Consultation: Primary School Expansion

We’re writing to seek your views on the schools that should be prioritised for expansion to provide additional primary school places in Slough.

Over the next five years Slough Borough Council is planning to expand 5 primary schools across the town in order to meet the increase in demand as a result of the rising numbers of births. The schools being considered for expansion are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wexham Court Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's CE Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parlaunt Park Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godolphin Infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryvers Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ethelbert's RC Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foxborough Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cippenham Infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colnbrook CE Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western House Primary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Slough’s plan for reorganising and improving primary schools is outlined in Slough’s Primary Strategy for Change which has just been submitted to the government for approval. This strategy outlines how Slough will increase school places and refurbish half of Slough’s primary schools over the next 14 years. It has been agreed that as each school is expanded it will also be fully refurbished and modernised.

Slough Borough Council believes that the 5 additional forms of entry (equivalent to two new schools) proposed through this consultation will help to ensure that every Slough child requiring a school place will get one. Your views are important and the council wishes to hear from as many parents and residents as possible as to which schools should be prioritised first for expansion.

The consultation is now open and responses are requested by the closing date 15th August 2008.

If you have any questions on this matter and would like to have them answered in person then you are invited to a public meeting in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall on 16th July at 6pm.

The full consultation can be found at: [www.slough.gov.uk/services/2238.aspx](http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/2238.aspx)

Or write to School Organisation Adviser, Slough Borough Council,
Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ

Or email schoolorg@slough.gov.uk

Or call Education Helpdesk on tel: 01753 875700.

Slough’s Primary Strategy for Change can be found at: [www.slough.gov.uk/services/851.aspx](http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/851.aspx)

Yours sincerely

Tony Madden
School Organisation Adviser
This consultation sets out the need for Slough to increase the number of primary school places and seeks your views on those schools that should be prioritised for expansion

The Council wants to hear your views on these important proposals. If you would like the document in a different format or a different language, please contact the School Organisation Adviser on Telephone: 01753 875739 or Email: schoolorg@slough.gov.uk

PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION CONSULTATION

The number of births in Slough has risen in recent years and the demand for reception places in Slough primary schools has started to rise. This means that there is a need to create extra primary places for pupils in certain areas of the town.

Projections indicate that 5 new forms of entry (or year groups) may be needed by September 2010 to provide sufficient places to meet the increased demand. If the number of births continue to rise above 2005-6 levels, then even more new places may be required from September 2011.

Therefore Slough Borough Council is starting a consultation to seek the views of parents, pupils, schools and the wider community as to which schools should be expanded as a priority.

Why do we need to expand schools in Slough?

The latest birth figures for Slough provided by the Office of National Statistics show that rather than a gradual increase in births year on year, numbers have started increasing dramatically. Between 2001-2 and 2005-6 births in Slough increased by 19.8%.

The children born in 2002-3 are those pupils currently in reception classes. In January 2008 there were only 35 reception places left in Slough schools. This is equal to a 2% surplus where Slough aims to have a 5% surplus or 84 empty places to provide choice to parents and allow for children moving in and out of the area.

There are currently 1643 pupils in reception classes. This is expected to rise to 1832 (a 15% increase) by September 2010. This will require 5 additional forms of entry just to meet demand and 3 more to provide a 5% surplus of places.

This projection of pupil demand is based on 82% of those born as residents of Slough going on to look for a school place at reception age. The unprecedented increase in births in recent years means that previous experience may not apply to this year group and numbers could be higher or lower than anticipated. This will be monitored closely as data becomes available.

What schools will be considered for expansion?

Slough Borough Council asked all primary schools in March 2008 if they were interested in expanding by a form of entry. All the schools that responded positively to the survey have been included in this consultation.\(^1\)

\(^1\) Except Lynch Hill Primary School as they do not wish to increase to have 4 forms of entry but instead to expand by adding further classrooms to match their admission number of 90 (3 forms of entry).
The candidate schools are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Planning Area</th>
<th>Candidate Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wexham Court Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's CE Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godolphin Infant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ethelbert's RC Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Planning Area</th>
<th>Candidate Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cippenham Infant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western House Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Planning Area</th>
<th>Candidate Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parlaunt Park Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryvers Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foxborough Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colnbrook CE Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What does expansion mean for a school?

Expansion by a form of entry means that a school would accept 30 more pupils in each year group as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before expansion – forms of entry</th>
<th>Number of pupils in each year group</th>
<th>After expansion – forms of entry</th>
<th>Number of pupils in each year group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This would not mean that a school would be overcrowded or classes would contain more than 30 pupils. Rather a school would be expanded by building more classrooms; for a primary school this would mean 7 new classrooms and for an infant school 3 new classrooms would be built. At the same time it will be important to increase the infrastructure and resource areas of the school such as the canteen, computer areas, hall, car parking, staff room as well as other areas.

