

Proposal to Expand Great Bentley Primary School

This proposal provides relevant information in accordance with the *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2016*.

School Details

Great Bentley Primary School
Plough Road
Great Bentley
Colchester
CO7 8LD

Local Authority Details

Director, Education
c/o School Organisation
Economy, Investment and
Public Health
Sustainable Growth
Essex County Council
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH

Description

The number of children in primary schools in this area of Tendring has increased over the last ten years as a result of births, families moving in and new housing. Latest forecasts indicate that this increase in pupil numbers will continue, and additional provision is required to balance future supply and demand for local school places.

This table shows forecast demand for Reception places in the area for the next five years:

3. Brightlingsea / Elmstead

Current PAN: 197
Current Capacity: 1,436

Reception Place Forecast

Year	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
+/-	16	5	2	-6	-13	-20	-26	-31	-36	-41
Alresford Primary, Brightlingsea Primary, Elmstead Primary, Great Bentley Primary, St George's CE Primary										

The forecasts also indicate that there may be further growth in the area, potentially increasing demand from 2028 onwards above the 30 additional places proposed at Great Bentley Primary School. The number of children registered with a GP will continue to be monitored, as will the actual numbers of pupils in schools. If pressure on school places continues to rise in line with the forecasts a further expansion may be required at a school in the planning group.

Great Bentley Primary School is a popular and successful school. There are three large new housing developments underway in Great Bentley and these will undoubtedly lead to more children in the village. Expanding permanently to 420 places will allow the school to plan

more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.

With the full support of the Governing Body of Great Bentley Primary School, it is proposed to expand Great Bentley Primary School from 210 places(one form of entry) to 420 places (two forms of entry) from September 2024. This would enable the school to admit 30 additional Reception children each year from September 2024.

Current Capacity	210	Current Published Admission Number	30
New Capacity	420	New Published Admission Number	60

The school is popular, oversubscribed and rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Expansion of the school will provide more places to meet the growing demand in Great Bentley and will enable more parents to gain a place for their child at a popular, high performing school.

Work has been undertaken to explore options for expanding and remodeling the school which would include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum.

Consultation

A formal consultation on a proposal to expand Great Bentley Primary School from 210 places to 420 places on a phased basis was held between 28 April 2022 and 26 May 2022.

A response form was made available online and the consultation document was distributed to parents of children at the school via the school. Copies of the document were also posted to other interested parties by email. Responses to the consultation could be made through the organised meetings and/or via the electronic response form, by letter or email.

A drop-in session for parents, staff and the local community was held on 18 May 2022.

Objectives

The County Council is under a duty to promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in the county to promote diversity and increase parental choice. This is rolled up in the council's vision to "increase educational achievement and enhance skills".

Effect on other schools and educational institutions

The proposed expansion of the school is to meet a forecast deficit of primary places in the area. Therefore, there is no foreseen effect on other schools in the area, as the expansion is proportionate to meet the forecast demand for places.

Funding

The cost of the building work required to enable the school to expand will be met by Essex County Council.

The cost of the project will be funded through ECC's Capital Programme (published March 2023, which identifies £130,000,000 being spent on mainstream education over the next four years to ensure that additional pupil places are being delivered in the areas of need. Details of the Capital Programme can be found at www.essex.gov.uk

Implementation

The school will expand from 1 September 2024.

Details on how to respond to proposals

Within four weeks from the date of publication (7 September 2023) you may make objections or comments in respect of this proposal in the following ways:

By post: Director, Education
 c/o School Organisation
 Economy, Investment and Public Health
 Sustainable Growth
 Essex County Council
 Chelmsford
 Essex
 CM1 1QH

By email: school.organisation@essex.gov.uk