

Consultation on Primary School Expansions Strategy 2009-2013



Section 1: Introduction

This document follows, and should therefore be read in conjunction with, the Richmond upon Thames Primary Strategy for Change¹, which was published in June 2008.

The Primary Strategy outlined the high levels of demand for reception class places, how that demand was forecast to continue, and identified a number of schools as possible expansions to meet that demand. This document builds on that by specifying the Authority's preferred options for expansion, both temporary and permanent, and states reasons for those preferences. In selecting those preferences, we have been mindful of the need to consider: the condition and suitability of schools; the requirements of the Authority's proposed SEN Strategy; and, above all, the patterns of demand for reception class places. Other schools have been considered, but are not preferred options for this phase of expansions.

This document has been circulated to: all primary and secondary phase schools within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames; all elected members of the Authority; all five neighbouring local authorities (Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and Wandsworth); the four diocesan boards who maintain schools within the borough (Anglican London and Southwark, and Catholic Southwark and Westminster); Richmond upon Thames Admissions Forum; Land Securities Trillium; RUTSS; Ethnic Minority Advocacy Group; and parent governor representatives. It has also been posted on the Council's website.

Consultees who wish to respond to the consultation are invited to do so on the pro forma at the end of this document. The closing date for responses is **Monday 2 February 2009**. Responses should be sent to:

Matthew Paul
Deputy Head of Commissioning, Delivery & Service Improvement
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Regal House
London Road
Twickenham
TW1 3QB

m.paul@richmond.gov.uk

Any enquiries on the content of the document should also be addressed to Matthew Paul, by email or by telephoning 020 8891 7588.

Responses will be collated and summarised in an appendix to a report to be submitted to Cabinet on 23 February 2009.

¹ See: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/primary_strategy_for_change_june_2008-2.pdf.

Section 2: Background

- 2.1 The Local Authority has 41 primary phase schools: seven infant, seven junior and 27 primary. Of the 41, 26 are community schools, nine are Church of England and six are Catholic. Of the 34 infant and primary schools, 18 are on the Middlesex side of the Thames and 16 are on the Surrey side.
- 2.2 The number of applications for reception class places in the borough's primary schools for 2007/2008 entry increased by more than 20% to 2,286 from the 2006/2007 figure of 1,896 – against a permanent capacity of 1,937. That level of applications increased further for 2008/2009 entry. Demand has been, and continues to be, highest in three areas: Richmond/East Sheen; St Margarets/East Twickenham; and Teddington. However, a notable feature of the increased demand has been that it has occurred in nearly all areas of the borough, with the result that the 'cut-off' distances have shrunk considerably for schools which use 'home to school distance' as the main oversubscription criterion and that what were traditionally less popular schools are now over-subscribed.
- 2.3 The reasons for the increased demand can be attributed to: significantly increased birth rates; more parents than ever before opting for the state sector as the primary schools' levels of achievement are so high; many small housing developments; many conversions of large houses into flats; and increased social mobility. The birth rate increases are outlined in Table 1 below:

Year	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	2006	2007
Births	2,311	2,568	2,565	2,565	2,626	2,767	2,884

Table 1: Numbers of births registered in London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, 2001/2002 to 2007.

- There was therefore a 25% increase between 2001 and 2007. Similar increases have occurred throughout Greater London, particularly in outer London. The numbers of births in our neighbouring boroughs were notable also: the increases in Hounslow, Wandsworth, Kingston and Hammersmith and Fulham in the same period were 29%, 24%, 20% and 10% respectively. In addition, it is reported that the increase within the Spelthorne area of Surrey, which also adjoins the borough, was high. This paper takes account of the plans, as far as they are available, of those authorities to meet their anticipated increase in demand.
- 2.4 In order to meet the increased demand in Richmond upon Thames, additional temporary places were provided in three schools for 2007/2008 (Holy Trinity, Orleans Infant, and Stanley Infant) and in three schools for 2008/2009 (Holy Trinity, St Mary's and St Peter's, and The Vineyard).
- 2.5 It should be noted that the Authority's ability to meet demand for reception class places is hindered by several factors: the fact that many parents regard the River Thames as a natural barrier; the elongated shape of the borough; traffic density, which makes offering places much more than a mile from home difficult, especially for parents who have younger children and who would be reliant on public transport; and the high levels of demand for places in neighbouring local authorities which means that out-borough parents have been applying in greater numbers for Richmond Borough schools.
- 2.6 The Authority would have much preferred to be in a position to expand schools on a permanent basis during recent years, but until 2008 there had been no

