

Consultation on the Expansion of Balshaw Lane Primary School, Bredon Avenue, Chorley, PR7 6NS



June/July 2016

A consultation event in connection with this proposal will be held on Thursday 16th June 2016 at the school.
Further information is provided inside.

Produced by the School Planning Team, Asset Management, Lancashire County Council



Foreword

Lancashire is a large, diverse area served by some superb schools and we are committed to improving this excellence by continuing to raise standards and opportunities, for all our children and young people.

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to provide primary and secondary school places to every child of school age living in Lancashire who requests one. In achieving this, Lancashire, like many other authorities, faces many challenges. Changing demographic factors mean that we must constantly review the number and location of the school places we provide.

The county council and its schools work together with parents and a range of service providers to help our children to be safe, to enjoy and achieve, to be listened to, to belong to the community, and to achieve economic well-being.

We want all our children and their parents to have pride in their local school and cultivate an appetite for lifelong learning.

We aim to provide schools that meet the needs of our communities and, at times, this may involve increasing the number of school places in a particular school.

I hope that you will take a little time during this consultation period to let us know your views on what we are proposing to do. We will not make a decision until we have carefully considered all responses to this consultation.

Please help us to improve educational provision for Lancashire children.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Tomlinson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

Our vision and what we would like to achieve

Education is a powerful means of transforming and enriching lives and communities. Future success and well-being depends on strong creative partnerships, new ways of working, high expectations and a belief that we all have a part to play and can make a difference together.

Lancashire County Council is committed to improving the quality of educational provision to help raise standards for all learners. Our Vision sees schools operating at the centre of their immediate and often extended communities.

What are we proposing to do?

This consultation document is about the proposed permanent expansion of Balshaw Lane Primary School, Bredon Avenue, Chorley, PR7 6NS.

On 12th May 2016, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools approved a period of consultation to be undertaken on a proposal to allow a permanent increase in the Reception intake of Balshaw Lane Primary School from 45 to 60 places for September 2018 and beyond, making the school a 2 form entry school. This will be enabled by expansion of the existing building.

Why are we proposing this?

On 5th November 2015, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools approved an increase of the published admission number for Balshaw Lane Primary School from 40 places to 45 places at Reception age, with effect from September 2017, as part of a capital improvement programme that provided additional places to regularise admission numbers in areas of growth.

As a result of the rising birth rate in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development, the number of school places currently available will not be enough to meet the increased demand as the children reach school age over the next few years

Balshaw Lane Primary School is an Outstanding School which is currently experiencing a significant increase in demand for places, with 50 first preference applications in 2016. The current planned admission number is 45 and, therefore, by further increasing this to 60 the school's admission number will be regularised to 2 Form Entry at the same time as assisting with meeting growing demand for places within the Euxton area.

Expansion of Schools and the School Organisation and Governance Regulations

The provisions of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, state that if a local authority proposes to enlarge the premises of a school by which the capacity of the school would increase by more than 30 pupils and by 25% or 200 pupils more (whichever is the lesser), their proposal must be published in a statutory notice.

Informal Consultation

The issue of this document marks a period of consultation during which the views of any interested parties are sought and which will be considered before any move to the more formal stages of the process.

There are then 4 stages to the statutory process which must be followed:

Stage One - Publication

Dependent upon the outcome of the consultation, a decision to proceed to issue a statutory notice must be made by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools.

Stage Two - Representation

Statutory notices for school enlargements allow a 4 week period for anyone to submit their comments on the proposals. This enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposals.

Stage Three - Decision

Within 2 months after the statutory notice period ends, the authority must make a decision on the proposal.

Stage Four - Implementation

If the proposal is approved Balshaw Lane Primary School would increase the number of pupils admitted into Reception year by an additional 15 pupils. This would mean that the number of reception places in September 2018 and for each following year will increase from 45 to 60, resulting in the school's capacity increasing from 315 to 420.

The consultation and decision making process

Timescales

6 th June 2016 to 1 st July 2016	Informal Consultation
September 2016	Cabinet Member decision making session to consider the results of the consultation and decide whether to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal
November 2016	Stage One - Publication of Statutory Notice
November/December 2016	Stage Two - Representation
February 2017	Stage Three - Final decision by Cabinet Member
1 st September 2018	Stage Four - Implementation (if approved)

Consultation Event

You are invited to express your views on the proposal at an event organised at the school on **Thursday 16th June 2016 from 3.00pm to 8.00pm.**

Please note that this will be an appointment led event, requiring interested parties to make a booking prior to the event. This will allow us to manage the process effectively, minimise waiting times and ensure that appropriate officers are available to offer advice and guidance relating to specific matters of interest.

