

Cabinet – 10 September 2014

Proposed Expansion of King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School, Christ Church CEJMI School

Portfolio: Councillor Cassidy, Children's services and education

Related portfolios: None

Service: Children's Services

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 At the meeting held on 5 February 2014, Cabinet approved consultation on the proposal to significantly enlarge King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and Christ Church CE JMI School from 1 September 2015 in order to meet increasing demand for primary places. Following a period of informal consultation the proposal was published on 4 July 2014. This report provides details of the outcome of the consultation on this proposal.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the proposal to significantly enlarge King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and Christ Church CE JMI School from 1 September 2015.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 For pupil forecasting purposes Walsall is split into a total of 11 primary planning areas and King Charles Primary School, which is in Planning Area 1 provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. In September 2011 the admission number for the school was increased from 30 to 45 and this revised number is still working its way through the school. Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and up to 30 pupils into Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The school currently has places for a total of 255 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 52 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a community primary school in Walsall which, along with Bentley West Primary School, forms the Bentley Federation. King Charles Primary is a popular school which was oversubscribed in the 2014 primary admissions round, the school was found to

require improvement in its most recent Ofsted inspection which took place in May 2014

- 3.2 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at King Charles Primary School from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2014. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the 60 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 2 FE (Forms of Entry) school; currently it is 1.5FE.
- 3.3 Fibbersley Park Primary School (Primary Planning Area 2) provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Currently, the school admits up to 60 pupils into Reception each year. The school currently has places for a total of 420 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 52 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a community primary school in Walsall. Fibbersley Park Primary School is a popular school which was heavily oversubscribed in the 2014 primary admissions round, the school was rated as outstanding following its most recent Ofsted inspection which took place in September 2012.
- 3.4 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Fibbersley Park Primary School from 60 to 90 from 1 September 2015. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the 90 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 3FE (forms of entry) school; currently it is 2 FE.
- 3.5 Christ Church CE JMI School (Primary Planning Area 4) provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Currently, the school admits up to 30 pupils into Reception each year. The school currently has places for a total of 210 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 26 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a voluntary controlled primary school in Walsall. Christ Church CE JMI School is a popular school which was oversubscribed in the 2014 primary admissions round. In response to the demand for places at the school, the local authority is intending to admit 15 children above the published admission number in September 2014 and has offered places to 15 additional children, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2014 to 45. The school was rated as good following its most recent Ofsted inspection which took place in April 2013.
- 3.6 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Christ Church CE JMI School from 30 to 45 from 1 September 2015. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the 45 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 1.5 FE (forms of entry) school; currently it is 1 FE.
- 3.7 Permission to consult on the proposed enlargements was granted by cabinet on 5 February 2014. A period of informal pre-publication commenced on 7 April 2014 and ended on 9 May 2014.

- 3.8 Consultation documents which included information regarding the proposed enlargement were issued to parents, staff, governors, and members of the student council at King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and Christ Church CE JMI School. Copies of the document were also available at the children's centres attached to each school, on the Walsall Council website and on the Staffroom website. The consultation document was also sent to neighbouring local authorities and diocesan representatives.
- 3.9 Consultation meetings were held with student council members, school staff, parents and governors at each of the three schools during the consultation period and copies of the minutes of each meeting are included in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.10 The meetings took the form of a presentation by Walsall Council, followed by a question and answer session.
- 3.11 The responses at the consultation meetings concerning the proposal to expand King Charles Primary School were all favourable.
- 3.12 A total of 17 consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of King Charles Primary School. There were 12 responses from parents, 1 combined response from a pupil and parent, and 4 responses from members of staff. Respondees were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal and details of their responses are provided in the table below and full responses are provided in Appendix 2.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil return
Pupils	-	-	-	-
Parents	8	2	2	-
Staff	4	-	-	-
Governors	-	-	-	-
Parent/pupil combined response	1	-	-	-
Total	13	2	2	-

- 3.13 The consultation meeting with the School Council at Fibbersley Park was attended by 15 members of the School Council. The children who spoke at the meeting asked questions about the impact of the proposal on the school site, staffing and the organisation of the school; there were no objections to the proposal. A total of 37 members of school staff attended the consultation meetings at Fibbersley Park Primary School. Staff raised concerns about car parking arrangements at the school and about the busy road outside the school site and asked whether a pelican crossing would be provided. Staff asked questions about when the building work would start, funding for the proposed expansion, the impact on nursery numbers, changes to the organisation of the school day and the possible impact of staff if the demand for school places was to fall at some time in the future. Staff also asked what other options the Council had considered and whether any consideration had been given to building a new school rather than expanding Fibbersley Park.

