

Background information on proposal to change the age range of Whaddon Church of England First School from 4-8 years of age to 4-11 years of age and to change the school's Published Admission number.

Whaddon Church of England (CE) First school	Buckinghamshire County Council County Hall Aylesbury Bucks HP20 1UZ
<p>1. Description of alteration and evidence of demand</p> <p><i>To become an all through Primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 11 up to year 3 and 12 from year 4 to year 6, by extending the upper age limit of pupils from 8 to 11 years old.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whaddon CE School was built in the 1700s. It is a church school and has been central to the local community for over 200 years and currently offers education up to the end of year 3 • There has been 100% support from parents and the community for the primary conversion and amongst those whose children wish to join the reception class in September 2020. This is evidenced in the consultation responses in the first stage of public consultation • Historically, the school has lost a growing number of pupils prior to the end of year 3, with 50% of the children leaving within the school year 2018-2019 to secure places at 18 different destination schools • As a church school, the children and their families play an important part in the life of our local church, holding and attending key services at St Mary's Church throughout the year. Our families are welcomed by the church and PCC members. Families would value the chance to remain a part of the congregation for longer if the proposal for the school to expand went ahead. • Currently, Whaddon CE School is able to offer 80 places to children up to the end of year 3 by admitting 20 in each of the 4 year groups. The proposal is to admit 11 children to the first 4 year groups and 12 to the final 3 year groups, totalling 80 children and therefore not increasing the current maximum number of children permitted by Planning Regulations • Whaddon CE School would provide the unique offer of a small, all-through primary, with a maximum of 80 places when full, and excellent staff to pupil ratios in each class – A key consideration for parental choice • The school currently has an even spread (50%) of children from in and out of catchment. In halving the class sizes, we will ensure the school is within walking distance for the vast majority of its pupils, therefore greatly lessening the traffic at drop off and pick up times • The building, grounds (including Forest School area) and rural community provide a unique learning environment, earning the school the prestigious Gold level Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTG) award • Expansion would provide consistency and continuity for existing pupils and parents • The school was rated by Ofsted as Outstanding in all areas, when inspected in May 2019 	

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2. Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

- *To ensure the survival of this outstanding village school*
- *To provide consistency in the education of each child through to the end of key stage 2*
- *To maximise pupil outcomes by building on the knowledge of the children as they move into year 3 and beyond*
- *To maximise learning opportunities available to our children*
- *To ensure an excellent standard of teaching and learning for our children to the end of key stage 2*
- *To minimise the impact of moving schools after such a short period of schooling*

- Whaddon CE School offers a high quality educational experience and is currently graded as Outstanding by Ofsted
- By expanding to the end of key stage 2, the school will utilise its existing strengths and distinctiveness and provide students with continuity and progression
- Whaddon CE School has a special place at the heart of the community and we make the most of every opportunity to create real-life learning experiences. We will be able to continue to provide a bespoke curriculum and further develop our programme of experiential and outdoor learning
- By giving the parents the option for their child to remain at Whaddon CE School we will provide greater parental choice

3. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

Governors believe that Whaddon CE School converting to a primary school will have a positive impact on other local schools. It will achieve this by:

- Reducing the amount of in year transfers and resulting mobility
- Reducing workload associated with Year 3 admissions and disruption to established classes
- Extending parental choice and freeing other local primary schools to focus on their own distinctiveness
- Converting to an all through primary school over a period of 3 years, starting with the introduction of a full Year 3 class in September 2020. **Full** capacity would be achieved in the academic year 2023/2024
- Becoming a primary school and thereby expanding the formal relationships with other local primary schools beyond the immediate small schools group
- In capping the number of children admitted to any year group by almost half, more children will be available to attend the other schools in the area
- In the past 4 years the number of different destinations that leavers went on to, averages 1.7 children per educational

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establishment. Remaining at Whaddon CE School until the end of year 6 will have no significant effect on any school in the area

4. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

- Whaddon CE School has a strong record of providing value for money within the context of a small rural school.
- It has a history of fiscal prudence and confidence that will continue through the expansion period
- The school has produced a 5 year budget projection and staffing plan which illustrates strong financial viability
- No further building is required as the school are not expanding the total number of children and additional classroom space was created in?.
- In the future the governors will seek to build additional classroom space and will ensure that any build will be an enhancement to our current provision and will take place as and when the school secures funding

5. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The short term objective is to build on pupil numbers in the current year 2

- An initial consultation took place in September and October 2019 - there was overwhelming support for the proposal, including from the Parish Council and Parish Church Council
- The proposal has been agreed by the Governing Body and will be decided by the Local Authority with an outcome expected by January 2020
- The conversion to a primary school will be a gradual process over 4 years beginning September 2020
- Full capacity (pupils in every year group) would be achieved in the academic year 2023/24. In other words, the school will grow each year with pupils moving through the school until they reach Year 6

6. A statement explaining the procedure for responses, support, objections and comments

Whaddon CE school is publishing a notice in the Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser on Friday 18th October The deadline for responses is 5.00pm on Friday ????

If anyone has any comments, support for, or objections to the proposal, they should email their response to: whacons@buckscc.gov.uk or write to or email the Chair of governors c/o the school: office@whaddon.bucks.sch.uk