



Lighthorne Heath Primary School Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is this consultation taking place?

A. This consultation is part of a statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools, including increasing the capacity of a school and establishing SEND provision. The purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of parents and carers of pupils at the school, staff and other interested parties on the expansion proposals.

Q. Who decides whether the proposal goes ahead?

A. Following the period of consultation, the County Council's Cabinet will review the feedback and make a decision on whether or not to go ahead with the changes.

Q. Where does the funding for the relocation come from?

A. The costs associated with proposed project would be met by a mixture of developer funding (S106) and WCC education capital funding.

Q. Why are we proposing to relocate an existing school?

A. Once the Upper Lighthorne development is complete there will be circa 3,000 homes. The nearest school to the development is Lighthorne Heath Primary School. However, the existing school site is not big enough to accommodate up to three forms of entry (630 pupils) plus a nursery and specialist resourced provision. WCC's preference is to relocate and expand the existing school, rather than open a new school, to ensure the continued sustainability of Lighthorne Heath Primary School and to ensure the school can continue to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

An additional benefit of relocating an existing school, is that the relocation of Lighthorne Heath Primary School will bring with it all year groups from Reception to Year 6, rather than filling up from Reception upwards, which will meet a broader need created by the new development.

Q. What about the Children's Centre?

A. There are currently no plans to relocate Lighthorne Heath Children's Centre.

Q. Will there be additional staff for the additional pupils?

A. The school will put together a recruitment program in line with the increase in pupil numbers. A specialist teacher will need to be recruited for the specialist resourced provision to ensure pupils needs and provision is met as outlined in their EHCP. The rest of the school should be able to benefit from the expertise that is being brought into the school.