



**Parents/Guardians of children
attending Merton Infant and Merton
Junior Schools, Basingstoke**

*Children's Services Department
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Enquiries to **Glenn Parkinson**

My reference

Direct Line **01962 846664**

Your reference

Date **22 October 2012**

E-mail **glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk**

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Enlargement of Merton Infant and Merton Junior Schools, Basingstoke –
Consultation**

I am writing to you to invite your views in respect of Hampshire County Council's proposal to permanently enlarge the premises of Merton Infant and Merton Junior Schools in Basingstoke.

Hampshire County Council are proposing to increase the physical capacity of both school sites to allow the Infant School to offer 90 places in Year R (age 4+) from 2013 and in future years and the Junior School to offer 90 places in Year 3 (age 7+) from September 2015 and in future years. This expansion will allow the Infant School to cater for a total of 270 pupils, 90 per year group, and the Junior School 360 places, 90 per year group.

Additional accommodation in modular buildings has already been provided at the Infant School to allow the School to offer 90 places in Year R in September 2012. Additional modular buildings will be required prior to the provision of additional permanent facilities at both schools. It is proposed that building works to accommodate this increase in pupil numbers will begin in the summer of 2014 and complete ready for September 2015.

Reason for proposal

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places.. Owing to an increase in the number of children locally with further numbers expected from new housing in the school catchment area there is a need for additional school places in the area.

Where a Local Authority proposes to permanently enlarge a school's capacity above a certain threshold, it must follow a set procedure. Further information on the background to the proposal and the process is contained in the consultation document attached to this letter.

*Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Children's
Services
John Coughlan, CBE*

The Consultation

The consultation period will run from the 22nd October to 10th December 2012.. In this time Hampshire County Council are inviting any views you have on the proposed enlargement of the school premises at Merton Infant and Merton Junior Schools.

You can make your views known by writing to Glenn Parkinson, Children's Services Department, Elizabeth II Court East, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or by e-mail at glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk

At the end of the consultation period, the Local Authority will consider all of the views received, before deciding whether to proceed to the formal publication of the proposal. If the publication of the proposal goes ahead, there will be a further period of 4 weeks in which representations can be made.

Further Information

A drop in session will take place on the 8 November 2012 at Merton Infant School hall from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.. This will be an informal setting where you will be able to view the plans and ask questions about the development.

The current proposed building plans can also be viewed on the school's website,

www.mertoninfants.com

www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk

The document attached includes some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that I hope address any questions you have.

Yours sincerely



Glenn Parkinson - School Organisation Officer