Appointments can be made by visiting the link below and following the on-screen instructions:

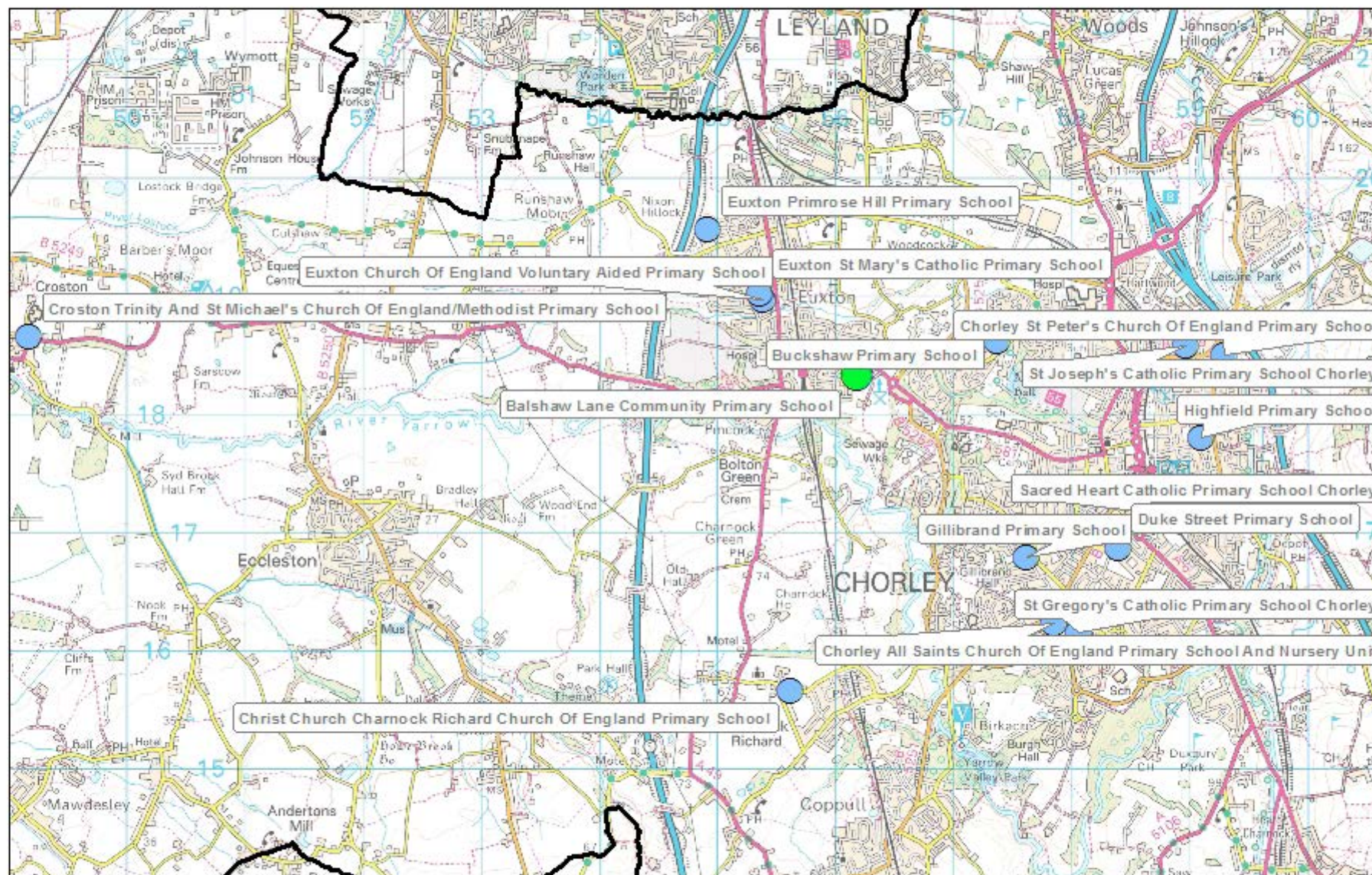
<https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=664489>

Alternatively, booking can be made by telephone or email by contacting the School Planning Team on 01772 536289 or Email:

schoolplanning@lancashire.gov.uk.

The closing date for booking an appointment is Monday 13th June 2016 at 5pm. Individual appointment times will be confirmed as soon as possible following this date. If there are only a few or no appointments made then the event will be shortened or may be cancelled.