Where a school is expanded by a form of entry it will also be fully refurbished. Refurbishment means a school will be completely upgraded to have modern facilities making it suitable for teaching and learning in the 21st century. This would include an upgrade to the school’s heating and electricity systems, redecoration of the school, repairs to all items in poor condition, upgraded toilets, enlargement of classes and other areas where they are undersized, modernisation of the ICT infrastructure and other improvements.

The number of nursery places at a school will also be increased to match the new admission number and the nursery will be fully refurbished along with the rest of the school.

After expansion all the candidate schools shown will still retain sufficient team game playing fields to meet government minimum requirements, except the Godolphin site (assuming the Infant and Junior schools expand together).

Funding and the Primary Capital Programme

The government has committed itself to refurbishing or rebuilding half of all the primary schools in England over the next 14 years. In order to begin this programme the council has submitted its Primary Strategy for Change to the government for approval. If this Strategy is approved then from April 2009 the council will have access to £8.4m of new funding as well as £2.2m already allocated for school buildings by the council.
Slough’s full Primary Strategy for Change can be found on the Slough website at: [http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/851.aspx](http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/851.aspx)

Slough’s Strategy outlines the council’s priorities for investment and how it intends to allocate funding to primary schools over the next 14 years. Slough’s first priority is to expand primary school places to meet future demand.

Once sufficient places are available schools will be ranked according to 3 criteria; condition of the buildings, pupil results and the number of pupils educated from deprived backgrounds. Schools that score highly in these criteria will then be prioritised for refurbishment. Those at the top of the ranking table will be those most in need of investment and will be refurbished first. The ranking table is shown in the Appendices of the Primary Strategy for Change. The following section refers to the position of each candidate school in the ranking table.

As schools are funded per pupil on roll schools would receive increased funding as they accept more pupils. This would fund the additional teachers and support staff needed for a larger school.

**Expansion Options**

**PRIORITY ONE – CIPPENHAM**

The council has secured £1.3m funding from the developer currently constructing 300 new houses in Cippenham. A condition of this funding is that it can only be spent at either Cippenham Infant or Western House Primary School. A costing of both projects shows that roughly £3.3m is required to provide facilities of a suitably high standard. This area of Slough is now the highest priority for expansion as the demand for places greatly exceeds the number of places available.

**Cippenham Infant School**

**Advantages:**
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in an ‘outstanding’ school.
2. The school would be expanded to match the admission number of 120 at the junior school with which it shares a site.
3. As this is an infant school only 3 new classrooms are needed (fewer than at a primary).
4. The school needs refurbishment as many classes are currently taught in temporary classrooms and undersized areas throughout the school. There are many items that require repairing including roofs, windows and doors which are all in poor condition.
5. The project would reconfigure the site making a safer more accessible entrance for both the school and nursery. Playing areas for children would also be increased.

**Disadvantages:**
1. There would be more children and staff on an already tight site. Access and planning issues will need to be resolved.

**Western House Primary School**

**Advantages:**
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.

**Disadvantages:**
1. The school has just been rebuilt and all areas are custom built for the current number on roll (60 per year group).
2. This school would not count towards Slough’s targets as set out in the Primary Strategy for Change as it is a new school and does not need refurbishment.

---

2 These judgments are based on the latest available Ofsted reports
PRIORITY TWO – CENTRAL AREA

All schools in the centre of Slough are full in their reception classes as at January 2008 and with the increasing demand there is a need to create additional places. The new Muslim faith school due to replace Lea Infant and Junior Schools from September 2008 means that the catchment areas of James Elliman Primary and Wexham Court Primary Schools will expand from that date.

Wexham Court Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.
2. The catchment area will be expanded from September 2008 to include half of the area that belonged to Lea Infant School; this school will be replaced by a Muslim faith Voluntary Aided school whose catchment area is the whole of Slough.
3. The central-north area of Slough will have Sikh, Muslim and Catholic Voluntary Aided schools from September 2008 and a reduced number of non-faith Community schools. Expanding this school would provide 30 new community places per year group.
4. The site is larger than most similar sized schools.

Disadvantages:
1. School is situated just outside the centre of Slough where the places are most needed.
2. The school is currently ranked 14 out of 29 as a priority for refurbishment.

St Mary’s CE Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.

Disadvantages:
1. This would create more faith school places in the central area of Slough, although as they are a Voluntary Controlled school their admission criteria are not dependent on faith.
2. The school is currently ranked 17 out of 29 as a priority for refurbishment.

