New Middle and Upper School Places in Windsor

Your views needed on proposals to provide more secondary, middle and upper school places in Windsor

Introduction

The number of children and young people needing middle and upper education in the Royal Borough and in Windsor is going to rise over the next decade, and we need to make sure that there are enough school places for them. As this rising demand will happen over an extended period, we are proposing to add new school places in phases. This consultation deals mainly with the first phase.

The Royal Borough is asking for your views on proposals to provide more places for local children and young people in secondary sector education.

The detailed proposals are shown on the next page.

Similar proposals are being suggested for Ascot and Maidenhead, where demand for secondary education is also set to rise. No new secondary places are currently sought in Datchet and Wraysbury, although an increasing population in Slough may make this necessary in the future.

Why do we need more places?

The birth rate nationally has increased significantly since 2001. Locally, the population has also been increasing, and half of the first schools in Windsor have been expanded in the last five years. The children in these schools have started moving onto middle schools, and will soon be old enough to start in the upper schools. We need to make sure that there are enough places in both the middle and the upper schools. St Edward’s Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School has already been expanded, in September 2013.

The chart and table show that there are 450 Year 5 places in the Windsor middle schools. The demand for places is set to rise from 400 in September 2014 to 501 by September 2020. This is a rise of 101, and will mean a shortage of more than 30 places by September 2018. It is proposed, therefore, that 60 places per year group be added to the middle schools, starting with Year 5 in September 2018.

Ages 4 to 8

NCY Reception to 4

14 First Schools

Ages 9 to 12

NCY 9 to 13

2 Secondary Schools

Ages 11 to 18

NYC 7 to 13

• Dedworth Middle
• St Edward’s RFE Middle
• St Peter’s CE Middle
• Trelavyn Middle

• Churchmead CE Secondary School
• Holyport College

2 Middle Schools

Ages 9 to 12

NCY 5 to 8

The Windsor Boys’ School
• The Windsor Girls’ School

1 FE College

Ages 16 to 19+

N CY 12 to 13+

• East Berkshire College

More details, and a location map, are given at www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/ed_consultations.htm

The chart and table show that there are currently 488 Year 9 places in Windsor.

New housing in Windsor

The Royal Borough is currently developing a Borough Local Plan, which will set the long-term strategy for new housing and infrastructure locally. This plan, which is expected to be finalised in early 2016, could result in an increase in the number of new homes built in Windsor. The borough will be carrying out further consultation on the local plan later this year. The final shape of the plan will, of course, affect the demand for middle and upper school places in the town, and later phases of this programme will need to reflect this.

Surplus places

Creating more secondary places will also help us keep some surplus – spare – school places in Windsor. This makes it easier to offer more families their preferred school and have places for families moving into the area. Ideally, the surplus should be 5-10%.

Funding new school places

Work on finding out the likely cost of the proposals outlined in this document is underway. Most of the funding for the proposals will come from a government grant called ‘Basic Need’, which is given to us for the purpose of creating new school places. There is also some money available to us from housing developers, who are required to contribute towards the cost of providing new infrastructure.

As might be expected, some of the proposals will be more expensive than others. The Royal Borough will need to consider cost, as well as a range of other factors, when deciding which proposals to take forward. It is important that the proposals are affordable, using the limited funding outlined above.

What happens if no new school places are provided?

If none of the proposals go ahead then some children and young people will be left without school places. Others would find themselves taught in schools that are overcrowded or farther away from their home than their families would like.

Looking for new sites and buildings

We have only a limited number of school sites that are large enough for any further expansion. This means that we may have to acquire new land and/or buildings to allow us to extend existing schools or open new ones. It may be possible to convert buildings that have been used for other purposes – large houses, warehouses, shops – into classrooms, sports halls and other school facilities and we are investigating this further.

What you say matters

Parents, staff, governors, dioceses and community organisations are all being consulted. Your views are vital so please take time to be part of this consultation. You can tell us what you think by doing one of the following:

• completing the online response form: www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/ed_consultations.htm
• completing the paper response form (provided with the hard copy of this document) and:
  o returning it to your school, who will forward it on to us; or
  o posting it to Windsor Places Consultation, Zone E, Town Hall, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF
• writing to the address above
• emailing windsor.places@rbwm.gov.uk

The closing date for your comments is Monday 3rd November 2014

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What happens after the consultation finishes?

The Royal Borough’s Cabinet will consider the outcome of the consultation on 11th December 2014. At this meeting councillors will take your views into account before making a decision on which proposals should be given the go-ahead.

