consultation will be presented to the Council's Portfolio Holder before a decision will be made on whether to progress to the next stage.

WHAT IS THE NEXT STAGE?

All responses to this consultation will be collated and presented to the Council's Portfolio Holder at the end of the consultation period requesting permission to proceed to public notices. If permission is given, this will mean that a further representation period will commence for a fixed period of 4 weeks, in line with statutory requirements.

At the end of the representation period, a further report will be prepared and presented to the Council's Cabinet, or, if objections are received, to the Council's School Organisation Sub Committee, for a final decision on the proposal.

PLEASE NOTE:

Where individual queries are received, we will not answer you directly, but we will compile a detailed response to the consultation that will be published on our website with hard copies available on request.

For further information, contact:

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