The proposed building and expansion of primary schools in the Crawley and Mid Sussex areas

Consultation ends 30 November 2015
Numbers of children have been rising across the County for several years. The table below summarises proposals for primary schools in the Crawley and Mid Sussex areas to expand to cater for existing or forecast future demand. The second part of this consultation gives details for each school and are grouped in the school localities referred to in the table.

### Summary of proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Proposed implementation date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crawley</td>
<td>Northgate Primary</td>
<td>Increase from 2 form entry (60 places) to 3 form entry (90 places)</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Grinstead</td>
<td>Crawley Down Village C of E School</td>
<td>Increase from 1.5 form entry school (45 places) to 2 form entry (60 places)</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haywards Heath</td>
<td>Harlands Primary</td>
<td>Increase from 2 form entry (60 places) to 3 form entry (90 places)</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hurst Farm Primary</td>
<td>New 1 form entry (30 places) expandable to 2 form entry school (60 places)</td>
<td>September 2019+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northlands Wood Primary</td>
<td>Increase from 1.5 form entry school (45 places) to 2 form entry (60 places)</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public drop-in sessions

Public drop in sessions are being organised on the following dates and we would welcome meeting with you to discuss your views further.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crawley area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 November 2015</td>
<td>3.30 to 6pm</td>
<td>Northgate Primary School</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Green Lane</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Crawley, RH10 8DX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16 November 2015</td>
<td>3 to 6pm</td>
<td>Crawley Down Village C of E School</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hophurst Drive</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Crawley Down</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Crawley, RH10 4XA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haywards Heath area</td>
<td>10 November 2015</td>
<td>3.15 to 5.45pm</td>
<td>Harlands Primary School</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Penland Road</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Haywards Heath, RH16 1PJ</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

The Crawley and Mid Sussex areas are served by a large number of highly-regarded and successful schools. The County Council has been closely monitoring the number of children in these schools to make sure they can meet the demand for places. We have received evidence of further growth in the number of children. This is in part due to an increase in the birth rate and also in response to migration and house building.

This booklet explains the proposals of local primary schools to expand to cater for the extra numbers. WSCC, in its role as commissioner of school places, is working in partnership with the schools co-ordinating this consultation exercise on their behalf. The individual governing bodies and academy trusts of each of the existing schools will take the decision on whether schools expand and the Secretary of State for Education appoints the sponsor of new schools.

I urge you to read this document and write to us with your views. We will pass these to the schools for further consideration. Your opinions are important to the governing bodies and academy trusts and will influence how and where school places are provided.

Jeremy Hunt
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Pupil numbers – a national issue

Extra classes are being added and new schools being built across the country in order to cope with a rise in the birth rate particularly in the South East. In 2010, the number of primary school pupils began to increase. By 2023, England’s primary pupil population is set to exceed 4.66 million, 9% higher than in 2014 (Department for Education pupil projections).

Pupil numbers – the picture in West Sussex

West Sussex County Council has identified a similar trend to other authorities and has been working in recent years to expand the number of school places provided. Twenty one primary schools have expanded or taken extra classes in the north of the County, three secondary schools are in the process of expanding, and four new schools have been opened including a replacement special school.

In the spring of this year the County Council produced forecasts about the number of pre-school children who are living in West Sussex likely to request a place at a state funded primary school. This information shows the number of children continues to grow in some parts of the County. With inward migration and housing development we anticipate that the need for places will be permanent and sustained. There is also a corresponding increase in demand for secondary school places anticipated but on a longer timeframe.

The County Council has been working closely with headteachers and governors to identify particular hotspots and we now wish to consult the public on schools that we believe need to expand. This consultation covers schools in the Crawley and Mid Sussex areas. Schools identified in the south of the County are subject to separate consultation.

There are no immediate plans to expand primary schools in Horsham District and regular monitoring takes place to review numbers as new housing comes on stream.
Who is being consulted?

This consultation booklet is being sent electronically to all parents, school governors, teachers and support staff who work at the schools identified for expansion. Copies are also being sent to all headteachers in the locality of these schools and to nurseries, the Church Dioceses, unions and teaching associations, neighbouring authorities, local MPs and the local district council and local county councillors. Copies will also be available at local libraries.

