

Statutory Proposal to Expand Farley Hill Primary School through use of additional premises on the Arborfield Green development from 1st September 2021



Issued to comply with the requirements of Section 6 and Schedule 3 of School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

School	Farley Hill Primary School Church Road Farley Hill Reading RG7 1UB
Local Authority	Wokingham Borough Council Childrens Services Shute End Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1BN
Description of alteration and evidence of demand.	<p>The proposed alteration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opening of a second site within the Arborfield Green housing development (accompanied by the temporary closure of the current Farley Hill site) in September 2021. • The phased expansion of Farley Hill Primary School from 210 places (Reception to Year 6) to 420 places (with the Admission Number increasing to 60 from September 2024) and 630 statutory primary school places (with the Admission Number increasing to 90 from September 2026). • The opening of a new nursery class from September 2021. <p>All dates are subject to review and revision, in the light of the number of children resident in the new Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location community and the available capacity in local schools.</p> <p>Farley Hill Primary School is a 210 place primary school, sited in the village of Farley Hill, 1.4 miles (straight line distance) from the new Arborfield Green school site. The school's current Designated Area for admissions purposes includes the Arborfield Garrison site and over 2/3rd of the admissions are drawn from the area of the garrison and associated communities. Farley Hill Village itself has a very small community and contributes only a small proportion of the school roll (less than 5 children per year group).</p> <p>The address of the new school site is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arborfield Green Primary School Hazebrouck Road Arborfield Green READING RG2 9YW</p>

	<p>Please note this is the registered site address, there is no requirement for Farley Hill Primary School to change its name. The name of a school is a matter for the school governing body.</p> <p>In the first phase the school will relocate to the new site in September 2021, and remain as a 210 place primary, retaining the original school site for future use. The school will though have the facility to open a nursery class in 2021, subject to demand.</p> <p>In subsequent phases, dependent on need, the number of places at the school will increase to 420 and later, 630. Expansion is expected to be year on year, starting with increased numbers admitted into Reception classes and expansion following year by year. Additional classes may be added mid-phase, depending on local need.</p> <p>The admission number will be increased to 60 places per year from September 2024.</p> <p>The admission number will be increased to 90 places per year from September 2026.</p> <p>These planned expansion dates will be kept under review, to ensure the council can respond flexibly to the needs generated by the continued build-out and occupation of the new Arborfield Garrison community.</p> <p>The Council may chose to increase the number places offered on the Arborfield Green site, as an alternative to re-opening the original site.</p> <p>The Arborfield Green school site is part of the core infrastructure planned for the new Arborfield Green development, part of the Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (AGSDL). The new AGSDL development will bring 3,500 new homes to the local area on a former Army garrison site and adjoining farmland. Two new schools are planned for the development. The Arborfield Green site is the first additional primary school, and will serve the northern part of the development (2,000 homes) and the second (serving the southern part of the development) will follow at a later date, dependent on demand. There is some surplus capacity in the Coombes CoE Primary Academy in Arborfield Cross, the only other school within the immediate vicinity (less than 2 miles walking distance of all homes within the northern part of the Arborfield SDL development), but not sufficient to meet the needs that are expected to be generated by the development as it progresses.</p> <p>The number of additional children that will be generated by the new development has been estimated, using taking account of new home occupation survey data, and the planned number of new homes per year. The actual number of additional children will depend on the rate of build-out being maintained and the number of children arriving with the families in the new family homes. It is known from survey data that the proportion of pre-school age children is higher than the proportion of school age children, so the number of children requiring school</p>
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	<p>places will reflect the delayed impact of completed housing and the initial impact of the occupation of new homes.</p> <p>Appendix A sets out number of planned places and expected demand for Reception places in more detail together with contextual information and provides further analysis of need.</p>
<p>Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice); the effect on other educational institutions within the area.</p>	<p>The proposals would improve educational standards by providing Farley Hill School with a purpose built school, built to contemporary national school premises standards. This will offer and improved teaching environment, with additional space and improved acoustic standards compared to the existing buildings. The current school premises have a number of very small teaching rooms, reflecting the schools original purpose as a small village school. There are wider community benefits too, as the new school site will be accessible on foot to the major part of the school roll, as it is in a large development with good pedestrian links, while the current school site is only accessible by a safe walking route by Farley Hill Village residents.</p> <p>Parental choice will be increased because Farley Hill Primary School is oversubscribed so an increased number of those parents that express a preference for the school for their child will receive an offer.</p> <p>The new premises are being built to serve a new development, which in time will add 3,500 homes to the local area. The new school premises are required to ensure that sufficient places are available. The expansion of the school will be phased to ensure that growth occurs as and when additional capacity is required on top of that available at local schools. The proposals are therefore not expected to have an impact on local schools serving the new community and related communities.</p> <p>Current projections indicate that the expansion may be required from 2026. At this point the projection shows there would be less than 5% surplus capacity (14 places) in the south-west planning area so additional capacity may be required, dependent on the impact of additional housing.</p>
<p>Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved;</p>	<p>The new school is estimated to cost circa £8,000,000.</p> <p>The works will be funded from a variety of sources, including S106 developer contributions. The new site has been made available through a S106 agreement.</p> <p>Long-term value for money will be achieved by the construction of a modular build permanent school, with at least a 60 year life expectancy. It will be constructed to contemporary building standards, with features such as a high level of insulation to keep heating costs down and energy efficient lighting.</p> <p>The school playing fields are based around a FIFA standard all weather pitch, provided to meet the needs of the community and the school.</p>

Implementation plan	<p>The new school has planning consent, full design work is underway and ground works will commence in the near future.</p> <p>The building will be ready for occupation by early summer 2021.</p>
A statement explaining the procedure for responses: support, objections and comments	<p>Responses to the consultation can be sent by email to:</p> <p>Admissions.review@wokingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Or by post to</p> <p>The Farley Hill Primary School Expansion Proposal C/O People's Strategy and Commissioning Wokingham Borough Council Lower Ground Floor Shute End Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1BN</p> <p>To be received by: 13th March 2020</p>
Issued with the authority of	<p>Carol Cammiss Director of Children's Services Wokingham Borough Council Shute End Wokingham</p>
Date	13 February 2020