

Frequently asked questions about school expansions in Haringey

- 1. Why are there no plans to show how any expansion would be physically delivered on site?** – We are at the very earliest stage of consulting on the possible expansion of any one or more of three primary schools. **No** decision has yet been taken on whether or not we will proceed with any of the expansion(s). Once a decision has been taken by the Council's Cabinet to proceed with any of the expansions, the Council will begin a long and interactive dialogue with the school and other stakeholders to decide how the expansion(s) can best be delivered to meet the needs of the children, and to deliver the curriculum in the most effective way for each individual school. There will be further opportunity to comment at this later stage, as well as during the consideration of any planning application that is required as part of the works required to expand the school.
- 2. Why does the school(s) need to expand?**
A combination of a sharp rise in the birth rate, migration and increased housing, has created the need to provide additional primary school places in Haringey and across almost all of London. These primary schools have been selected as potential schools to expand from two-form to three-form entry to accommodate the increasing primary aged population that we are seeing in the borough. Any expansion would be incremental with effect from September 2013 – that is, the expansion would start with the reception class(es) and, year on year, the expanded 3 forms of entry would move up the school until, by 2019, the whole school is three form.
- 3. Will the school need to close during the building work?**
No – all building works will be planned carefully in close dialogue with the school to ensure that works are scheduled to be as non-disruptive as possible. The building site will be a secure, self-managed area and the school staff, pupils, parents and visitors will have no access to the building site at all. Planning for this will take place only once a decision to expand has been taken,
- 4. Will three-form entry mean the school(s) will not be as friendly or will lose the very special sense of community that is the reason for choosing the school in the first place?**
Schools with strong senior leadership teams (SLT) have been chosen because the local authority has confidence that the staff and Governors will make every effort to ensure that the ethos of the school doesn't change and that new staff are carefully recruited to ensure that the school's friendly approach continues. Further, the wider range of staff as a result of additional appointments to deliver an additional class will bring with it an opportunity for the SLT to recruit a broader level of expertise and specialisms within its staff which can be used to enhance the teaching and learning delivered at the school.

5. **Will the extra school places created be for local children?** – Yes, we have planned to ensure that any extra places created are close to the area where there is identified additional need. Our aim is to ensure that there are enough places to allow children to attend a local school if they chose to do so. We are required to follow school admissions rules as set out in The Admissions Code 2010 in allocating places within any school.
6. **Why have you chosen the schools you have?** - When deciding which schools are suitable for expansion, the council considered sites for a new school as well as considering every primary school within the borough. The schools that we are currently consulting on were chosen on the basis of a number of requirements including proximity to the area of need, demand for places at the school, site suitability , and performance. This is set out on page 2 of the consultation documents under the heading “why are we thinking of expanding...”.
7. **Will class size increase beyond 30?** – No, government legislation on Key Stage 1 class sizes limits the number of infant children in a class to 30 pupils per teacher.
8. **Are you just providing classrooms? What about the other spaces pupils need?** – The council will work closely with any school’s Senior Leadership Team to ensure that all appropriate accommodation is provided to enable them to deliver an effective curriculum in a way that suits the needs of the school concerned.
9. **What role do ‘free schools’ play?** – Free schools are new schools that can be set up by a wide range of proposers. On the 10 October the Department for Education (DfE) announced that one proposer – E-ACT – should proceed to the next stage of the free school process to provide a two form entry primary school in Haringey, currently planned for the Tottenham area. The DfE have told us that they will shortly write to the Council to formally seek our views. As of 18 October 2011 we do not have a confirmed site for where this school will be located within the borough. When determining where best to provide additional places in the borough as a result of expansions, information on free school places and their location and number is an important consideration.
10. **Why don’t you build a new school?** – Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Section 7, a local authority may publish a notice under the section inviting proposals for the establishment of certain types of new schools. However, Haringey is currently considering the expansion of existing schools. This is because identified local need in Haringey is spread across a wide geographical location and a single school in one location could not effectively address the demand that has been identified. There are strong educational benefits in building on the success of one or more of our two popular and high performing

schools where there is an established and strong Senior Leadership Team.