There will also be a separate consultation about the design of any new buildings particularly with residents local to the school sites as part of the usual planning application procedures.

Following the end of the consultation period on 30 November 2015 responses will be analysed and used to inform the governing bodies of each school in order for schools to take decisions on whether to proceed.

What would any new buildings look like?

West Sussex County Council has considerable experience of school building and we would expect the architects commissioned to look at best practice across the County and nationally and draw upon the advice of the headteachers, governors and staff at the schools. There will also be opportunities for consultation with parents, pupils and neighbouring residents as part of the planning application process. In some cases modular buildings will be proposed because of favourable cost savings.

All schools identified have sufficient site to allow for expansion and funding has been identified from a central government grant known as ‘basic need’ and from financial contributions from housing developers. In addition, some schools may take bulge classes where extra numbers will be accommodated in the existing buildings.

Every effort will be made to minimise disruption for pupils, parents and neighbouring residents during building works, for instance scheduling as much work as possible during school holiday periods.

Transport implications and safe routes to school

As part of the process, schools will be expected to provide and, if necessary, revise school travel plans. Advice will be given by the Safer Routes to School Team (part of the Transport Planning Service at West Sussex) to support the schools. Schools will be fully involved in the process of identifying problems regarding routes to school and potential solutions. However concerns can be raised as part of the planning process subject to a separate consultation before planning permission can be granted.

Future housing developments

Housing developments will be served by existing schools with additional accommodation where possible. For instance, the proposals in Haywards Heath are being put forward to accommodate cumulative rising numbers from developments such as Rocky Lane, Penland Farm and the remaining houses being built at Bolnore Village. Plans include a new primary school to serve the development of Hurst Farm. This proposal is at an initial stage but is being brought forward as the existing Haywards Heath schools are reaching capacity and are not easily accessible south of the A272 bypass.

Academies, Church Voluntary Aided and Free Schools

Harlands Primary school is an academy and therefore not a school maintained by the local authority. WSCC is working in partnership with this school, as it does with Voluntary Aided Church schools and Free schools in other areas, to ensure all schools whether maintained or non-maintained can cater for the number of children in the locality.
Impact on staff

Expansions of schools do not require in themselves reorganisation of staffing structures. Disruption for existing staff from any building works will be kept to a minimum and the schools and local authority will try to ensure that staff are supported and retained through the process. Teaching staff and classroom assistants will be recruited as and when required by the schools.

School budgets

School budgets are calculated using a range of factors, the most significant of which is the number of pupils. An increase in pupil numbers results in an increase in the budget in line with associated costs. Headteachers, governors and the local authority will continue to work together to ensure that schools have the right amount of funding to support the proposed number of pupils. ‘Growth funding’ is specifically targeted at expanding and new schools in the first year.

What will happen to the admissions arrangements?

Infant class legislation aims to ensure that there are no more than a maximum of 30 children in each class during Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. The proposal is for the schools to grow incrementally, changing their admission number from the reception year upwards in most cases from September 2016. Admission numbers are subject to separate consultation each year. The County Council runs a consultation for a minimum of eight weeks between 1 November and 1 March to publicise and agree admission numbers in advance of the academic year. For example, the consultation in 2015/16 will cover the academic year staring September 2017.

Secondary education

West Sussex County Council has been closely monitoring the growth in the primary school population as the cohorts head towards secondary school. Plans for expanding secondary education are being developed. Initial hotspots include Crawley, Hassocks, Billingshurst and Horsham.

Timescales for consultation

The consultation will run from 2 November to 30 November 2015. Governing bodies will consider the responses to the consultation during December. A separate planning consultation then takes place to consider build and design.

How to make your views known?