Godolphin Infant School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group.
2. The school is in need of investment in the buildings and appears high on the ranking table – it is ranked 3 out of 29 on the priority table and has the worst condition building overall.
3. This would provide an opportunity to rationalise the site in partnership with the Junior and Nursery schools which share the site.

Disadvantages:
1. School could only expand if Godolphin Junior School also decides to expand (to keep the alignment of places) and this school has not requested to expand as yet.
2. Expansion would mean that the Junior School does not have sufficient playing fields to meet the minimum requirements. Options such as rebuilding both schools and converting the infant school footprint to play area will need to be explored. This might require amalgamation and would be expensive to build.

St Ethelbert’s RC Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.
2. The school is currently ranked 7 out of 29 as a priority for refurbishment.

Disadvantages:
1. This would create more faith school places in the central area of Slough where the highest need is for non-faith places following the opening of new Sikh and Muslim faith schools.
2. The Governing Body of Voluntary Aided schools are asked to fund 10% of the works in line with government requirements (roughly £350,000) – although the school is working towards raising this funding they do not wish to be prioritised too early.
PRIORITY THREE, FOUR AND FIVE – ACROSS SLOUGH

The immediate pressures are dealt with by Priority One and Two above. The next priority is those areas that will be affected by the growing demand brought about by the increased birth numbers. This will affect all areas of Slough but extra places will be needed first where there are least surplus places. The only areas currently with surplus places in reception classes are Colnbrook (10) and Britwell (18).

The candidates for the third, fourth and fifth expansions are all the schools shown in the candidate table on page 2. The following explains the advantages and disadvantages of those schools not already listed in Priority One and Two on previous pages.

Priory School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.
2. The school has large playing fields.
3. The capacity of the school is already very large reducing the amount of new building needed to add a form of entry.
4. The school was oversubscribed for first preferences in 2007 and 2008.

Disadvantages:
1. The school is a very low priority on the ranking table; it is ranked 27 out of 29. It is high performing with few children from a deprived background and the building is in good condition.
2. A 4 form of entry primary school with nursery would be very large with over 900 pupils on site.

Parlaunt Park Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group
2. The school has large playing fields.
3. The school is already being fully refurbished as it is one of Slough’s worst condition buildings – it would be value for money to also expand the school at the same time.

Disadvantages:
1. The school was undersubscribed for first preferences in 2007 and 2008.
2. There is not yet a pressure for places in the eastern end of Slough.

Foxborough Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.
2. The school is in the middle of the ranking table; it is ranked 12 out of 29.

Disadvantages:
1. The school was undersubscribed for first preferences in 2007 and 2008.
2. There is not yet a pressure for places in the eastern end of Slough.

Ryvers Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group in a ‘good’ school.
2. The school has large playing fields.
3. It is not far from the centre of Slough and can act as a further non-faith option for residents of the former Lea Infant catchment area.

Disadvantages:
1. The school is ranked in the lower half of the ranking table; it is ranked 22 out of 29.

Colnbrook CE Primary School
Advantages:
1. 30 more places would be available for local pupils in each year group
2. The school is in need of investment in the buildings and appears high on the ranking table; it is ranked 4 out of 29.
3. A 2 form of entry school would provide greater flexibility and a wider choice of teaching styles for both the staff and pupils.

Disadvantages:
1. The school has 44% surplus places at the moment with many classes half full.
2. Access to the site is already difficult and there may be planning issues to be resolved with increasing the number of pupils on the site.
3. There is not yet a pressure for places in the eastern end of Slough.

Summary
Slough Borough Council believes that the 5 new forms of entry proposed through this consultation will help to ensure that every Slough child requiring a school place will get one. There will be a delay between starting work on expanding a school and the places becoming available but the council will do all it can to increase the admission number of the school as soon as possible.

Further schools may be required to expand to meet the future demand and provide a 5% surplus; a further consultation would be carried out to seek your views if it was necessary to expand places further.

Please note that sufficient funding has yet to be found to fund all 5 expansions. Slough’s Primary Strategy for Change explains how 3 schools will be refurbished and expanded between 2009-13 — the council is exploring all possible avenues including funding from developers to fund and build the extra classrooms.

Parents’ Views
Slough Borough Council is committed to working with the people of Slough to plan and ensure the delivery of local services. The Council is responsible for ensuring the supply of sufficient and suitable school places and promoting high standards in schools. The Council seeks to educate pupils in accordance with their parents’ wishes, subject to providing efficient education and avoiding unreasonable expenditure.

Slough has a diverse population and this is reflected in the diversity of school provision available to parents. Slough has a high percentage of faith schools including Roman Catholic schools, Church of England schools, a Sikh school and a Muslim faith school due to open September 2008 as well as foundation schools and an Academy for secondary age pupils due to open September 2008.