Attendance at the parents' consultation meeting was low with just 5 parents attending the meeting. Parents asked questions about the admissions and appeals process and wanted to know how the additional places would be allocated. Parents also asked about when the building work would be done, and the impact of the building work on the site, and parking arrangements. One parent expressed an opinion that the school hall is currently too small and asked if this would be increased. Parents also asked about the impact of the increased pupil numbers on the teacher/pupil ratio. One parent also asked why the Council did not consider building a new school rather than expanding Fibbersley Park. None of the parents present expressed an objection to the proposal. The governors' consultation meeting was attended by 18 members of the governing body. Governors raised concerns that the proposal would not benefit the school and would impact on the school's green spaces. Concerns were raised about parking and a possible impact on levels of attainment at the school and on the school's Ofsted rating. Governors also asked whether the Council had considered building a free school as an alternative to expanding Fibbersley Park.

- 3.14 A total of 17 consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Fibbersley Park Primary School. There were 10 responses from parents, 1 response from a pupil, 4 responses from members of staff and 2 responses from governors. Respondees were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal and details of their responses are provided in the table below and full responses are provided in **Appendix 2**.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil return
Pupils	1	-	-	-
Parents	-	2	8	-
Staff	2	-	2	-
Governors	2	-	-	-
Total	5	2	10	-

Although concerns about the proposal were raised by school governors at the consultation meetings, the fact that such a low number of responses were received to the pre-publication consultation process does not indicate that there is strong level of opposition to the proposal and the only written response submitted by school governors were in favour of the proposal. No responses were received during the formal consultation period following publication of the proposal and the statutory notice.

- 3.15 The responses received at the consultation meetings to discuss the proposed expansion of Christ Church CE JMI School were all favourable. 1 consultation response form was received in relation to the proposed expansion of Christ Church CE JMI School. The response was from a parent. Respondees were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal and details of the response is provided in the table below and the full response is provided in Appendix 2.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil return
Pupils	-	-	-	-
Parents	-	-	1	-
Staff	-	-	-	-
Governors	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	1	-

- 3.16 A statutory proposal and associated statutory notice were published on 4 July 2014 and a statutory period of consultation (Representation period) commenced on 4 July 2014 and ended on 1 August 2014. No responses to the proposal were received during this period. A copy of the proposal is included in **Appendix 3**.

4. Council priorities

Walsall Council in its role as Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in the local area and additional places are required from 1 September 2015 at King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and Christ Church CE JMI School in order to meet an increasing demand for school places.

5. Risk management

The provision of additional places at King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and Christ Church CE JMI School will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the increasing demand and will create a greater opportunity for children in each of the three affected planning areas to attend a local school.

6. Financial implications

The proposed expansions will involve extensions, alterations, remodelling or new buildings on all three school sites. Funding will be from Basic Need Capital.

The ongoing increase in revenue funding for the three schools will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

7. Legal implications

The statutory process for expanding a maintained school is set out in the new School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 which came into force on 28 January 2014.

8. Property implications

The proposed expansions will involve extensions, alternations, remodelling or new buildings on all three school sites.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

Consideration has been given to the health and wellbeing of the children of Walsall and is it considered that the provision of additional places at King Charles Primary School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and Christ Church CE JMI School will contribute to the wellbeing of children in the affected planning areas by creating increased opportunity for them to attend a school in their local area.

10. Staffing implications

Additional teaching and support staff will be recruited to provide for the additional children at school.

11. Equality implications

It is of crucial importance to the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives that the young people of Walsall are able to access the right provision to meet their needs in order to achieve appropriate qualifications, progressing to employment and/or training and make a positive contribution within the borough in the future.

