



## BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL CONSULTATION



### CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SURGE CLASSROOM AT WINKFIELD ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bracknell Forest Council is undertaking a public consultation on the proposal to construct a new surge classroom at Winkfield St Marys CE Primary School.

The consultation period runs from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015. An informal presentation is being made to all interested parties at St Mary's School on 16<sup>th</sup> March between 3.00pm and 8.00pm. The scheme drawings and proposals will be available for inspection and members of the School teaching staff, Bracknell Forest Council CYPL officers, Atkins design team and Local Councillors.

The purpose of the public consultation is to engage with local stakeholder groups, present additional information about the proposals and the benefits which the scheme provides.

The new surge classroom will provide additional accommodation to support an increase of 30 pupil places in one year only. These additional pupils will enter Winkfield St. Mary's Reception class in a single surge year and will remain at the school in this year group until they leave in Year 6. There is currently no intention to change the school catchment area, or to increase the size of the school above this one single surge classroom of 30 pupils for that one intake year.

The surge classroom is being built to meet the worst case (highest) forecast need for rising school rolls across North Bracknell. The additional places will be offered subject to there being sufficient actual demand, and subject to the completion of the building project.

The new surge classroom building will be constructed on the existing school site as an extension to the main building. A link corridor and toilet facilities will also be provided. Additional parking, drop off and pick up facilities, will be created in the existing car park on the adjacent King George V Recreation Ground or by improving the usability of Locks Ride recreation ground and the footpath serving this car park.

Subject to planning permission, construction will commence with a view to completing the project in the latter part of 2015 in time for the start of the September 2016 academic year. The Consultation document outlines the proposed scheme and includes site plans, elevations and floor plans. You can open the consultation document in 'supporting documents'.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be viewed below.

## **BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL**

### **CONSULTATION**

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SURGE CLASSROOM AT WINKFIELD ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

##### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

#### **What is the proposal?**

To construct a traditional new build extension to provide a surge classroom with link corridor and toilet facilities. The proposed scheme will increase the school capacity by 30 in a single reception intake year. This surge year group will progress through the school until it leaves at the end of Year 6.

This new extension will provide adaptable teaching and community space for children from 4 to 11 years of age and is being designed in accordance with BFC and Government guidelines.

The scheme also includes expansion of car parking, drop off and pick up facilities by creating additional space within the adjacent George V Recreation ground car park and or utilising the existing car parking at Locks Ride Recreation ground car park with appropriate improvements to the footpath. The provision of additional parking is in accordance with the Highway Authority's requirements to mitigate the impact of the development on the surrounding road network.

#### **Why is this being proposed?**

In line with recent regional and national trends, there is forecast shortage in school places in North Bracknell due to a combination of demographics and new housing. The construction of this new surge classroom enables the school to increase its Reception intake from 30 ready for the September 2016 academic year. The total number of pupils in the school will rise from 210 to 240.

#### **When will The Surge Classroom be built?**

The new building works is currently anticipated to start in June 2015, with a target completion date at end of the 2015 autumn term.

#### **Why Winkfield St Mary's?**

Seven other North Bracknell primary/infant/junior schools have already been expanded over the last 11 years, including creation of 4 surge classrooms. These expansions have created over 700 additional primary school places, however further additional primary school capacity is still required. Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School has not yet been

expanded but it is a popular and successful school with a track record of providing an excellent learning environment for young people. The introduction of the new surge classroom will improve existing facilities by providing more modern teaching space in a lasting permanent way. Five new primary school buildings are currently proposed to be built across North Bracknell as part of the Council's strategy to meet demand for pupil places in the medium to long term. The surge at Winkfield St Mary's will help provide the additional pupil places required until the new school buildings come on line.

### **Is this going to be a new school building and what will it look like?**

The surge classroom will be built in a new building which will be physically linked to the main school building via a new link corridor. The design proposals for the new extension have been set out to mirror the previous brick and pitched formed extensions of the main school building to maintain the character of the original Victorian school buildings.

### **What about the traffic implications arising from this proposal?**

Traffic implications have been the subject of close scrutiny by the Highways Authority and Bracknell Forest Council's specialist consultants. The proposal provides improvements to the school's existing parking strategy to include new drop-off and pick-up space within the adjoining King George V Recreation Ground and Locks Ride Recreation Ground car park

### **What if the proposals are not supported and so do not go ahead?**

If the proposals are not supported then if the worst case (highest) pupil forecasts are realised it is likely that there will be an insufficient number of primary school places in North Bracknell. This will mean that pupils have to travel much further to find school places.

### **Where is the money for this proposal coming from?**

Funding has been allocated through the government's Targeted Basic Need programme for providing additional school places with further funds being provided by Bracknell Forest Council.

### **Will this mean changes to the admissions criteria for Winkfield St Mary's?**

No, the admissions criteria for Winkfield St Mary's will be unchanged. There will simply be more school places available for potential applicants in the single surge year.

### **How can I apply for a School Place?**

Parents requiring places for their children to start at Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School for entry into Reception will be able to express a preference for Winkfield St

Mary's CE Primary School via the normal school admissions application process which is set out on the Council's website.

### **How can I influence the decision?**

Send us your views using the online response form. Your specific comments are welcomed and will be taken into account in finalising the proposal, including the final design of the new facility.

All responses will be collated and submitted to the Planning Authority. Your response will therefore be considered and taken into account the Planning Authority when the application is determined. At this time it is expected that the application will be considered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 meeting by the Council's Planning Committee.

### **How do I respond to this Consultation?**

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online survey.

You can also write to us by quoting "Winkfield St Mary's Consultation" at:

Bracknell Forest Council, Children  
Young People & Learning  
Education, Capital & Property  
Time Square  
Bracknell  
RG12 1JD

### **What is the timeline for responding with my comments on the Proposal?**

Please send us your comments before the closing date of midnight 30th March 2015.

### **What is the date of the open evening?**

An open evening will be held at the school on Monday 16th March 2015, where stakeholders are invited to speak with LA representatives and members of the project team.