

Informal Consultation

Proposal to expand The Radcliffe School by 3 forms of entry at Year 7



This **nine week** informal consultation from 25 September 2017 to 24 November 2017 is to gather opinions on a proposal for **The Radcliffe School** to expand the number of pupil places available in Year 7 by up to 3 forms of entry. The school would eventually be able to cater for an additional 90 pupils per year group in year groups 7 to 11. Additional pupils would be admitted into Year 7 only, to increase the capacity of the school gradually.

What is the current position?

Following an increase in the demand for additional primary school places, Milton Keynes is now anticipating a rising demand year on year for secondary school places. Should no further secondary school places be opened across the area, a deficit of approximately 13 forms of entry would occur by 2020 based purely on the number of pupils in Year 3 currently and no further housing being built. Projections for The Radcliffe School liaison group area already show there are more children living in the catchment area compared to the number of secondary school places available locally. Whilst some children currently choose to access schools in other areas, rising pupil numbers throughout the borough, as well as locally, will mean children are less likely to secure places in out of catchment schools, and will therefore add pressure for places in the local area. Local primary provision has been expanded to accommodate this additional demand, with further housing development expected.

What is the opportunity?

Milton Keynes Council is responsible for ensuring that every child living in Milton Keynes is able to access a school place and, following discussions with The Radcliffe School, have undertaken a viability study to consider whether there is space on the school site to expand. The viability study indicates that additional accommodation could be provided on the current site to enable admission of an additional 90 children per year group to meet local demand.

The published admission number for Year 7 is currently 210. This means that there are 210 places available each year for children transferring to secondary school at the end of Year 6. If the proposal were to go ahead, the school would have capacity to increase their published admission number up to 300 starting with admissions into Year 7 in 2020. Milton Keynes Council would liaise regularly with The Governing Board to enable the school to set realistic increases in the published admission number at incremental phases if required to meet local demand.

What are the benefits of expanding The Radcliffe School?

- ✓ By opening additional places at a popular school in an area of need, we are addressing parental preference and providing the opportunity for more children to access their local school.
- ✓ Bushfield School was expanded in September 2015 and there are plans to also expand the number of local junior school places available at Haversham School and St Mary and St Giles CofE School.

- ✓ Children will be able to attend their local school continuing their sense of community belonging and ensure a greater consistency of education for the children of the local area.
- ✓ Partnership between the school and the community will continue to be embedded, leading to greater cohesion in later years.
- ✓ The school's larger size would make it possible for the organisation to be even more efficient and effective.
- ✓ There would be greater opportunities for staff, making it more likely the existing high quality staff would be retained and high quality staff would be attracted to work at the school as it grows.
- ✓ Additional resources and staffing enabling greater opportunities to further develop the school as a learning community. Staff will be able to share expertise and learn from each other.

How can I find out more and contribute to this consultation?

The school and the council have arranged two drop in sessions for parents and the community so that they can find out more and give their views. These will take place on:

Wednesday 18 October 2017, 8.30am to 9.30am at The Radcliffe School

Thursday 19 October 2017, 3.00pm to 5.30pm at The Radcliffe School

This consultation seeks views from parents and staff directly involved with The Radcliffe School, from other local schools and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. Please go online and complete the web form at:

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/418>

If you are unable to access the online form you may respond by email to:

sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

or in writing to Education Sufficiency, Milton Keynes Council, Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HS or by telephone to 01908 253338

This informal consultation will end on 24 November 2017

Who has this consultation been sent to?

All parents, staff and governors of The Radcliffe School, as they are directly affected by this proposal; all schools in Milton Keynes; local MPs, Ward Councillors and Parish/Town Councils; neighbouring councils with schools adjoining our catchment areas.

This informal consultation is the first stage in a five stage process which will include:

1. This informal consultation for 9 weeks
2. Consideration in December 2017/January 2018 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families of the outcome of this consultation and whether to proceed with a statutory consultation
3. Statutory consultation lasting 4 weeks in the spring term 2018. (If you respond to this consultation please do so again for the statutory consultation)
4. Consideration in March/April 2018 by the Cabinet Member of the outcome of the statutory consultation and a decision whether to proceed with the expansion of the school (subject to planning permissions being granted for the additional accommodation).
5. If the proposal is agreed a building project will commence with an intended completion date of September 2020. This work will be subject to planning permission and will include another consultation with local residents who may be affected by the building works.