

**PRIMARY EXPANSION IN THE KINGSTON TOWN AND SURBITON AREAS  
STATUTORY CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND LOCAL AUTHORITY  
RESPONSE**

There were three separate consultations for the Kingston Town and Surbiton Areas. These covered the expansion plans for existing schools in these areas, as well as a proposal for a new 2 Form Entry Primary School on part of the Surbiton Hospital site.

### **Kingston Town area**

In total, 240 responses were received regarding the plans to expand Kingston Town Primary Schools by 4 Forms of Entry. This showed a majority in favour of the Kingston Primary Strategy to expand existing schools and more in favour than against each of the proposals to expand the schools identified in the strategy. The full results and a summary of the comments received are outlined below.

### **Surbiton area**

In total, 161 responses were received regarding the plans to expand Surbiton Primary Schools by 1.5 Forms of Entry. This showed a substantial majority in favour of the Kingston Primary Strategy to expand existing schools, with big majorities in favour of expanding the two schools identified in the strategy. The full results and a summary of the comments received are outlined below.

In total, 326 responses were received in response to the proposal to establish a new primary school on part of the Surbiton Hospital site. This showed a clear majority supporting the strategy and in favour of establishing a new school in Surbiton. The margin of support for the school being 2 Form Entry and based on the Surbiton Hospital site were both slightly lower but were supported by a clear majority of respondents. The full results and a summary of the comments received are outlined below.

*NB: Respondents had the option of not answering any question they did not wish to. Therefore the total number of responses for each question varies. Percentages may be rounded up or down to the nearest tenth of a decimal point so may therefore not add up to 100%.*

**Expansion of Primary Schools - Consultation results and summary of responses**

**1. Do you agree with the Kingston Primary Strategy to provide an additional 13.5 Forms of Entry (405 places) across the Borough from September 2011?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Kingston Town</b>	<b>Surbiton</b>
<b>Yes</b>	74.4% (169)	90.4% (141)
<b>No</b>	16.7% (38)	2.6% (4)
<b>Undecided</b>	8.8% (20)	7.1% (11)
<b>Total</b>	227	156

**2. Do you agree that as part of the strategy to provide sufficient places, the following schools should be expanded in September 2011?**

<b>School</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
<b>Latchmere 3 to 4 FE</b>	48.0% (107)	39.6% (89)	12.4% (28)	225
<b>Fern Hill 2 to 3 FE</b>	61.9% (140)	21.2% (48)	16.8% (38)	226
<b>King Athelstan 2 to 3 FE</b>	68.8% (154)	14.3% (32)	17% (38)	224
<b>Alexandra Infant/St Pauls Junior 2 to 3 FE</b>	64.3% (145)	16.3% (37)	19.4% (44)	227
<b>St Matthews 1.5 to 2 FE</b>	85.4% (135)	8.2% (13)	6.3% (10)	158
<b>Grand Avenue 2 to 3 FE</b>	80% (124)	9.7% (15)	10.3% (16)	155

## Summary of comments – Kingston Town Area

### General Comments:

- A new primary school is required in North Kingston as existing schools will struggle to absorb these extra pupils
- Extra places are required but not as many as is forecast
- New school buildings should be fully DDA compliant and take account of the needs of pupils with mobility difficulties
- Too many developments have been given the go-ahead with insufficient attention to ensuring that the appropriate community infrastructure is in place
- RBK should work with Richmond to expand Ham and Petersham one form entry primary schools which are located on large sites with plenty of room for expansion.

### Comments In Support of Proposals:

#### Need to expand schools and increase choice:

- Vital that more school places are provided in the North Kingston area. With a shortage of time and lack of sites, expanding existing schools is the best solution
- Need more places in popular schools. Not right that children living close to the schools cannot obtain a place
- There are limited places currently at these successful schools
- All north Kingston schools are over-subscribed, it is imperative that they are expanded so children can attend the school of their choice
- There is insufficient time to build a new school – school expansions are the only way to provide extra places quickly
- Right that popular schools are expanded

#### Capital Investment

- Agreed subject to the provision of sufficient resources to provide building works and infrastructure necessary to support expansion. New buildings must have children's needs first and foremost in the plans
- Should not rely on temporary 'bulges' to address need for more places

#### Sustainability

- Every child should have a right to go to a school close to their home which will minimise unnecessary distances for people to travel to school
- There is a need for more places and decisions should be taken in order to promote sustainable travel to school

#### Other

- In favour because younger siblings will be able to attend same school

### Comments Raising Concerns / Opposed to Proposals:

#### Size of school and impact on infrastructure

- Four form entry primary schools are too large and do not have the caring and nurturing environment which young children need. Outside space will be lost at