The Council has a new duty to seek and consider the views of parents regarding school provision. If you wish to express any views regarding future school provision in Slough, further information is available from the School Organisation Adviser (contact details are on the response form).

What Happens Next
In September 2008 the council will consider all the responses made to the consultation before deciding on the schools to be prioritised first for expansion. Then public notices will be published for those 2 or 3 schools that will be expanded first. This will give parents a second chance to comment on the proposals. The results of this second consultation will be passed to the council for a final decision in November.
Map Showing Slough Primary Schools and Catchment Areas

West Planning Area

Central Planning Area

East Planning Area

- Montem Primary
- James Elliman Primary
- St Ethelbert's RC Primary
- Godolphin Junior
- Khalsa Primary
- Wexham Court Primary
- Pippins Primary
- Colnbrook CE Primary
- Foxborough Primary
- Lynch Hill
- Cippenham Junior
- Western House Primary
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary
- Penn Wood Primary
- Godolphin Infant
- Lea Infant
- Lea Junior
- Parlaunt Park Primary
- Parlaunt Park Primary
- Priory Primary
- Our Lady of Peace RC Infant
- Our Lady of Peace Junior
- Penn Wood Primary
- Ryvers Primary
- Marish Primary
- Castleview Primary
- Holy Family Catholic Primary
- Colnbrook CE Primary
- Pippins Primary

Part of James Elliman Primary's catchment area from September 2008

Part of Wexham Court Primary's catchment area from September 2008
Response Form

This is the opportunity to have your say about which schools in Slough should expand

Please return your response by 15th August 2008 to:
Tony Madden, Resources Commissioning and Performance,
Education and Children’s Services, Slough Borough Council, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough SL1 3UQ
Or email a response to: schoolorg@slough.gov.uk

Section 1 – About You

Name: ______________________________

I’m responding to this survey because I am a (Please tick one of the options below and enter the school name/ your address where appropriate)
☐ School Governor at __________________________
☐ School Teacher at __________________________
☐ Parent or guardian of a pupil at __________________________
☐ Resident of Slough (which ward?) __________________________
☐ Other __________________________

Please enter your postcode __________________________

(Postcode information will only be used to distinguish the views of those in the catchment areas of the schools.)

Please indicate your ethnicity by placing a tick in one of the boxes below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Black or Black British</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ British</td>
<td>☐ White and Black Caribbean</td>
<td>☐ Indian</td>
<td>☐ Caribbean</td>
<td>☐ Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Irish</td>
<td>☐ White and Black African</td>
<td>☐ Pakistani</td>
<td>☐ African</td>
<td>☐ Any other ethnic background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Traveller of Irish heritage</td>
<td>☐ White and Asian</td>
<td>☐ Bangladeshi</td>
<td>☐ Any other Black background</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Gypsy/Roma</td>
<td>☐ Any other Mixed background</td>
<td>☐ Any other Asian background</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Any other White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Ethnicity information will be used to ensure that the proposal does not have a disproportionate impact on any ethnic group.)

Please indicate your religion by placing a tick in one of the boxes below.

☐ Roman Catholic ☐ Muslim ☐ Jewish ☐ No Religion
☐ Church of England ☐ Hindu ☐ Buddhist
☐ Other Christian ☐ Sikh ☐ Other

Signed: ______________________________ Date: __________

THE INFORMATION IS GIVEN SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION AND NO PERMISSION IS GIVEN FOR ANY OTHER USE, NOT TO BE PASSED TO ANY OTHER PARTY OR ORGANISATION, OTHER THAN FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.
Section 2: Your views about the consultation

Please select 5 schools from the lists below to indicate your choices for expansion. Note that you can choose the same schools in Priority 3 as you have already chosen in Priority 1 or Priority 2.

Priority 1: (Please select one)
- Cippenham Infant School
- Western House Primary School

Priority 2: (Please select one)
- Wexham Court Primary School
- St. Mary’s Church of England Primary School
- Godolphin Infant School
- St. Ethelbert’s Roman Catholic Primary School

Priority 3:
 Please select three schools from the list below regardless of your selections above.
- Cippenham Infant School
- Western House Primary School
- Priory School
- Wexham Court Primary School
- St. Mary’s Church of England Primary School
- Godolphin Infant School
- St. Ethelbert’s Roman Catholic Primary School
- Parlaunt Park Primary School
- Ryvers Primary School
- Colnbrook Church of England School
- Foxborough Primary School

Comments:
Please write down any comments you may have relating to:
1. the proposal
2. any other schools that could/should be expanded in your view

(Please use additional sheets if needed)