12. Consultation

There were initial discussions with head teachers of all three schools before commencing a period of non-statutory consultation which was followed by a 4 week period of statutory consultation (Representation period) in accordance with the requirements of

Background papers

Cabinet Report 5 February 2014: The future of the school estate in Walsall

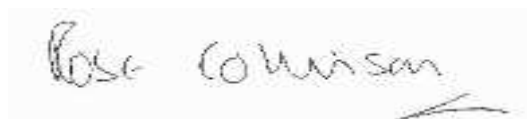
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Rose Collinson
Executive Director
21 August 2014



Councillor Cassidy
Portfolio holder
1 September 2014

Appendix 1

Pre-publication Consultation Meeting Notes

Christ Church CE JMI School:

Location:	Christ Church CE JMI School
Meeting with:	School Council
Date:	Tuesday 29 April 2014
Time	2:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Christ Church CE JMI School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Sean Davies Head Teacher	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	Chair of Governors	
	8 members of the School Council	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. Where will the new building go? Will we have to build every year if the school will grow by 15 each year?

A: It was explained that all the building work would be done straight away probably throughout the school holidays so not to disturb the pupils learning at all, should the consultation be agreed and given the go ahead, this would mean for a little while the school would benefit from additional space.

Q. Will there need to be more teachers or will all those 45 children be in one class?

A: It was explained that new teachers would be employed as an Infant Class is restricted by 'Infant Class Size' legislation which states that an infant class must not have more than 30 pupils in the form.

Mr Davies explained the proposed new class structure:

Reception = 45 children would be split into two classes of about 22 pupils and 23 pupils.

Year 1 & Year 2 = would become 3 mixed year group classes

Year 3 & Year 4 = would become 3 mixed year group classes

Year 5 & Year 6 = would become 3 mixed year group classes

Mr Davies went on to say that by creating mixed year group classes it would mean that pupils would be able to work with all different children and more booster and set classes could be created to support children in literacy as they currently do in numeracy, meaning more intricate and detailed classes could be created. It would also mean that they would be an opportunity for children to work with different people in the school and would not necessarily be 'stuck' with someone who they didn't get on with for the entire course of their school life. The teachers could create the classes based on children's ability levels and who they worked best with.

Mr Davies took all present at the meeting outside to show where the new section of the building would be located. He explained that the new building would fill in a missing section of the 'donut' shaped

building and would be build on an area outside that is not used for play. There is a climbing wall on one of the walls that would be removed.

Q. Where will our climbing wall go?

A: Mr Davies reassured the pupils that the climbing wall would be reinstated on another external wall and the children would not be losing this item. It was then suggested that the school council could get together and make a decision as to where the wall could go.

Kate Mann asked the school council if they were happy with everything they had heard and been shown, all the children said yes, she then asked if the children thought the increase would be a good idea the children again said yes, with one pupil saying that she though it definitely would be as it meant no children would be 'left out' and everyone could go to the school if they wanted to.

Location:	King Charles Primary School
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Meeting with:	Parents
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Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
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Time	3:15 pm
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PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	No parents attended	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator		
Alan Michell Head of Services for IYPSS		

No parents attended and the meeting was closed.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	King Charles Primary School
Meeting with:	Staff
Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
Time	4:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Rod Dickson	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	29 members of staff	
Alan Michell Head of Service - IYPSS	1 parent	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q: Are the projections just from birth rates in area?

A: No they also take into account information about proposed housing developments which have received planning permission and data on across borough movement.

Q: Will the build be funded by the school or by the council?

A: The local authority have a statutory requirement to ensure there are enough places for all the children in the area to attend school and the Council receive funding to enable them to meet this duty. Walsall Council will be paying for the building work through funding they have received.

Q: Will increasing reception automatically mean that nursery class will increase too?

A: Nursery size is something that would need to be reviewed separately. Nursery attendance does not give priority for admission to reception, so it is not necessary for the nursery to have the same amount of places as the reception class.

Q: Will it make a difference that no parents have come to the parent's meeting?

A: Information about the attendance at the consultation meetings will be included in the consultation report, as will details of all the response received; but it is not a vote. Cabinet will review all the information available to them and will make a decision accordingly.

Q: When will the build start?

A: There is no date set for building work to commence at present and this is just a proposal at the current stage. We would aim for as much of the work as possible to be completed during school holidays to minimise disruption.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	King Charles Primary School
Meeting with:	Governors
Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
Time	5:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	No Governors attended.	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator		
Alan Michell Head of Service for IYPSS		

No Governors attended and the meeting was closed.