opportunity to bid for Government funding since May 2005. The Government has now allocated £8,897,708 in Basic Need Safety Valve Funding for primary school expansions to the Authority, one of only two LAs in London who were granted funding.

- 2.7 The table below shows the Authority’s whole-borough reception class forecasts from the 2009/2010 school year onwards. They are based upon GLA actual and estimated birth data and on the ‘cohort survival’ method of predicting the number of children who will still be living locally at age 4. It is unclear at this stage whether the sharp birth increase of the last two years has been sustained this year and will be sustained in the next few years. If the birth rate does remain high, then demand, which is likely to be exacerbated by the economic downturn, will require a second phase of expansions which is largely outside the scope of the proposals in this document.

School year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Reception pupils expected	1,995	2,138	2,206	2,171	2,171	2,171	2,171	2,171	2,171
Capacity (without expansions)	1,937	1,937	1,937	1,937	1,937	1,937	1,937	1,937	1,937
Shortfall of places	58	201	269	234	234	234	234	234	234

Table 2: Forecast demand for reception class places within London Borough of Richmond upon Thames from the 2009/2010 intake to the 2017/2018 intake.

- 2.8 The Authority believes that it is right to expand schools on a permanent, rather than temporary, basis where it is possible to do so. Permanent expansion enables the provision of new facilities to accommodate an additional form of entry and therefore gives parents a much greater degree of comfort that their children’s needs would be met. It would also enable a wider curriculum and greater expertise among the teaching staff within the schools concerned. Without permanent expansion, if demand were to stay at or exceed the current level, we could eventually run out of temporary-expansion options.
- 2.8 Table 3, on page 5, shows the Authority’s preferred options, subject to the assent of Governing Bodies, consultation, full feasibility studies and approval. The permanent expansions would produce a net gain of five additional forms of entry, which should be sufficient to meet demand in the medium term. As the chart indicates, one of those five will be achieved by converting a pair of linked three-form entry infant and junior schools (Orleans Infant and St Stephen’s) into two-form entry all-through primary schools. The number and location of temporary classes that will be required in 2010/2011 and subsequent years will be subject to ratification nearer the time and will be dependent upon a policy of meeting demand flexibly, by means of having a pool of schools that would each be willing to accommodate an additional class as and when required.
- 2.9 In 2010/2011, forecast demand is set to reach an abnormally high level, with seven additional forms of entry required, which is forecast to continue for at least the following year, when it seems likely that ten additional forms of entry will be needed. That provision will be widely scattered across the borough, reflecting the fact that demand has increased in most areas. The forecasts in Table 2 are summaries of the ward-by-ward and planning area micro data that we maintain and we are therefore fully confident that the planned expansions, both temporary and permanent, will be in the right locations to meet demand.

- 2.10 The Authority would be grateful if governing bodies which have not been identified as options for expansion would consider putting their schools forward to host temporary reception classes in 2010/2011 and/or subsequent years.
- 2.11 It is likely that the Authority will submit further bids for funding to enable further expansions when the next Government spending period begins in 2011. Decisions regarding further expansion options would be taken in good time, based upon pupil forecasts at the appropriate point. The Authority has already held initial discussions with Darell Primary School regarding possible expansion to two-form entry, which would involve providing new accommodation to raise the school's admission number from 43 to 60.
- 2.12 The expansions outlined in this strategy will include consideration of whether additional SEN provision or community provision, such as space for family learning, would be appropriate, subject to the needs of the area, the level of funding available and the availability of space on the school sites.
- 2.13 Expansions will be subject to the statutory proposal consultation process and to planning permission. It is anticipated that statutory proposals for all the expansion options will be published from February 2009 onwards.