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### Latchmere

- Latchmere School is already too large and problems of access, parking etc will become even worse if it expands
- Combined with the new secondary school proposal, expansion at Fern Hill will lead to loss of outside playing area
- St Paul's hall is too small to accommodate another 120 children
- No primary school should be larger than 3 Form Entry
- Alex Infants and St Pauls are very restricted in terms of space currently and it is difficult to see how 210 additional pupils will be accommodated
- Access to and from school sites are already difficult. Additional numbers will make this even more challenging
- Expanding these schools will increase congestion

### Impact on Education

- Concern about the quality of education if expansion takes place
- Expanding Latchmere will be to the detriment of children with SEN which could affect standards
- There will be disruption to education whilst building work is in progress
- Concerns that funding will be affected

### Other

- A new school should be provided
- Faith schools in north Kingston should be expanded as they are popular
- King Athelstan is not a popular school and there is no point expanding it if parents will not choose it

### **Local Authority Response to Issues Raised – Kingston Town Expansion**

1. In broad terms those in support of the proposals agreed with the need for additional school places, recognised the current difficulties some families have in securing a local preferred school and understood that it had not been possible to identify a site for a new school. There was also support to move away from the use of temporary additional places in schools, often in modular classrooms to a permanent expansion of school places in appropriately resourced additional accommodation. This is the intended outcome of the proposed expansion strategy across the Borough, and requires a significant capital investment to achieve this, as allowed for in the approved capital programme 2010-2012.
2. The main reasons cited by those not in support of the proposals reflect the issues raised in consultation meetings, principally due to concerns regarding the (negative) educational impact of the proposed size of Latchmere School (four form entry), and the overall impact on schools with additional pupils needing to be accommodated on the same size site as present.
3. Since the initial consultation undertaken last Summer there have been questions raised by some stakeholders (parents, resident and school staff and governors) regarding the potential impact of increasing school size, and in particular to four forms of entry (Latchmere School and Burlington Infant and Junior Schools are proposed to be this size).

4. The Local Authority has undertaken research to assess the validity of the concerns. This included:
5.
  - (i) a visit of LA officers and headteachers to a four form entry primary school in London which is rated as Outstanding by Ofsted.
  - (ii) taking into account the positive experiences and learning points of both Burlington Infant School and the Latchmere School in hosting additional 'bulge' classes, effectively creating four forms of entry in YR and Y1 to date.
  - (iii) research was undertaken to collate national and international research into the impact of size of school on educational attainment and the experiences of pupils at school. This indicated that there is no direct correlation between the size of school and the quality of provision they offer. The full report is available on the Kinston website (see document entitled "School Size and Effectiveness in Kingston Primary Schools" at [www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/education/schools/school\\_expansion](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/education/schools/school_expansion) ). An extract of the key message is as follows:

"Schools are complex organisations and no single measure will give the full picture of the quality of provision they offer or their capacity for expansion. This can only be achieved with excellent local knowledge and open discussion. Every school has its own history, catchment and context and within each 1 form entry, 2 form entry and 3 form entry group of schools there are outstandingly successful schools with excellent leadership and management and pupil outcomes.....The research and information available makes it is difficult to draw a direct conclusion to inform strategy because for every piece of research that makes a negative claim there will be another piece of research that makes a positive or inconclusive claim.....The clearest, most helpful research comes from two other local authorities and Kingston's own data. Evidence about the success of large schools demonstrates that expansion to create large schools of 3 and 4 form entry is very worthy of consideration. Evidence from Ofsted about the features of outstanding schools requires careful consideration in the decision making process.....An analysis of the performance of Kingston's primary schools by size concludes that Kingston's largest primary schools perform at least as well as and often better than smaller schools. The performance of three form entry schools was stronger than smaller schools in relation to pupils' attainment and pupils' progress as well as Ofsted judgements on school effectiveness, leadership and management, and pupils' well being and personal development.....Policy making about the expansion of a school relies on local knowledge of individual schools. Schools should only be expanded in partnership with Governing Bodies and Headteachers who know their schools and communities best and when there is confidence that expansion will not threaten the quality of children's education and may well enhance it."
6. Schools have only been proposed for expansion if the additional pupil numbers can be accommodated on the school site in compliance with government guidelines. The accommodation changes that are currently being designed will need to not only ensure that sufficient additional accommodation

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is provided, but that the remaining external space is appropriate for the increased size of school. It may be that schools will need to introduce staggered play times etc but this will be considered at each school by the management team, and is not unusual in primary schools.

7. Some respondents raised concerns regarding the impact on pupils whilst building works are undertaken. The Local Authority is confident that by working in partnership with the schools and a core project group including the architects, project managers and contractors appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure that pupils are not adversely affected by the building works. This approach has been used at a number of Kingston schools in recent years, and the learning from projects is shared between schools to inform future developments.