Fibbersley Park Primary School: Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	Fibbersley Park Primary School
Meeting with:	School Council
Date:	Wednesday 30 April 2014
Time	2:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Fibbersley Park Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	15 members of the school council	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	7 members of staff	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Question from a member of staff:

What about our car park, it's already stretched will it be enlarged?

A: We are unsure of this as it will be looked at by the planning team and architect when designing and planning the new development, and then discussed with senior management at the school.

Question from a member of staff:

Will we see the plan before anything is agreed and any work begins?

A: This will be discuss with members of the senior management team as the planning work progresses.

Question from a member of staff:

When would the building work start?

A: There is no set date for the work to begin at the moment as this is just a proposal and nothing has been agreed, however we would aim for as much of the work as possible to be completed during school holidays so as to minimise disruption.

Question from a member of staff:

Will the building work run concurrently?

A: All the work will be done at the same time so the building will be completed as soon as possible even though the school will not filled immediately. This will mean that the school will have additional spare space for a number of years until the admission number has risen to 90 throughout the whole school.

Question from a member of staff:

Have the additional 30 pupils for September 2015 already been selected?

A: No. The September 2015 admission round begins in November and places will be offered in April 2015. The is annually oversubscribed every year and Walsall Council is confident the school will fill due to the high demand for places.

Question from a member of staff:

What happens when the "Baby Boom" is over – will the staff still have jobs if more teachers are being employed at the school?

A: Fibbersley Park is an extremely popular and successful school and even without the projected increase in demand for places the school is significantly over-subscribed year after year.

Question from a member of the School Council:

How many extra teachers will we have?

A: Each additional class will mean one qualified school teacher so we would expect that there would be about seven new teachers at the school eventually.

Questions from a member of the School Council:

Where will the new classrooms be put?

A: We are unsure of where the classrooms will be located at the minute this is something that the planning team are going to work with Senior Management at the school to decide on the best place. They will do their best to put the building somewhere to minimise disrupting to the play areas and parking.

Question from a member of the School Council

Will our hall be made bigger?

A: As the plans have not been created yet we don't know the answer to this question. But when the plans for the extension are being completed it will be necessary to consider whether the hall is big enough.

Question from a member of staff:

Will more pupils mean the school day is longer?

A: Changes to the school day would be a decision for the senior management and governors of the school.

Question from a member of Staff:

Currently we have a 45 minute lunch break, when the school is full how will we cope with feeding all the children in this short amount of time?

A: Lunch time arrangements would need to be reviewed by the senior management of the school.

Question from a member of the School Council:

What will happen with PE? We only just have enough space now!

A: Again, when the new school building is designed, space for PE will need to be considered. There is a guidance document which sets out a recommended minimum amount of hall space per pupil for primary schools and the hall space in Fibbersley Park currently meets this requirement.

Question from a member of the School Council

Will we have a bigger playground?

A: This will depend on land ownership and what is agreed with the planning team, the architect and the school.

Question from a member of the School Council:

Does the school have to pay for this extension? Do we need to do fundraisers at school?

A: No. Walsall Council has a duty to ensure there are enough school places for everyone in the borough and receives funding from the government to provide sufficient school places. The Council will use this funding to pay for the building work.

Question from a member of staff:

Which other schools is the Council proposing to expand?

A: The Council is proposing to expand a total of four primary schools to meet the projected increase in demand for primary school places. At the present time the Council is consulting on the proposed expansion of Christ Church CE JMI School, Fibbersley Park Primary School and King Charles Primary School. The Council is also proposing to expand Leighswood Primary School, but has not yet begun consultation on this proposal.

Question from a member of staff:

Why is this happening?

A: There has been an increase in birth rate in recent years and projections show that the Walsall Borough will need to provide additional school places to meet this increased demand from September 2015. This is a nationwide trend and other Black Country authorities have already had to significantly increase a number of primary schools.

Question from a member of staff:**What happens if staff and parents oppose this decision?**

A: It is not a vote, but all consultation responses will be included in a report on the consultation. Walsall Council's cabinet will consider the outcome of consultation when they make the final decision on the proposal.

Question from a member of staff:**Can we have a pelican crossing put on the road as it is a very busy dangerous road?**

A: Access to the school and the impact on the neighbourhood has to be considered as part of the planning process. The highways team will look at what arrangements are necessary for the school as part of this process.