The deadline for receiving your written response is 30 November 2015. We would prefer that responses are made online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay. Alternatively please return the response form at the end of the consultation document to your child’s school or directly to the address given. You can also send us your views via email and we will transfer your comments to the online system. If you could provide your postcode and answer the questions on the response form then we can provide a better quality of data to the governing body of the school(s) you are commenting on.
Crawley Locality

Northgate Primary School

To become a 3 form entry primary school from 2 forms of entry for September 2016

Northgate Primary School serves a catchment in the north east of Crawley. There has been a shortage of primary places in the area since September 2014 and the school agreed to allow two temporary relocatable classrooms to be placed on site to cater for bulge classes in September 2014 and September 2015.

The Local Authority would like to see the school expand permanently. The school is 2 form entry allowing for 60 places per year but by increasing the admission number to 90 for September 2016 it can continue to take the increased numbers of children in the area.

The expansion would be designed to be in permanent buildings with enhanced facilities suitable for the larger numbers. The size of the site, including the playing fields, is large enough to accommodate the increase. It is anticipated that the temporary relocatable classrooms would be retained but instead of being used for reception aged pupils be used for extended school for preschool children. These plans do not impact on the nursery on the school site other than where it is located on the site.

The school and local authority recognise that there are significant traffic implications likely to raise concerns at the school. However travel plans will be considered in depth as part of the planning application process should the decision on education grounds favour expansion. See Transport implications and safe routes to school section on page 5.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children in the catchment eligible for reception places Information provided by the Child Health Bureau</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
East Grinstead Locality

Crawley Down Village C of E School

To become a 2 form entry primary school from a 45 place entry from September 2016

Crawley Down Village C of E School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England primary school that serves the village of Crawley Down to the west of East Grinstead. The school is a 1.5 form entry school (45 places per year) but pressure for places has been high over recent years and the governing body would like to be able to offer enough places to serve all the children in the catchment.

The school has sufficient playing fields to allow for expansion. Building new classrooms would not be required in the first year as the school has an under-utilised area which could be adapted as a teaching space. These plans do not impact on the nursery on the school site.

The school recognises that there are traffic implications likely to raise concerns. Travel plans will be considered in depth as part of the planning application process should the decision of the governing body favour expansion. See Transport implications and safe routes to school section on page 5.

Crawley Down Village C of E School

Number of children in the catchment eligible for reception places

Information provided by the Child Health Bureau

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<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Haywards Heath Locality

Harlands Primary School

To become a three form entry primary school from two forms of entry for September 2016

Harlands Primary School serves a catchment in the north-west of Haywards Heath. Haywards Heath has seen rapidly increasing numbers in recent years in part due to new housing in the area. Significant housing is planned in the catchment at Penland Farm and there are other developments nearby such as Bolnore Phases 4/5 and Lucastes which has seen increased demand for places.

Harlands Primary converted to academy status in April 2014 and is no longer a local authority maintained school. However the school have agreed to consult on expanding the school subject to appropriate funding for the additional pupils. Permanently increasing the admission number to 90 for September 2016 would allow the school to cater for more children in the area.

The expansion will be designed to be in permanent buildings with enhanced facilities suitable for the larger numbers. The scheme would require phasing until all the classrooms are in place. An extra class can be set up in September 2016 in a temporary relocatable unit and then further classes can follow on incrementally each year for seven years until the school is full with 90 children in each year group in the extended buildings.

All parties concerned recognise that there are traffic implications likely to raise concerns at the school. However travel plans will be considered in depth as part of the planning application process should the decision on education grounds favour expansion. See Transport implications and safe routes to school section on page 5.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children in the catchment eligible for reception places</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information provided by the Child Health Bureau
Master planning has begun on a new housing development to the south east of Haywards Heath known as Hurst Farm and a new primary school has been identified in the plan to serve the growing school aged population from the new housing. We would like to hear your views on whether this is a good approach or whether expanding existing schools would be preferred given the location of the development, travel arrangements, local landscape and the rising demand for school places across Haywards Heath. If supported, we would also like to know what kind of school it might be. For instance, which organisation should lead the school, and what kind of services the school might offer. Options for the leadership of the school might include: a parent group, faith group, an existing local school or group of schools, a large academy chain, a school with international connections or a school with a particular ethos such as Montessori or Steiner.

There is now a legal presumption in favour of ‘outside providers’ of academies and free schools. Establishing a new school which is controlled by the Local Authority is not an available option.