Balshaw Lane Primary School & Surrounding Schools



Who we will consult

This consultation document will be provided to people and organisations that may have an interest in these proposals. These include the following:

- Staff, parents/carers, governors and pupils of Balshaw Lane Primary School (The views of the children and young people within the school will be sought through the school)
- Head teachers, Governing Bodies and staff of other local schools
- Local Voluntary and Private Nursery providers
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
- Chief Executives and elected members of Chorley Borough Council
- Other Local Authorities bordering Lancashire
- Local Church Authorities and Faith Groups
- Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee
- The Children's Partnership Board for the area
- Lancashire County Councillors – Chorley
- Local Members of Parliament – Chorley
- Chorley Parish & Town Councils
- Trade Unions and Associations
- Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies
- Ofsted: Her Majesty's Inspector for the area
- The wider Chorley community – through local Community Centres, Town Hall, the library and County Hall.

This document and the Cabinet Report are available on our website via the link below under the heading 'School Organisation Reviews':

www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

We can also provide electronic copies of the consultation document to members of the local community on request.

Your Response – Contact us

We welcome your views on this proposal. All observations and objections will be considered very carefully before any decision is made to progress any further with this proposal. It is important that you make any written responses within the consultation timescales published in this document and that they are sent to the School Planning Team using the methods outlined below. Any responses received outside of the consultation period will not be able to be included for consideration when a decision is being made as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

Please note that in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Regulations, all written responses may be a matter for public disclosure and may be published on the website of Lancashire County Council as background papers to the report to the Cabinet Member.

The consultation runs until **Friday 1st July 2016** and you can respond by completing the questionnaire in this document or writing separately:

Post to: School Planning Team, Asset Management,
FREEPOST RTKE-BXCZ-BBZL, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100,
County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD (*no stamp required*)

Email to: schoolplanning@lancashire.gov.uk

On-Line at: (Use the link below to complete the questionnaire contained in this document on-line)

<https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=664560>

This document can also be accessed via the link below under the heading 'School Organisation Reviews': www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

If you have difficulty in accessing this information, please contact the School Planning Team: Telephone **01772 536289**

Please submit only one response per person to this consultation

Thank you

This booklet forms part of the informal consultation prior to the statutory process required in order to significantly enlarge a school. The information provided in this booklet and at the consultation sessions is intended to be sufficient in order for people to form a view on the proposal. The council will consider views and concerns arising from the consultation process to contribute to the detailed proposal supplied later in the process.

We are sorry that, due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.

Further information regarding this proposal, including the cabinet report, is available on our website, under the heading 'School Organisation Reviews' at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

Thank you

Parental representations about school provision

Lancashire County Council is committed to working with the people of Lancashire to plan and ensure the delivery of local services.

The council is responsible for ensuring the supply of sufficient and suitable school places and promoting high standards. The council aims to educate pupils in accordance with their parents' wishes, subject to providing an appropriate education and avoiding unreasonable expenditure.

The county council has a duty to seek and consider the views of parents and carers about the pattern of school provision. If you would like to give your views about future school provision in Lancashire, you can get information on how to do this from the School Planning Team, Asset Management, FREEPOST RTKE-BXCZ-BBZL, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD (*no stamp required*).

Planning Consultation

If, following consultation, the Cabinet Member's final decision is to go ahead with the expansion of the school, parents, staff and other interested parties will be invited to participate in a design event to contribute to the design of the new build.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Who should complete this questionnaire?

- Staff, governors, current or prospective parents/carers of pupils at Balshaw Lane Primary School
- Any other interested member of the community

NB: Please complete just one form per person

Proposal: To expand Balshaw Lane Primary School to increase the number of pupils admitted in each reception year from 45 to 60 and the capacity of the school from 315 to 420 from 1st September 2018.

Q1

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

Please select one option only

Strongly
agree

Tend to
agree

Neither agree
or disagree

Tend to
disagree

Strongly
disagree

If you would like to provide details of why you agree or disagree with this proposal you can do so overleaf.

Q2

Are you responding to this proposal as...?

Please select as many as apply

This School

Other School*

A parent/carer of a pupil currently at:

A parent/carer of a future pupil at:

A member of staff at:

A school governor at:

A political representative for:

Member of the local community:

Other (please specify)

If other school*, please specify

Q3**What is your home postcode and area in which you live?***Please write in below:*

Q4**What are your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposal?***Please write in below; Please attached additional papers if required*

Please print your name:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it to:

School Planning Team, Asset Management,
 FREEPOST RTKE-BXCZ-BBZL, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100,
 County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD (*no stamp required*).

Important Information

Lancashire County Council may be required to publish consultation responses as part of the reports for consideration by the relevant Cabinet Member(s) either as appendices to those reports or as part of the background papers referred to in those reports and available on request. Please be aware that your responses to this consultation may be made available on the County Council's website as part of this process