

Trinity Road Primary School, Chelmsford

**Consultation on a proposal to expand the school by a half
form-of-entry (15 places per year) from September 2022**

March 2021



Introduction

The County Council must ensure that there is a school place every year for each child in Essex. In doing so we want to take every opportunity to allow more parents to send their child to their preferred school and support schools to increase the educational achievement and life chances of all young people.

As in a number of areas of the County and the Country, there is predicted to be continued pressure on primary pupil places in central Chelmsford and an additional half a form-of-entry (15 places per year) will be required in 2022 followed by further demand in 2024.

In response to this growth in the demand for primary school places in Chelmsford, we are seeking views through this consultation on a proposal to expand Trinity Road Primary School from 315 places (one and a half forms-of-entry) to a 420-place (two forms-of-entry) primary school. It is vital that we provide new school places in central Chelmsford for 2022, and I invite you to let us have your views on the proposal to expand Trinity Road Primary School so that these can be taken into account when a final decision is made.



Clare Kershaw
Director, Education

BACKGROUND

Central Chelmsford has experienced a rise in the demand for primary school places in the last few years mainly as a result of new housing in the area. Essex County Council's *10 Year Plan – Meeting the demand for school places in Essex - 2021 to 2030* indicates a need for permanent expansion of primary school capacity within the central Chelmsford Planning Group.

Pupil Forecasts and Deficit of Primary Places

Essex County Council (ECC) has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children living in the county. In order to do this we monitor birth rates, new housing developments and patterns of parental preference across groups of schools. This information is used to forecast pupil numbers and to ensure there are sufficient school places across the county.

The following table shows the potential deficit of Reception places over the next 5 years across these areas.

Year to be admitted to Reception	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total number of Reception places	480*	480*	480*	480*	480*
Predicted local requirement for Reception places	486	516	520	534	545
Predicted deficit with potential pupils from new housing	-6	-36	-40	-54	-65

*There is sufficient existing capacity within the local group of schools for an additional 30 places giving a total of 510 places available each year.

Longer term forecasts indicate that there will be further growth in the area with the need for further primary school places in addition to the proposed expansion of Trinity Road Primary. The number of children registered with a GP in the area together with details of new housing will continue to be monitored, as will the actual numbers of pupils in schools, and further solutions developed as necessary.

THE WAY FORWARD

School Expansion Proposal

It is proposed to expand Trinity Road Primary School from 315 places (one and a half forms-of-entry) to a 420-place (two forms-of-entry) primary school, by building additional accommodation at the school. This would enable the school to admit 15 additional Reception children each year.

The school is a popular, oversubscribed school rated Good by Ofsted. Expansion of the school will provide more places to meet the growing demand in the local area, and will enable more parents to gain a place for their child at a popular, high performing school. It will also allow the school to move from mixed age teaching to single age classes.

Admissions

The admissions criteria and priority admission area for the school would not change as a result of the proposed expansion.

Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements would remain in line with the home to school transport policies of Essex County Council and the existing Travel Plan would be reviewed by the school.

Building Work

Expansion plans are subject to planning permission. There will be pre-planning application consultation with the communities involved on the detailed design for expansion of the school. Initial work has been undertaken to explore options for expansion and remodelling which include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum. A full feasibility study including highways and access considerations will be subject to consultation with the community during the detailed planning stage of the building scheme should the proposal to expand the school be approved.

Funding

The County Council has made provision in its Capital Programme for the proposed primary school expansions. The Council publishes its capital programme at www.essex.gov.uk

How Can You Make Your Views Known?

The County Council is seeking the views of all interested persons about the proposal to expand Trinity Road Primary School.

At this stage no decision has been made on the expansion proposal and all the views received will be considered prior to a decision being taken as to whether to go ahead with the proposal. A final decision will need to be taken in the context of the growing need for more primary school places in central Chelmsford.

Your Comments

You are invited to respond to this consultation using the following electronic survey form:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/trinityroadexpansion>

You may also send feedback and comments to:

Mark Pincombe – School Organisation Officer

school.organisation@essex.gov.uk

School Organisation Team

County Hall – C418

Market Road

Chelmsford CM1 1GS

Alternatively, you may wish to write to or email us with your comments to the address given below by 19 April 2021. All comments received through these mechanisms or made directly to council officers or members will be collected to be included in the analysis of feedback received.

All written comments should be received by ECC by **19 April 2021**. ECC handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018. Your responses to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed expansion, and not for any other purpose. We will not give information about you to anyone outside the County Council.

If you have any questions about the consultation process or the proposal you can call Mark Pincombe, School Organisation Officer, on 03330 131155, or alternatively contact the chair of governors of school, via the school.

The information contained in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk. Please call 03330 131189.

We will create a feedback and questions raised sheet, a link to which may be found on the ECC website at this address: <http://essex.gov.uk/schoolconsultations>

This sheet will be updated with new questions and answers as they arrive.

We know that some people might also want to have the opportunity to discuss the proposal in person, although this is not essential as questions and comments will be posted on the feedback and questions sheet. For those wanting a face-to-face discussion we have arranged some virtual drop-in sessions to give parents and carers, staff and members of the local community the chance to ask questions and express their views on the proposed expansion.

Because of the rules on social distancing we will be holding the drop-in sessions virtually. If you would like to discuss the proposal please contact Mrs Kelly Wilde at Trinity Road Primary School (01245 354517) to book a ten-minute time slot on 24 March 2021. An online meeting will then be set up to connect you

with an ECC officer and the current school headteacher, Mrs Gill Marrion. The drop-in sessions will be on **24 March 2021** between **2.30pm** and **6.00pm**.

What happens next?

At the end of this consultation period the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills will consider the feedback and views expressed by all interested parties during the consultation and will make a decision on the next stage of the school expansion proposal. The Governing body of the school will also make a decision following feedback from this consultation. If a decision is made to proceed to the next stage of the school expansion, a Statutory Notice will be published in the local press and will be displayed at the main entrance to the school and at other conspicuous places in the area served by the school for a four week period. This four-week representation period provides the final opportunity for people and organisations to comment on, or submit an objection to, the proposal. At the end of the four-week period any comments on or objections to the proposal will be considered by the Cabinet Member and a final decision will be made.

Timeline

The consultation period will run from **08 March 2021** to **19 April 2021**. Below is the estimated timeline for the decision process.

Date	Activity
08 March 2021	Consultation commences – consultation document can be viewed at http://essex.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
24 March 2021	Virtual drop-in sessions for parents, staff and the local community to be held between 2:30pm and 6pm
19 April 2021	End of consultation period
May 2021	Decision by County Council on whether to proceed with the publication of a statutory notice.
June 2021	Publication of Statutory Notice (if decision above is to proceed to next stage).
July 2021	End of period for representations.
August 2021	Decision taken by Essex County Council on expansion proposals
* 1 September 2022	Trinity Road Primary School expands to become a 420-place primary school.

* This stage will apply only if the proposal is approved by the County Council.