## Summary of comments –Surbiton Area

### General Comments:

- St Matthews should be expanded further to be a 3FE school
- Expansion should only take place if does not compromise the educational experience of existing pupils
- Grand Avenue should have been rebuilt as a 3FE school
- Grand Avenue needs catering facilities for proper school meals and a swimming pool which can be shared with other local schools
- Expansion should be at well performing schools that have the space to absorb extra pupils without threatening their character
- Additional places should also be provided at Maple Infants which is better located for many Surbiton parents
- More school places beyond the 105 proposed are required in the Surbiton area
- Grand Avenue needs parking restrictions and/or traffic calming

### Comments In Support of Proposals:

#### Need for expanding schools and increasing choice

- Real need for expansion of places in this area
- My child benefitted from 'bulge' classes and others need to benefit from extra places
- Permanent expansion of school places is required to resolve the difficulties parents have had in recent years in securing school places
- Concern about lack of places at schools within walking distance of residents homes.
- Growing population makes it necessary to provide for the essential needs of our children

#### Suitability of proposed schools

- St Matthews site is large and has the capacity to expand 0.5FE with no detriment to the school
- There is the demand for places at St Matthews which is a small school compared with other Surbiton Primaries
- Grand Avenue is on a large site and is a good location for pupils to walk/use public transport
- As St Matthews took 90 in 2009 it makes sense for them to move to 2 Form Entry
- Both are good schools with the site capacity for expansion

### Comments Raising Concerns / Opposed to Proposals:

#### Size of school and impact on infrastructure

- Concern that expanding Grand Avenue to 3FE would make it a very large school and result in more unsustainable travel with places for children from outside of the Borough
- Parents prefer smaller, not larger primary schools. Expansion at Grand Avenue could damage educational standards, compromise amenities of the school and lead to unnecessary congestion in the area
- Grand Avenue site is too small for 3FE. Outdoor play areas would be below the

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government minimum standard and it would be an overdeveloped and congested site

- Grand Avenue already has a lack of playground space with the new main building constructed on top of outdoor play area.
- Do not like large primary schools and expanding existing schools is not the right course of action

### Impact on Education

- Grand Avenue has just completed a large building project and further disruption is unfair. Also, the proportion of pupils with English as an additional Language could rise
- The quality of education has dropped since the introduction of 'bulge' classes

### Other

- New schools are better than unbalancing established schools
- Grand Avenue is located in the wrong place to provide additional places to children in the area

## **Local Authority Response to Issues Raised – Surbiton Expansion**

8. In broad terms those in support of the proposals agreed with the need for additional school places, recognised the current difficulties some families have in securing a local preferred school. There was also support for the two schools named for expansion.
9. Conflicting views expressed regarding suitability of Grand Avenue site for expansion. Some respondents considered Grand Avenue a large site in a good location. Those opposed to the proposal considered the Grand Avenue Primary School site too small for a three form entry school, citing lack of external play space a particular concern. In addition there were concerns about the impact that a three form entry primary school would have on educational standards.
10. Schools have only been proposed for expansion if the additional pupil numbers can be accommodated on the school site in compliance with government guidelines. The accommodation changes that are currently being designed will need to not only ensure that sufficient additional accommodation is provided, but that the remaining external space is appropriate for the increased size of school. It may be that schools will need to introduce staggered play times etc but this will be considered at each school by the management team, and is not unusual in primary schools.
11. The Grand Avenue School site at 20,640m<sup>2</sup> is one of the larger primary school sites in the Borough. The government guidelines set out in Building Bulletin 99 (BB99) recommended school site sizes. These guidelines provide for schools both on 'unconfined' sites with playing fields onsite, and a smaller 'confined' site size to include all school buildings, outside curriculum and play area, and car parking with assumed offsite access to playing fields for Key

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Stage 2 pupils. Schools are typically located on confined sites in urban areas where land is at a premium, and many Kingston primary schools are on confined sites. BB guideline recommendations for a three form entry school on an unconfined site is 24,400m<sup>2</sup>, and for a school to operate appropriately on a confined site the minimum size should be within a range of 5,700 to 6,800m<sup>2</sup>. Grand Avenue is therefore 15% below the recommended site size for a three form entry school on an unconfined site, but significantly in excess at 300%+ for a school on a confined site.

12. Concerns were expressed that the quality of education has dropped since the introduction of bulge classes. Data shows that in 2009 high standards were maintained and standards improved in some aspects. In the Early Years standards were maintained at 57% for the overall national measure of children's development. This represents an improvement of 7% over 3 years. At Key Stage 1 standards improved in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 2 high standards in English and mathematics have been maintained, at 79%; following a good 2% increase in 2008. Kingston is ranked joint 7<sup>th</sup> nationally. Therefore within the primary sector there is no evidence that the introduction of bulge classes in Kingston has affected the quality of education. Kingston is proud of its educational standards and one of the guiding principles in setting the school expansion strategy is to ensure that these are maintained.