Question from a member of the School Council:**Will the building affect the juniors at the school?**

A: We will aim to do as much of the building work as possible during the school holidays to minimise disruption, but everyone may be affected if some of the work has to be done in term time.

Question from a member of the School Council:**Who will play out together?**

A: This is something that the teachers and senior management of the school will decide.

Question from a member of the School Council:**Will the school office be bigger to make sure there is enough space for all the new people in case more people come into reception at the same time?**

A: When the new building is designed it will be necessary to consider whether office and reception place needs to be extended.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	Fibbersley Park Primary School
Meeting with:	Staff
Date:	Wednesday 30 April 2014
Time	3:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Fibbersley Park Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	30 members of staff	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	3 Assistant Head Teachers	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:**Q: What other options do Walsall Council have?**

A: Walsall Council have a statutory requirement to ensure there are enough places for all children in the borough and as projections indicate that there will be a shortfall in September 2015, additional places do need to be provided within the planning area. The alternative options could be that we look at other

schools to see whether they could possibly increase in size or take additional pupils in a bulge class, or the Council could consider building a new school which would be either an Academy or a Free School.

A member of staff member commented that the increasing trend in the birth rate was something they queried before the three schools were closed and amalgamated into one and if Walsall Council had listened beforehand this situation could have been avoided.

Q: Who makes up the cabinet?

A: Elected members. There are Council elections in May so that current Cabinet members may not be the same after the election.

Q: How will the school fill and when will the work be done?

A: The proposal is for 30 additional pupils to be admitted into Reception each year from September 2015 onwards. So in 2015 there will be up to 90 children admitted to reception, but the admission numbers for Years 1-6 will still be 60. Each year after, Reception will take in 90 children and the admission number will gradually work its way through the school until the admission number for each cohort is 90. All the building work will all be done at the same time in preparation for the increase in 2014, so for a number of years before the school is full it will benefit from additional space.

Q: Why doesn't the Council just build a new school?

A: This could be another option should the proposal not be agreed for increasing the number at Fibbersley Park, however Walsall council will always look at increasing a popular and successful school before building a brand new building.

Q: Will funding be given for the additional pupils?

A: Funding is received for each pupil that a school has on roll, so additional pupils will attract increased funding.

Q: Where will we park?

A: Parking is on consideration to be taken into account when the new building is designed.

Q: Will the school's nursery increase too?

A: This is a separate decision. No priority for admission to Reception is given to children that attend an attached nursery so the nursery admission number does not have to be increased along with the published admission number for Reception.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	Fibbersley Park Primary School
Meeting with:	Parents
Date:	Wednesday 30 April 2014
Time	3:45pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Fibbersley Park Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	5 Parents	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	Assistant Head Teacher	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q: How will the additional pupils come into the school?

A: The proposal is for 30 additional pupils to be admitted into Reception each year from September 2015 onwards. So in 2015 there will be up to 90 children admitted to reception, but the admission numbers for Years 1-6 will still be 60. Each year after, Reception will take in 90 children and the admission number will gradually work its way through the school until the admission number for each cohort is 90.

Q: If people move to the area with older siblings what would happen then?

A: Only Reception will increase in 2015. The number in all other year groups would remain at 60. Children could only be admitted to any year group as midyear admissions if there were spaces available. Parents applying for midyear admission to any year group are offered the right of appeal against the decision if their child is refused a place. Children with siblings already at the school have priority over applicants considered under distance only on the waiting list.

Q: What would make a successful appeal?

A: It is rare that an appeal would be successful for an infant class as they are restricted by the infant class size legislation which limits the number of children in an infant class with a single qualified school teacher to 30. There is no statutory limit to the size of junior classes so there is more chance of winning an appeal for a junior class. With appeals where infant class size limit does not apply, the panel have to 'balance prejudice' to decide whether the benefit to the child if they were admitted outweighs the impact that would be caused on the school and existing pupils if they admitted an additional child.

Q: Will the building work affect the children whilst they are at school?

A: The aim would be to complete as much of the building work as possible during the school holidays to minimise the disruption to the school, but it is possible that some work could be carried out during term time.

Q: Will the new build take away much of the school playground and the greenery around the school?

A: This is at the planning stage at the moment and it is not known what the impact would be on the school site.

Q: The school hall is not big enough at the minute – will it be increased?

