

# Windrush Primary School

## Consultation Document

### Proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 to 120 and modify the admissions arrangements from September 2013

#### 1. Introduction

The governing body of Windrush Primary School and the Royal Borough of Greenwich are consulting on a proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Windrush Primary School from 30 to 120 for each year age group from September 2013. This is required to meet the growing demand for primary school places in the borough. If the proposal is agreed, it will mean that the total capacity of the school will increase permanently from 210 to 840 places, over two sites. It is proposed that Windrush will permanently admit 630 children to the Charlton site in Woolwich Road (SE7) - primarily to serve the community in Charlton and Woolwich - and 210 children to the Thamesmead site in Bentham Road (SE28).

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

Windrush Primary School is a popular school with a planned admission capacity of 210 places – 30 places for each year group. The Nursery has 52 places and is in School Planning Area 1.

In response to the growing pressure for primary school places in Charlton and West Woolwich, the governors of Windrush Primary School agreed in March 2011 to manage additional facilities in Charlton providing 90 additional Reception Year places as part of Windrush Primary School from September 2012. This was achieved by a temporary increase to the planned admission number of the school from 30 to 120 places.

Within School Planning Area 3, which includes the new primary school provision in Charlton, the total number of pupils on roll has increased by 13% 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 19% increase in the birth rate between 2006 and 2010, 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 annual number of babies born to residents of the ward increased from 253 in 2006 to peak at 302 in 2010, before falling to 268 in 2011.

In response to this sharp rise in demand, 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) in the period since September 2010. The majority of these places are in Thamesmead, Abbey Wood and Woolwich Riverside.

It is against the background of rising demand for primary school places and taking into account current projections for the next five years that the Royal Borough of Greenwich is seeking to increase further the number of permanent school places available in areas of high demand.

### **3. Consultation Proposals**

The governing body of Windrush Primary School and the 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 level of demand in the Charlton /Woolwich area.

#### **Proposal 1:**

##### **To enlarge and increase the Planned Admission Number from 30 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 from 30 to 120 places for Reception Year from September 2013. The total planned admission capacity of the school will therefore rise from 210 to 840 places accommodated over two sites.

This will mean the school will have 210 places (1FE) at the Windrush Thamesmead site and 630 places (3FE) at the Windrush Charlton site. This will make a total of 120 places for each year-age cohort. The Charlton site will operate on a phased basis, meaning the current reception year will build up until 2018/19 when the site will have full capacity.

#### **Proposal 2**

##### **To amend the admission criteria of Windrush Primary School to take account of the additional capacity at Charlton**

Whilst the new admission criteria and arrangements for Windrush 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 take account of the availability of the provision at Charlton primarily to serve the community of Woolwich Riverside and Charlton:

- 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 to the school site in Charlton or Thamesmead which is closest 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 Woolwich, Charlton or Thamesmead as they are already operating at or near their full capacity.

Currently, 21% of children attending the school on the Charlton site live in the SE7 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 will provide the additional accommodation and external play facilities appropriate for a primary school with 4 forms of entry by September 2013 with 1 FE on the Bentham Road site to complement the 3FE provision that has become available at the former Holborn College site in Charlton.

#### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Statutory 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 permanently, 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:

- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. At the Thamesmead site**  
(2 Bentham Road, SE28 8AR)  
morning session mainly for pupils and parents with children at the school
- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. At the Charlton site**  
(Woolwich Road, SE7 8LN)  
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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

We look forward to hearing from you.