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
Holy Trinity C/E Primary (now 1FE)	2FE	2FE	2FE	2FE	2FE
St Mary's & St Peter's Primary (now 2FE)	3FE	3FE		3FE	3FE
The Vineyard Primary (now 2FE)	3FE				
Orleans Infant (now 3FE)			2FE Pry	2FE Pry	2FE Pry
St Stephen's C/E Junior (now 3FE)			2FE Pry	2FE Pry	2FE Pry
Stanley Infant (now 3FE) *			4FE	4FE	4FE
Stanley Junior (now 3FE) *			4FE	4FE	4FE
Chase Bridge Primary (now 2FE)			3FE	3FE	3FE
AN Other Primary (if required)			By an extra 1FE	By an extra 1FE	By an extra 1FE
AN Other Primary (if required)			By an extra 1FE	By an extra 1FE	By an extra 1FE
AN Other Primary (if required)			By an extra 1FE	By an extra 1FE	By an extra 1FE
AN Other Primary (if required)				By an extra 1FE	
AN Other Primary (if required)				By an extra 1FE	

Red = temporary expansion; green = permanent expansion. FE = form entry.

* It is proposed that as well as being expanded, the Stanley schools will form a new all-through primary school.

Table 3: Proposed expansions to meet forecast excess demand for reception class places from the 2008/2009 intake onwards.

Section 3: Options Analysis

This section gives a full rationale for each permanent expansion option, with the plans for consultation.

3.1 Holy Trinity Church of England Primary

Rationale:

- The school is in the right location to be able to meet additional demand from both the Richmond and East Sheen areas.
- In response to recent demand, it has accommodated an extra reception class in both 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. Demand in North Richmond, South Richmond and East Sheen wards is projected to continue to be high.
- Holy Trinity is a much-improved school and expansion on a permanent basis would help the school to consolidate its improvement. In November 2006 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'satisfactory', with many good features.

Consultation:

- The Governors and the Diocese of Southwark are fully in favour of the planned expansion of Holy Trinity and a full feasibility report has therefore been commissioned.
- A meeting with parents and local residents was held at the school in March 2008.
- Subject to Cabinet agreement to the principle, a statutory proposal to expand the school to two-form entry will be published in February 2009.

3.2 St Mary's and St Peter's Church of England Primary

Rationale:

- The school is in the right location to be able to meet additional demand from the Teddington and Fulwell areas.
- In response to recent demand, it has accommodated an extra reception class for 2008/2009.
- Demand in the Teddington/Hampton Wick and South Twickenham/West Twickenham/Fulwell/Hampton Hill wards is projected to continue to be high.
- The school is popular, oversubscribed and successful, and in March 2008 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'outstanding'.

Consultation:

- The Governors, with the support of the Diocese of London, agreed for a full feasibility to be carried out, and then agreed to expansion in December 2008.
- A meeting with parents was held at the school in November 2008.
- If Cabinet approved the principle, a statutory proposal to expand the school to three-form entry would be published in February 2009.

