

Swindon Borough Council and NHS Swindon Diversity Impact Assessment for the permanent expansion of Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools

What is it about?

The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide additional school places. The proposal for additional school places at Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools aims to provide school places for parents and pupils within the heart of their community. The report proposes to conduct further statutory consultation following the consideration of the consultation with the school community (parents, staff and governors).

Who is it for?

The proposals are primarily to create additional primary school capacity due to pressure in the local catchment area from September 2013.

Haydonleigh

There has been a continual increase in reception aged pupils living in the North Swindon area and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) data that was released in September 2011 has confirmed this. The LA has been working with local schools in the area to identify where additional school places would be provided to meet the peak in demand for Reception in September 2012. There has been a continual increase in reception aged pupils living in the North Swindon area and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) data that was released in September 2011 has confirmed this. The LA has been working with local schools in the area to identify where additional school places would be provided to meet the peak in demand for Reception in September 2012

The LA has been providing temporary classrooms at schools on a year by year basis above the base line capacity of 650 places in order to meet the increase and peak in demand for September 2012. The temporary places have a short shelf life of 1 year and have been added as a short term solution as the numbers rise and fall to September 2013. It was seen at the time that any long term increase could have resulted in over capacity there is a levelling off of pupil numbers from September 2013 and options have been developed above the base line capacity of 650 places.

Therefore, in order to meet the long term demand for places Haydonleigh Primary School is proposed to increase permanently and a study to provide other options has been commissioned to provide places in line with the demand shown from September 2014 onwards.

Even Swindon

There is increasing parental demand for school places in the Town Centre and surrounding area. There has been a particular upward trend in demand from parents (especially those with siblings) requesting school places at Even

Swindon Primary School for September 2011 and this is expected to continue for September 2012 and beyond.

Although it is forecast that there will be sufficient Reception age school places across the Borough there is a strong case for admitting additional pupils to Even Swindon Primary School (currently two forms of entry) by up to an additional form of entry in the light of forecast parental demand from September 2012.

Impact

Consultation has taken place as detailed in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.10 of the report. The proposal is for further statutory consultation during the Autumn and for a decision to be made in line with the target timeline in paragraph 3.12 of the report.

The proposal to permanently expand Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools takes into account demographic changes, migration and, in particular, the pressure on school places in North Swindon and the Central area of the town. All schools in these areas are focused on helping to meet the needs of BME (Black & Minority Ethnicity) and EAL (English as an Additional Language) children wherever necessary, with the support of the LA. From a school place planning point of view, it is essential that there are sufficient suitable and accessible school places provided and a recent example of an expansion is Drove Primary School from September 2009. The LA works in close partnership with the schools to ensure that needs are met.

The percentage of children with EAL at Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools is as follows:

	% of children with EAL				
	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012
All Schools	9.5%	10.6%	11.2%	11.9%	12.6%
Primary Schools	9.7%	11.0%	11.6%	12.4%	13.2%
Haydonleigh Primary	1.5%	2.9%	3.7%	6.8%	6.6%
Even Swindon Primary	13.6%	17.2%	15.4%	15.5%	15.6%

Ethnicity at Even Swindon is broadly in line with the overall picture in Swindon. Ethnicity at Haydonleigh shows a lower than average BME population.

No adverse impacts were identified on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, marital/civil partnership status or pregnancy/maternity.

So what?

The proposal is to permanently expand both schools as part of the prescribed Department for Education process for expanding schools.