If, in partnership with the governing bodies, Cabinet decides to go ahead with any options, we will publish formal proposals in January 2015. There will then be a four-week representation period to allow residents to submit objections to/comments on the formal proposals. The Royal Borough will make its final decision in February 2015. Any changes involving academies will need to be approved by the Secretary of State for Education.
Proposals for more school places - Windsor

Our ambition is to ensure that all our children and young people can get a high-quality education to help them achieve their potential. We are putting forward proposals not just to provide extra places, but to ensure that high educational standards are maintained locally. Any expansion of existing provision will only occur at schools that:

- are consistently rated as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted
- have pupil attainment that is at or better than national averages
- are consistently oversubscribed

Phase 1 – up to September 2017

Proposal 1a – Expand The Windsor Boys’ School by 60 places per year group

The Windsor Boys’ School would expand, taking an extra 60 children per year group, starting in September 2017. The school would probably need six new classrooms, more seminar rooms for the 6th form, as well as additional toilets, circulation space and parking. A new all-weather pitch may also be needed.

Proposal 1b – Expand Windsor Girls’ School by 60 places per year group

Windsor Girls’ School would expand, taking an extra 60 children per year group, starting in September 2017. The school would probably need six new classrooms, extra dining space, more seminar rooms for the 6th form, as well as additional toilets, circulation space and parking. A new all-weather pitch may also be needed.

Proposal 1c – Expand both schools

Both Windsor upper schools would expand, taking the extra 60 children between them, starting in September 2017. Both schools would probably need four new classrooms, seminar rooms, toilets, circulation space, parking & all-weather pitches.

A second round of expansions at the upper schools is likely to be needed for September 2020 and beyond, adding another 60 Year 9 places.

Proposal 2 – Improving post-16 provision

Further develop and expand provision for young people aged 16 to 19 years old

East Berkshire College has been working with the schools in Windsor to establish new provision for 14-19 year olds. This provision, called the Alliance Technical Academy, will allow more young people (at 14-16 and post 16) to access courses run by East Berkshire College at the Windsor College site, whilst still being taught at their school. The Alliance Technical Academy will focus on technical subjects (e.g. engineering, science and technology) and provide access to more specialised A Levels. This will provide a greater range of courses.

It is also proposed that there should be more apprenticeships, so that more young people can ‘learn on the job’ with a local employer whilst being supported by a local further education college. These apprenticeships can offer a route through to degree level education.

These proposals should help provide a ‘pathway’ for young people from education into employment in skill areas that are in demand from local employers.

Proposal 2a – All-through middle schools

This can only be done by opening a ‘satellite’ of an existing grammar school.

Proposal 2b – New schools

The Royal Borough is investigating whether grammar school places can be provided.

Proposal 2c – Satellite grammar schools

The Royal Borough is investigating whether grammar school places can be provided.

Proposal 3a – Expanding middle schools

St Edward’s, St Peter’s & Trevelyan could all be expanded by 30 places per year group, whilst Dedworth could be expanded by 60 places per year group. One proposal is that Dedworth Middle School would expand an extra 60 children per year group, starting with Year 5 in September 2018. The school would probably need eight new classrooms, extra dining room or hall space, as well as additional toilets, circulation space and parking. A new all-weather pitch could also be needed.

Proposal 3b – New schools

The Royal Borough is examining the possibility of opening new secondary sector schools in Windsor to increase diversity and choice in the system. A new free school, HopLord College, has already opened, providing new Year 9 places for 2014.

Proposal 3c – Satellite grammar schools

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If, following consultation, these options are taken forward then specific proposals will be developed in 2015 for consultation with residents.

Proposal 4 – All-through schools

‘All-through’ schools are schools that teach children from the ages of 4 to 18. With one headteacher, governing body and budget, they offer a way to provide consistency of education for pupils across all key stages. They also remove the transition from primary to secondary education that some children find challenging.

One way to create all-through schools in the Royal Borough would be to combine primary schools and secondary schools that are located on adjacent sites, such as Dedworth Green First and Dedworth Middle Schools.

Proposal 5 – Multi-academy trusts

By mid-2015 most secondary sector schools in the Royal Borough will be academies. A number of academies are now exploring ways of working together to allow them to pool resources and expertise, and so improve teaching and learning. Schools in a ‘multi-academy trust’ (MAT) are run by one overarching academy trust. This trust:

- is accountable and responsible for management & performance of all its schools.
- employs all staff, who can be moved between schools as needed.
- retains part of each school’s budget so it can buy shared services for them.

An alternative model is the ‘Umbrella Trust’, where member schools set up a trust that can act on their behalf (to purchase services, for example). Schools retain their own local control, however, and schools do not have to be academies to join.

Proposal 6 – More collaboration

There are opportunities to provide students with access to a broader range of academic and vocational subjects by improving collaboration between schools and with local Further Education colleges eg. BCA (Berkshire College of Agriculture) and East Berkshire College. Demand for some specialist courses (music, modern languages, textiles) is too low to make courses at individual schools viable. This can be overcome by schools and colleges working together. The model is ideally suited to Windsor due to the close proximity of the schools and colleges.

Proposal 7 – Consultation

There will be further opportunities to consult with residents to ensure that these proposals meet the needs of the Royal Borough.

Phase 2 – September 2018 to September 2019

Proposal 3 – Providing more places in Windsor

Providing more Year 5 and Year 9 places in Windsor

More places in the town’s middle schools will be needed by September 2018.

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