1. Introduction

The governing body of James Wolfe Primary School and the Royal Borough of Greenwich are consulting on a proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of James Wolfe Primary School from 60 to 120 for each year age group starting with Reception, in September 2013. This is required to meet the growing demand for primary school places in the borough.

This is the first stage of the consultation process and the purpose of this document is to set out in detail the background and other information relevant to the proposal to expand the school. A questionnaire is attached and you are kindly requested to tell us your views on the proposal by completing the questionnaire and returning it to the address provided.

2. Overview - The Demand for Primary School Places

James Wolfe Primary School with Centre for the Deaf is a popular school with planned admission capacity of 420 places - 60 places for each year age group. The Nursery has 52 places. The school has provision for deaf children and is in School Planning Area 2.

Within School Planning Area 2, including Greenwich West, the total number of pupils on roll has increased by 8% in the last three years and the projections indicate that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

The factors contributing to the growing pressure for school places include the 9% increase in the birth rate between 2006 and 2011, the number, scale and location of new housing developments, the level and pattern of migration and the perception of parents, as expressed through their choices of schools for their children. The number of babies born annually to residents of the ward has increased from 274 in 2006 to 299 in 2011 and 530 new homes are being built or will be completed by 2017.

In response to the rising demand for school places, the Royal Borough of Greenwich has established 2,415 additional permanent primary school places, including 346 Reception class places; equivalent to 11.5 forms of entry. The majority of these places are in Thamesmead, Abbey Wood and Woolwich Riverside and Charlton. Moreover, the governors of James Wolfe Primary School agreed in May 2012 to a temporary increase in the admission number for the school for September 2012 from 60 to 90 places to meet the level of demand for school places in Greenwich West.

It is against this background and taking into account the level of applications received for admission in September 2012, that the Royal Borough of Greenwich is seeking to put in place additional primary school capacity to ensure there are sufficient school places over the next three years to meet the projected level of demand.

3. Consultation Proposals

The governing body of James Wolfe Primary School and Royal Borough of Greenwich would like to consult you on two proposals that are aimed at providing on a permanent basis the additional school places required to meet the expected level of demand in the Greenwich area.
Proposal 1:

To enlarge the school and increase the Planned Admission Number from 60 to 120

The governors of the school and the Royal Borough of Greenwich are proposing an increase to the number of pupils admitted each year on a permanent basis in two stages – from 60 to 90 places for Reception Year from September 2013 and then a further increase from 90 to 120 from September 2014. The total planned admission capacity of the school will therefore rise from 420 to 840 places accommodated over two sites.

This will mean the school will have 3 permanent classes of 30 pupils each, starting with Reception Year in 2013 and then 4 permanent classes of 30 pupils each, starting in September 2014. Therefore, by 2019/2020 the school will be a full four form entry school (840 pupils).

Proposal 2

To amend the admission criteria of James Wolfe Primary School to take account of the additional capacity at Royal Hill

Whilst the new admission criteria and arrangements for James Wolfe Primary School will remain essentially the same as those currently applied for community maintained schools, we propose that the priority ranking of applications be modified as follows, to reflect the operation of the school over two sites and the need for the school to attract pupils from a broad catchment area.

It is proposed that the ranking of the admission criteria for James Wolfe Primary School from September 2014 should be as follows:

- Looked After Children
- Children who have a sibling at the same address who will be on roll at the school sites at the time of the Child’s admission
- Children with a professionally supported medical or social need (for any one of the school sites)
- In the event of over-subscription, priority will be given on the basis of the distance measured from the front entrance to the former Borough Hall Meridian House Greenwich SE10 8RG to the applicant’s home address.

All other admissions criteria will remain the same.

The proposed increase to the capacity at this school will have no detrimental impact on the roll of other local schools in the area as they are already operating at or near their full capacity. Currently more than 77% of children attending the school live in the SE10 post code area and the changes will not affect children currently at the school or applicants with a sibling at the school.

The two sites will operate as one school under a single governing body and with the same identity, management, ethos, standards and budget.
4. **Capital Requirements**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is currently refurbishing the former Maze Hill School building on Royal Hill to support the decanting of a local secondary school. If the proposal above is agreed, the site will become part of James Wolfe Primary School from September 2014. The two sites will operate as one school and it will be up to the governing body of the school to decide how the school is organised across the two sites.

5. **Tell us your views/ comments**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich and the governors of this school would like to hear your views on the proposals set out above.

This consultation period will run until **Friday 11th January 2013**.

Your views will be taken into account before a decision is made by the Royal Borough of Greenwich with the agreement of the governing body on whether to formally publish the Statutory Notice required for expansion of a school by enlargement as set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement).

Once the Notice is published, there will be a further period of 4 weeks for representations to be made to the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

At the end of the “Representation” period the Royal Borough of Greenwich will make the final decision as to whether or not to expand school, taking into account all comments and views expressed during the consultations and representation period, in accordance with guidance set by government.

There will be 2 information sessions about the proposal on **12th December 2012 in the school hall as follows:**

- **9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.** - morning session mainly for pupils and parents with children at the school
- **6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.** - evening session for residents, parents, school governors and all other interested parties.

Representatives from the governing body, Headteacher and Officers from the Royal Borough of Greenwich will be in attendance to answer any questions you may have. Please complete and return the attached Questionnaire by post or email to:

The Head of School Place Planning and Development  
Royal Borough of Greenwich, Children’s Services  
Floor 3 The Woolwich Centre  
Wellington Street  
Woolwich SE18 6HQ

Email: [patrick.elliott@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.elliott@greenwich.gov.uk)

A special drop-in box for completed questionnaires is also located in the reception area of the school.

The final date for receipt of the completed questionnaire or any views or comments is **3.00 p.m. on Friday 11th January 2013.**

We look forward to hearing from you.