

De Lucy Primary School

Consultation Document

Proposal to enlarge and increase the Published Admission Number of the school from September 2013

1. Introduction

The governing body of De Lucy Primary School and the Royal Borough of Greenwich are consulting on a proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of De Lucy Primary School from 60 to 90 for each year group from September 2013, 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

De Lucy Primary School is a popular school with a planned admission capacity of 420 places – 60 places for each year group. The Nursery has 104 places and the school is in School Planning Area 1 which covers, Abbey Wood, Plumstead and Thamesmead.

Within School Planning Area 1, the total number of pupils on roll has increased by 26% 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 18% increase in the birth rate between 2006 and 2008, 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 increased from 285 in 2006 to peak at 336 in 2008, before falling back to 316 in 2011. The dynamics of the housing market in this area is also producing higher occupancy rates, especially in privately rented accommodation, than would be expected from similar housing stock elsewhere.

In response to the growing pressure for primary 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.

The governors of this school also agreed in March 2011 to a temporary increase in the admission number for the school for September 2012 from 60 to 90 places to ensure all applicants for a place were able to get one.

It is against this background and taking into account current projections of the expected level of demand for school places over the next five years that the governing body and Royal Borough of Greenwich are seeking to make permanent the temporary expansion to capacity in this area.

3. Consultation Proposal

The governing body and the Royal Borough of Greenwich would like to hear from you on this proposal to make the increase to the planned admission number from 60 to 90 permanently with effect from September 2013. This will mean the school will have 3 permanent classes of 30 pupils each, starting with Reception Year in 2013 and building up

until 2019 when the planned admission capacity required will be 630 places. This will also require enlargement to the physical capacity of the school to support three forms of entry from September 2013.

Currently, more than 88% of children attending the school live in the SE2 post code area and the changes will not affect children currently at the school or applicants with a sibling at the school. All other admissions criteria will remain the same.

The implementation of this proposal for De Lucy Primary School will not have any detrimental impact on the roll of other local schools as they are already operating at or near their full capacity.

4. Capital Requirements

The Royal Borough of Greenwich will provide the additional accommodation and external play facilities appropriate for a primary school with 3 forms of entry by September 2014. If the proposal is agreed the current school will be developed to provide all the required facilities. In the mean time, the school has been remodelled to include 2 new classrooms.

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 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 in the school hall as follows:

- **Thursday 6th December 2012 6.30 p.m – 7.30 p.m** - evening session for residents, parents, school governors and all other interested parties.
- **Friday 7th December 2012 9.00 a.m - 10.00 a.m** - morning session mainly for pupils and parents with children at the school

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
35 Wellington Street
Woolwich SE18 6HQ

Email: 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.