

Proposal to Enlarge Whitchurch Primary School, Whitchurch

Notification of Decision

This is to confirm that on 15 May 2017 Bath and North East Somerset Council decided to:

Approve the enlargement of Whitchurch Primary School from 206 to 315 places from 1 September 2019.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Pupil projections based on population growth from new housing developments in Whitchurch in Bath and North East Somerset and on parental preference, indicate a future shortfall of primary school places in Whitchurch. In order to ensure that the Council can meet its statutory duty provide sufficient school places to meet demand and for the places to be in the area in which they are needed where the pupils will be living, there is a need to create additional school places at Whitchurch Primary School.

Provision of additional places in this school will serve to increase parental choice in this area and help both existing and future local families obtain a place for their children at their local school, which will contribute to strengthening community cohesion and make it viable for as many children as possible to be able to walk or cycle to school.

The school is popular with parents and for Reception admissions in September 2016 there were a total of 80 on time 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences for 30 places. As the school is a Community school, it applies universal admissions criteria, facilitating access to the school for local children.

Although the latest Ofsted report states that the school has an overall rating of Requires Improvement, leadership and management, early years provision and personal development, behaviour and welfare were all judged as Good, with outcomes for pupils and the quality of teaching improving rapidly across the school. The Local Authority will continue to work with the school to support them in raising standards and to secure Good overall in their next inspection.

As set out in the School Organisation Plan 2015-2019 it is the Council's policy to expand existing local schools wherever this is possible. Whitchurch Primary School is located close to the areas of new housing development in Whitchurch and to the projected increased population growth. Together with additional land acquired and to be added to the school site, the site will have sufficient space to enable the school to be enlarged.