**A new Primary School for Surbiton - Consultation results and summary of responses**

**1. Do you agree with the Kingston Primary Strategy to provide an additional 13.5 Forms of Entry (405 places) across the Borough from September 2011?**

<b>Yes</b>	80.4% (254)
<b>No</b>	9.2% (29)
<b>Undecided</b>	10.4% (33)
<b>Total</b>	316

**2. Do you agree that as part of the Strategy, a new Primary School should open in Surbiton in September 2011?**

<b>Yes</b>	78.5% (249)
<b>No</b>	11.4% (36)
<b>Undecided</b>	10.1% (32)
<b>Total</b>	317

**3. Do you agree that the school should be two form entry (60 pupils per year group)?**

<b>Yes</b>	70.7% (224)
<b>No</b>	15.8% (50)
<b>Undecided</b>	13.6% (43)
<b>Total</b>	317

**4. Do you agree that the school should be based on the Surbiton Hospital site?**

<b>Yes</b>	60.4% (191)
<b>No</b>	25% (79)

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<b>Undecided</b>	14.6% (46)
<b>Total</b>	316

### Summary of comments

#### Other General Comments

- Would prefer the school to be larger than two form entry if the site is large enough to limit the need to expand existing schools
- School and hospital should have separate access arrangements
- School times should be staggered with St Matthews which is located in close proximity to the site
- School should be a non-faith community school as a C of E is located close by
- Numbers of out of Borough children in Surbiton primary schools need to be reduced

#### Comments In Support of Proposals:

##### Need for a new school

- Proposal represents best solution to provide additional places in the Surbiton area
- A new school is necessary to address a shortage of places in the area
- Well thought out proposal with much needed new school to meet the need for additional places
- Future development plans for central Surbiton make the provision of a new school absolutely necessary

##### Suitability of proposed site and location

- Site is central location with good transport links and will provide places for local children
- Agreed but a school should not be detrimental to the provision of Polyclinic services
- Good use of a brown field site
- Will provides places for parts of the Surbiton area that are under-served for schools currently and allow such residents to attend a school within walking distance

##### Other

- No valid alternatives to this site
- Only solution which enables a new school to be delivered in such a short timescale and reduce need for bulge classes

#### Comments Raising Concerns / Opposed to Proposals:

##### Inappropriate use of site

- The whole site should continue to be used for health based services

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- Congestion around the school will be significant and impact further on the loss of amenity for local residents
- Concern about suitability of co-locating a school and health services on the same site
- School would have insufficient outside play space
- Surbiton Hospital was paid for and built by the people of Surbiton and should all remain as a site for health services

### Impact on local area

- Congestion around the school will be significant and impact further on the loss of amenity for local residents
- Oak Hill is an unsuitable area for a school with poor access to the site
- The site is unsuitable due to poor access arrangements and difficulties should would arise from parents and polyclinic users seeking to drive to and from the site
- Inappropriate development which would involve the demolition of Victorian villas in a Conservation Area

### Alternatives should be explored

- Should expand existing schools rather than provide a new school on this site
- There are other alternative sites for the school which should be explored further

### Other

- Local Authority is focusing on needs of children when the adult population is growing at a faster rate. Better use of existing resources should be made with hospital site utilised for the needs of older people
- Recent PCT consultation showed only 11% of respondents supported there being a school on the site
- If growth in school aged population is largely in the Berrylands area, a new school should be based there

## **Local Authority Response to Issues Raised – New Surbiton Primary School**

13. There is strong support for the establishment of a new two-form entry school in Surbiton, with a smaller majority supporting it being built on part of the Surbiton Hospital site. The site was mentioned by many respondents as being a good location to meet the need for additional school places. Some respondents would have preferred the school to be three-form entry, rather than two, but it is now confirmed that the size of the available site does not allow this.
14. Comments against the proposal relate to the school being located on part of the Surbiton Hospital site. Objections can be largely be grouped into two reasons:
  - (i) Those who oppose part of the site being used for a school, or are concerned about the mix of polyclinic and school services

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- (ii) Those who have raised concerns about the impact on the immediate surrounding area, citing poor access, congestion and the demolition of existing buildings.
  
- 15. RBK and NHS Kingston have worked closely to develop a masterplan for the site which maximises the potential community benefit from the co-location of a polyclinic and school. The concerns regarding traffic and congestion will need to be addressed in the single planning application submitted for the site, and will be covered by the Transport Impact Assessment. Both of these issues will form part of the public pre-application consultation which is anticipated will take place in July 2010.