



CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY AT WHITESTONE INFANT SCHOOL

Introduction

This consultation is being undertaken to advise you of proposals concerning Whitestone Infant School, and to invite you to tell us what you think of the proposals. This is part of a statutory consultation process that Warwickshire County Council is managing in partnership with the school's Governing Body. The proposal is:

- 1) To increase the capacity of Whitestone Infant School by 90 pupils. This would mean the school would move from a three-form entry (3FE) infant school (270 pupils) to a four-form entry (4FE) infant school (360 pupils)

Background

Current pupil forecasts suggest the Nuneaton South East Primary School Place Planning area which covers the areas of Whitestone and Attleborough, will start to face a significant pressure in places as approved housing continues to build out.

The majority of the housing development in this area is located within, or adjacent to, the priority areas for Whitestone Infant School and Chetwynd Junior School. To address the forecast shortfall in pupil places, it is proposed to expand Whitestone Infant School and Chetwynd Junior School by one form of entry. This will permanently increase Whitestone Infant School by 90 places and Chetwynd Junior School by 120 places.

The Proposal

Whitestone Infant School is currently a 3FE infant school, with an Ofsted rating of Good, with 270 places for children aged 4-7.

It is proposed to increase the number of places for children aged 4-7 by 90 places from 270 to 360 places.

The Published Admission Number would increase from 90 to 120 pupils on entry at Reception. If approved, it is proposed to increase the number of places at the school from 90 to 120 from Reception from September 2026 (subject to planning and construction time frames).

Why is this consultation taking place?

This consultation is part of a statutory process following Department for Education guidelines for making prescribed alterations to schools, which include increasing the capacity of a school.

Who decides whether the proposal goes ahead?

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.

Will there be changes to the existing school building?

Capital works are required to ensure sufficient classroom and ancillary space to support the increase in pupil numbers. This additional classroom space could be achieved through an extension to the existing building. If the proposal is approved, a planning application will need to be submitted to put in place the accommodation requirements.

What about the impact on traffic around the school site?

As part of the planning application, the project team will engage with Warwickshire Highways and undertake a transport study and any required surveys to assess the impact of the development and any potential mitigation.

Will there be any disruption to the existing school while work is being carried out?

The contractors and the school will work together to ensure any disruption to pupils is kept to a minimum and will not have an adverse impact on the pupils day to day schooling.

What is the proposed timetable?

- 11th October 2024: The County Council's Portfolio Holder for Education gave approval for the proposal to go out for consultation
- 21st October – 29th November 2024: A 5-week consultation with parents and other interested stakeholders to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposals.
- 28th January 2025: If Cabinet agree to the proposals, the project will progress towards implementation.

Have Your Say...

As an integral part of this process, we are inviting you to take part in this consultation. We welcome your views on the proposed changes raised and all viewpoints will be taken into account as part of the decision-making process.

Feedback can be given in the following ways:

- Online: by completing the consultation survey <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>
- By Email: schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk
- In writing: Education Sufficiency, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL.

You can request a paper copy of the survey by telephone (01926 742058) or email (schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk) and return it to the postal address above. You can also request an alternative format this way.
Deadline for comments is **29th November 2024**.

Following the end of the consultation we shall publish the results and this may include quotes of comments which will be anonymous. If you reply to an anonymous survey then no personal details will be captured. If you would like further information, visit our website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy or contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 410410