A: The school was built to accommodate 60 pupils and the hall is sufficiently large for a school of this size. Plans for the new build would have to take into account whether or not additional space was required in communal areas such as the school hall.

Q: Wouldn't it be more sensible to create a new build?

A: The Council would prefer to increase popular, successful schools where it is possible to do so. But a new build Academy or free school could be an option if the proposal to expand Fibbersley Park does not go ahead.

Q: Won't increasing the amount of pupils at the school mean there is less care for pupil as there would be more pupils to teachers?

A: The school will have to employ additional teachers to accommodate the increased pupil numbers. Class sizes will not increase.

Q: Will parents begin 'tricking' the system to get their children into schools by using false addresses?

A: Parents are required to provide proof of address when they submit an application for a school place. The local authority always investigates any suspected fraudulent applications and, where can and does withdraw the offer of a place where it is provide that it was obtained based on an intentionally fraudulent or misleading application.

Q: Where will everyone park?

A: A review of parking arrangements will form part of the planning process for the new build.

Q: If the building work is still being done when the children return from summer holidays will they be kept inside at break time and lunchtimes?

A: As much of the work as possible will be completed during the school holidays. If building work is still going on during term time, it will be up to the schools to decide how best to manage break times.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	Fibbersley Park Primary School
Meeting with:	Governors
Date:	Wednesday 30 April 2014
Time	4:30 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Fibbersley Park Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	18 Governors	Denis O'Rourke - Concept Education Services
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator		

Questions, comments and response:

Chair of Governors – Councillor Coughlan commented that he was dismayed at the way the process had begun and that he was unaware of the proposed expansion until he read about it in the Express and Star. He felt that there had been inadequate communication between with the school by Walsall Council and said that he has raised his concerns about this with Rose Collinson. – Director of Children's Services. Councillor Coughlan added that he felt that the proposal would not benefit the school and that he was concerned that the new build would impact on the school's green spaces.

Another member of the governing body said that she was concerned about many different things in relation to the new build including parking, the building possibly taking up green space at the school and a possible impact on levels of attainment. She pointed out that the school was awarded an outstanding category at their most recent Ofsted inspection and that staff had worked extremely hard for 7 years to achieve this level and she is concerned that the proposal could have a negative impact on this.

Q: Could a Free School be built?

A: If the proposal is rejected the Council will need to consider alternative options to provide additional places in the area and one of options could be to build a new school. Any new school would have to be an academy or a free school as no new community schools can be build.

Other members of the governing body stated that they were unhappy with the whole process and with the fact that they had found out about the proposal through the press.

A member of the governing body said that he found it difficult to give either a positive or negative reaction to the news of the proposed expansion as there are no details of the build available yet making it increasingly hard to tell whether they will be suitable and therefore agreeable. This governor also added that he felt the school governors as a whole were a vital part of the decision making progress as they were all longstanding members and knew the school very well. He felt it was important the Walsall Council communicates fully with the governors throughout the process.

One member of the governing body wanted the Council to understand that the school had reached their Outstanding Ofsted level due to Joanne Austin and her skills and leadership as a head teacher at the school, adding that they were worried for the future of the school now that she was leaving and that these concerns were exacerbated by the proposed expansion.

Denis O'Rourke said that he does not think that planning permission would be granted for the Council to build on any green space around the school. Denis wanted to reassure the governors that he is working with the school and the highways team to produce a building proposal that would suit everyone should the proposed expansion go ahead. Denis added that at the minute this was just a proposal and nothing at all has been agreed or completed and this is why there are currently no plans available. Denis further explained that if the proposal does not go ahead the Council is not able to build a new community school, so if a new school were to be built it would have to be either a free school or an Academy.

King Charles Primary School:

Location:	King Charles Primary School
Meeting with:	School Council
Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
Time	2:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	12 members of the School Council	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	2 Teachers	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q: Where will you build?

A: This is uncertain at the minute as it is only a proposal and the decisions for this have not been finalised by the planning team. There are a lot of decisions to make and ideas to look at still.

Q: Are the classes going to be any different?

The class organisation may change this will be decided by the school though and there will be at least 2 classes in each year group.

Q: Will this affect just Key Stage 1?

A: Eventually the change and increase would affect all year groups but initially it will only affect Reception class in 2015. Each year the school will get bigger by an additional 15 pupils until there are 60 pupils in each year group.

Q: When the new build starts will we be at school?

