

Responses received for the pre-statutory consultation:**Thornhill Primary School – October 2015**

Two responses were received over the course of the pre-statutory consultation period.

Received via Email on 02/09/2015 from Local Councillor**Support indicated: IN PRINCIPLE****Comments:**

I would support the expansion of this school as it is a well rated school with good facilities. However, I am surprised that the council are experiencing a particular increase in demand in this part of the East. The major development in the East is in Centenary Quay, Woolston. Although it is possible to travel between Woolston and Thornhill, it is hardly the easiest journey. Have the Council explored Woolston expansion options or even the potential for a new school in that locality?

The former Woolston Secondary School site on Porchester Road is still lying empty and although this site was deemed lacking in playground facilities for a secondary school, it might well suit a primary school. Of course this option would come with significant funding requirements, however, with the significant uplift in pupil numbers in this area, it might provide a more sustainable option into the future.

Response sent:

Thank you for your reply with reference to the proposed expansion of Thornhill Primary School.

The Local Authority are exploring all options for expansion of schools where required and our latest forecasting takes into account the developments at Centenary Quay and at other key sites across the City.

While we experienced a larger than expected number of admissions in the East (particularly the Weston/Woolston) area of the City for 2015/16, this coincided with our forecast peak year of admissions across the City.

In the following years we are forecast to see a slight drop in the numbers of children requiring a Year R place in Southampton. However, our most recent forecasting shows there will still be a small amount of pressure in the north-east of the City for 2016/17 before numbers fall.

For this reason a permanent expansion of Primary numbers in the south-east at this time would leave us with a significant surplus of places from September 2017 and this could have a detrimental effect on some Southampton schools.

We are therefore proposing a small increase at Thornhill Primary School (to match their current bulge classes (2014/15 and 2015/16)) from a published admission number (PAN) of 45 to a PAN of 60. At the same time we are exploring the need for further temporary bulge classes in the north-east of the City and across Southampton to ensure the DfE recommended 5% surplus is maintained to allow for parental preference.

The sale of the former Woolston Secondary School site has been put on hold while we consider all the options around expansion in this part of the City and its use as a possible site for Primary expansion has formed part of our considerations and options for expansion in the Primary sector.

We will be keeping a close eye on the developments at Centenary Quay and elsewhere, both within the City and on our borders, to ensure we continue to fulfil our statutory duty to provide school places for all those who require one.

Received via Email on 02/09/2015 from Local Councillor

Support indicated: IN PRINCIPLE

Comments:

As a ward councillor, I am writing briefly about the proposals to expand Thornhill Primary School.

I've been impressed by Thornhill Primary throughout my time as a ward councillor, and recall that the school achieved National Recognition as the MOST IMPROVED school in England two or three years ago.

I believe that the best plan for expansion will be to create new classrooms on some of the green space around the school. Obviously, the siting for this will need careful consideration, particularly since the adjacent school, Springwell, also needs to expand.

It is important that as much of the green space as possible is retained for recreational and sport requirements. This is especially relevant as so many of the pupils of both schools live in high-rise flats and do not, therefore, benefit from secure domestic garden facilities.

I look forward to seeing your detailed proposals once you have developed these.

Response Sent:

Thank you for your reply with reference to the expansion of Thornhill Primary School. The school currently operates at a published admission number (PAN) of 45 and it is proposed that they rise to a PAN of 60 in each year group from 2017. The school currently has two bulge classes (2014/15 and 2015/16) which has seen the school admit 60 pupils in YrR for each of these years.

As class sizes at infants are limited to 30 pupils, maximum, the school already operates two classes in each year. The rise to 60 would continue to see them operate two classes in each year, therefore expansion could theoretically take place within the current buildings and without the loss of recreation space.

However, we will be working with our colleagues in school improvement and in dialogue with the school about the teaching and learning implications for the pupils at Thornhill to ensure that capital works are considered where they are necessary. More detailed proposals for the physical expansion of the school, if needed, will then be shared.

**Responses received for the statutory consultation:
Thornhill Primary School – December 2015**

One response was received over the course of the statutory consultation period.

Received via Email on 02/09/2015

Support indicated: IN PRINCIPLE

Comments:

I am wholly in favour of the proposed expansion but in doing so class sizes should not increase and more teaching staff must be employed as well as support and administration staff.

Response Sent:

Thank you for your reply to the current proposals for prescribed changes to Southampton Schools. Your comments will be passed to the School Organisation and Strategy Manager. If your reply has been received by the published date for final submissions, it will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.