The next step of the process would be for the County Council to seek expressions of interest for a sponsor. Based on local views, and the recommendation of educationalists and local politicians, the County Council can then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Education on who should run the new school. It is the Secretary of State that takes the final decision on the operator.

We would welcome your initial views on this proposed approach to longer term planning of school places – an approximate five year timeframe. More consultation would take place in the future which is in part dependent on whether numbers of pre-school children continue to grow across the town.
Northlands Wood Community Primary School

To become a 2 form entry primary school from 1.5 forms of entry for September 2016

Northlands Wood Community Primary School serves a catchment to the east of Haywards Heath. The school is a 1.5 form entry school (offering 45 places per year group) but pressure for places has been high across the Haywards Heath locality. The school support a permanent building solution with enhanced facilities suitable for the larger numbers. The school will help to reduce the pressure for places from a number of new housing developments such as Gravelye Lane in the Lindfield area (Lindfield Primary has already expanded to its maximum capacity).

All those concerned recognise that there are traffic implications particularly with the access to the school for pedestrians and cars at dropping off and picking up times. However travel plans will be considered in depth as part of the planning application process should the decision on education grounds favour expansion. See Transport implications and safe routes to school section on page 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northlands Wood Community Primary School</th>
<th>Number of children in the catchment eligible for reception places</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information provided by the Child Health Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to find out more and let us know your views

The consultation will run for four weeks from 2 November to 30 November 2015

1. Attend one of the drop in sessions listed on page 3
2. Our preferred method of response is to complete the online survey on our ‘Have Your Say’ website www.westsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay
3. Contact the School Planning Team
   Email: schoolconsultations@westsussex.gov.uk
   Phone: 0330 222 3046
4. Complete the response form at the end of this booklet and return via your local school or by post to:
   The School Planning Team
   Second Floor
   Northleigh
   Tower Street
   Chichester
   West Sussex
   PO19 1RE

Your comments will then be collated and analysed before being passed to the governing body of the school you have commented on.
Notes
**Response form**

**Consultation on the proposed expansion of schools in the Crawley and Mid Sussex areas of West Sussex**

Please contact us on 0330 222 3046 if you, or someone you know, would like a copy of this document in another language, in braille, large print, on audio or computer disc. Alternatively you may wish to ask at the school office and school administrators will be happy to help or contact the above number on your behalf.

Please complete this form and return it to your child’s school, or by post to:

**School Planning Team**
**West Sussex County Council**
**Northleigh, Second Floor**
**Tower Street, Chichester**
**West Sussex PO19 0RE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please provide your postcode* including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH</th>
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**Which school(s) are you responding about:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please tick whether you are:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In support of the proposed expansion or building of the school(s) ○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object to the proposed expansion or building of the school(s) ○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor object to the proposed expansion or building of the school(s) ○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please state your views on the proposals.**

We would be grateful for comments on any aspects of them. You may wish to refer to: individual schools / proposed admissions arrangements / timescales / transitional arrangements. Please continue on a separate sheet if required.

*This is a required field
About you

You don't have to complete this section but it would help us to make sure all our services are fair and accessible if you do.

**Age (please tick as appropriate)**
- 16 or under
- 17 to 24
- 25 to 44
- 45 to 64
- 65 plus
- Prefer not to say

**Are you…**
- Single
- Cohabiting
- Married
- Civil partnership
- Separated
- Divorced / partnership dissolved
- Widowed
- Other
- Prefer not to say

**Are you…**
- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

**What is your ethnic group?**
- White
- Mixed / multiple ethnic groups
- Asian / Asian British
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- Prefer not to say

**What is your religion?**
- Buddhist
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant)
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion
- No religion
- Prefer not to say

**Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?**
- Yes, limited a lot
- Yes, limited a little
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Are you pregnant at this time?**
- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Have you recently given birth (within 26 week period)?**
- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking part in our survey. Consultation closes on 30 November 2015. Results will be forwarded to each individual school for further consideration and updates made to the Have Your Say pages www.westsussex.gov.uk/have your say during December 2015.