A: Most of the work will be done during the school holidays, but it is possible that some work will have to be done while you are at school.

Q: Will we have a bigger school hall?

A: This will be looked at when the new part of the building is designed. I can't say at this stage whether or not your current hall will be big enough.

The children were asked if they thought the proposal was a good idea, they all said yes. One child said they thought it would be a good idea as it would improve the school's community and another said they thought it would be a good idea as he would have more friends.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	King Charles Primary School
Meeting with:	Parents
Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
Time	3:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	No parents attended	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator		
Alan Michell Head of Services for IYPSS		

No parents attended and the meeting was closed.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	King Charles Primary School
Meeting with:	Staff
Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
Time	4:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Rod Dickson	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator	29 members of staff	
Alan Michell Head of Service - IYPSS	1 parent	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as Assistant Admissions Coordinator from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q: Are the projections just from birth rates in area?

A: No they also take into account information about proposed housing developments which have received planning permission and data on across borough movement.

Q: Will the build be funded by the school or by the council?

A: The local authority have a statutory requirement to ensure there are enough places for all the children in the area to attend school and the Council receive funding to enable them to meet this duty. Walsall Council will be paying for the building work through funding they have received.

Q: Will increasing reception automatically mean that nursery class will increase too?

A: Nursery size is something that would need to be reviewed separately. Nursery attendance does not give priority for admission to reception, so it is not necessary for the nursery to have the same amount of places as the reception class.

Q: Will it make a difference that no parents have come to the parent's meeting?

A: Information about the attendance at the consultation meetings will be included in the consultation report, as will details of all the response received; but it is not a vote. Cabinet will review all the information available to them and will make a decision accordingly.

Q: When will the build start?

A: There is no date set for building work to commence at present and this is just a proposal at the current stage. We would aim for as much of the work as possible to be completed during school holidays to minimise disruption.

Consultation Meeting Notes

Location:	King Charles Primary School
Meeting with:	Governors
Date:	Thursday 1 May 2014
Time	5:15 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King Charles Primary School	Others
Kate Mann – Service Manager- Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	No Governors attended.	
Alex Haigh Assistant Admissions Coordinator		
Alan Michell Head of Service for IYPSS		

No Governors attended and the meeting was closed.

Pre-Publication Consultation

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Consultation Responses

Appendix

Christ Church CE JMI School:

Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
	✓						✓		"I feel the classrooms are large enough and anymore children in the class would affect my child's learning and developments. Cut backs gone too far. How about more state built schools instead of making classrooms larger? Working class do not stand a chance.

Fibbersley Park Primary School:

Indicate your interest in the proposal:						Do you support the proposal?			Comments
Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	
			✓			✓			"Consideration will need to be given to revenue funding. We need to know how the Council is going to fund staffing and resources for the new intake in September 15 and every subsequent September for the next 6 years. Budget will be set in April for the financial year."
			✓				✓		

	✓						✓		<p>“Even if classrooms are built there is still not enough space. Facilities for the children i.e. lunchtime dining, hall space, playground space and parking. Initially the intake is for reception but what if these children have older siblings will this make their classes larger at the detriment of our children.”</p>
Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
	✓						✓		<p>“I feel the school would seem too overcrowded especially during events i.e. performances etc. The school at present seems as though it is overcrowded. Parking at the school is an absolute nightmare so increasing the number of pupils and parents/carers will just add to the chaos. I understand the school would get extra funding but feel that seems to be more important than the pupils’ needs.”</p>
	✓				Local resident			✓	<p>“If building work takes place during holidays what effect will this have on day care children especially those located in the cabin and how will safety of school children be ensured if building goes beyond the holiday period. I estimate an extra 180 pupils on completion of the enlargement, what parking facilities are the council proposing to accommodate the extra vehicles to ensure local residents domestic and commercial (petrol station and Aspray) will not be inconvenienced or children’s safety compromised? Can you promise children will not be accommodated in secondary class rooms i.e. portacabins? Is Barcroft (and other schools) being considered for enlargement? If population projections for Walsall are up to 20 years why wasn’t Fibbersley made bigger initially?</p>

Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
	✓						✓		"The car parking situation is already bad. The proposal would make it worse. The safety of children would be at even more risk in and around the school. Concerned standard of teaching and staff would decrease, taking away from school being outstanding. Would increase take away from green area and play area? The hall is already not big enough when parents attend performances/assemblies etc."
	✓						✓		"Extremely concerned about potential disruption to pupils' lessons and play times during building phase and green space after build. No information provided on which area of the school grounds is to be built on, playground? Already severe problems with parking and through traffic. This will only get worse. School hall, dining facilities and playground already on small side for current number of pupils, how will this be addressed?"
			✓			✓			"It will be a bonus for the community and for parents who would normally have to travel further. Fibbersley Park is a growing, caring, nurturing environment for all ages to grow and excel in their learning. Look forward to seeing plans for the extension to the school."

Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
	✓						✓		"Already insufficient cover at lunch and break times judging by the number of times my child has been hurt at these times, resulting in stitches twice and a chipped tooth. The parking traffic issues at the school and in the surrounding streets is already horrendous, especially when taking into account the school is opposite a freight company depot and the number of lorries using the area."
		✓				✓			
		✓				✓			
	✓						✓		"They can't manage what they have got."
	✓						✓		"They can't manage what they have got."
✓						✓			"Think it's a really good idea, I know people that were upset, because their child couldn't get a place in the school, I think the school; should of been build bigger from the start as closing down three school to be put into one was wrong move."
Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
	✓						✓		"Parking is a major issue at present, Will be made worse by extra pupils. Nowhere to park now. Safety a major issue. Class rooms are too small as well as the hall currently. How is an extra 25 pupils per class beneficial to our children's education? Will they get the attention each child requires? Will it be more disruptive? Concerned about children's safety and the school was not build for an extra 30 pupils per year. In my experience large classes

									hinder children's learning, some children do not do so well in large numbers and normally staffed by class room assistants and 1 educated teacher."
			✓				✓		"We don't get the support to enhance children's learning with the staff we have, because of funding we are told, so how can the school provide good learning for children? Children coming through are below average, can't speak, what range of family will we be provide children's education for? More special needs children are coming through and one to one support is limited. Behaviour, staff are not happy as we are!!!!"
	✓							✓	

King Charles Primary School:

Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
			✓			✓			"Will make the school better for the future."
			✓			✓			
			✓			✓			
	✓					✓			
	✓					✓			
	✓						✓		"The children have more of a one to one basis with the teachers if they have more children join our children could suffer learn less because the teachers will have less time to spend with children they are already teaching at the moment, and become too overcrowded."
	✓					✓			"A larger school will enable more children to have great education like my children do."
	✓							✓	"My concerns are that the children that are above average and the children that need a little help will start being missed and treated just as a number, both of my children are above the national average and I would hate to think extra stress for the teacher cause them to drop."
	✓					✓			
Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
✓	✓					✓			"I think it is a good thing if it's going to improve the children's education in academics and sports as well as the running of the school. King Charles has improved over the years and if enlarging it

									means more good to the children than I support it 100%."
	✓					✓			"Making the school larger will enable more children to have great education as my two children receive."
	✓							✓	"I am concerned that teachers have more than enough to do within their day that adding extra stresses may compromise my children's learning. Both my children are above average I would hate to think that they will become overlooked due to the amount of work the teachers and TAs have,"
	✓					✓			
	✓					✓			"Very happy if King Charles School been extended. Good for the area only problem parents park in Wilkes Avenue and Mountbatten Street. Will there be a car park for parents to drop off and collect children, it would be nice. Thank you"
	✓					✓			
			✓			✓			
Pupil	Parent / Carer of a pupil	Governor	Member of staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
	✓						✓		"Bullying is rife at the school; my son was recently "lost" by staff, poor communication all the time. They cannot cope with the amount of children they have now! The hall is too small for them to eat together; they only end up with 10 minutes! Bullying – continuous, several incidents of inappropriate behaviour. Poorly implemented policies. Child managed to leave school <u>without</u> parent consent. Left mother of child outside whilst they panicked. Mr Dixon speaks to parents in a derogatory manner! I firmly believe that the school needs to sort the issues <u>before</u> they enlarge the school. The hall is too small for the amount of children now – lunches are staggered but it seems

										those that have packed lunches don't get the same amount of time as dinners. Not enough lunchtime supervisors on the playground. The children often complain that the teacher doesn't have enough time as it is, doubling the size will cause more problems. I firmly believe that my child's education will suffer as a result."
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