3.3 Orleans Infant

Rationale:

- The school is in the right location to be able to meet additional demand from the St Margarets/East Twickenham area, which in recent years has been the most problematic area of the borough in terms of meeting demand.
- Demand in St Margarets and North Twickenham/Twickenham Riverside wards is projected to continue to be high.
- It is felt that making both Orleans Infant and St Stephen's Junior into two-form entry primary schools would be a better way of addressing demand than simply making both the current schools four-form entry. This is because: adding enough additional classrooms and resources on the St Stephen's site would be very difficult; and having both schools as primaries would mean that they would serve different areas, in particular St Stephen's would serve residents living north of the A316 who currently find it very difficult to obtain places at Orleans Infant under the 'home to school distance' criterion.
- Orleans Infant is a popular, oversubscribed and successful school, and in November 2007 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'good', with many outstanding features.
- An outline feasibility undertaken in 2006 concluded that conversion into a two-form entry primary could easily be achieved within the existing site area.

Consultation:

- The Governors agreed in the autumn of 2008 to a full feasibility being carried out and will make their decision whether or not to proceed once the report has been completed early in 2009.
- The Governors will, in liaison with the Authority, consult with parents and local residents prior to making their decision. If a decision were then taken to proceed, and Cabinet approved the principle, a statutory proposal to expand the school to two-form entry would be published in February 2009.

3.4 St Stephen's Church of England Junior

Rationale:

- The school is in the right location to be able to meet additional demand from the St Margarets/East Twickenham area, which in recent years has been the most problematic area of the borough in terms of meeting demand.
- Demand in St Margarets and North Twickenham/Twickenham Riverside wards is projected to continue to be high.
- As noted under paragraph 3.3, it is felt that making both Orleans Infant and St Stephen's Junior into two-form entry primary schools would be a better way of addressing demand than simply making both the current schools four-form entry. This is because: building enough additional classrooms and resources on the St Stephen's site for a 4FE junior school would be very difficult; and having both schools as primaries would mean that they would serve different areas, in particular St Stephen's would serve residents living north of the A316 who currently find it very difficult to obtain places at Orleans Infant under the 'home to school distance' criterion.

- St Stephen's is a popular and successful school, and in April 2008 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'good', with some outstanding features.
- An outline feasibility undertaken in 2006 concluded that conversion into a fully rebuilt 2FE primary could be difficult within the existing site area, without an element of remodelling. However, the Local Authority is working closely with the diocese to now undertake a full feasibility to identify if sufficient space can be created through some re-modelling to meet the requirements of a 2FE school.

Consultation:

- The Governors will consider in January 2009 whether they agree to a full feasibility being carried out, and will make their decision whether or not to proceed once the report has been completed later in 2009.
- If they agree to proceed, the Governors will, in liaison with the Authority, consult with parents and local residents prior to making their decision. If a decision were then taken to proceed, and Cabinet approved the principle, a statutory proposal to expand the school to two-form entry would be published later in 2009.

3.5 Stanley 'Primary'

Rationale:

- The school is in the right location to be able to meet additional demand from the Teddington and Fulwell areas.
- Demand in the Teddington/Hampton Wick and South Twickenham/West Twickenham/Fulwell/ Hampton Hill wards is projected to continue to be high.
- It is felt that amalgamating Stanley Infant and Stanley Junior into an all-through primary school would be a better way of addressing demand than making both the current schools into separate two-form entry primary schools, as the latter option would create two schools competing for exactly the same catchment of children.
- Stanley Infant is a popular, oversubscribed and successful school, and in October 2007 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'good', with many outstanding features.
- Stanley Junior is a popular and successful school, and in June 2008 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'good', with some outstanding features.
- An outline feasibility undertaken in 2006 looked at expansion to four-form entry and concluded that it could be achieved. A full feasibility will scope the matter in greater depth.

Consultation:

- The Governors have agreed to a full feasibility being carried out and will make their decision whether or not to proceed once the report has been completed in 2009.
- The Governors of the existing schools have provisionally agreed for the schools to amalgamate, in time for the expansion to four-form entry.
- The Governors will, in liaison with the Authority, consult with parents and local residents prior to making their decisions. If decisions were then taken to proceed, and Cabinet approved the principle, a joint statutory proposal would be published in 2009.

3.7 Chase Bridge Primary

Rationale:

- The school is in the right location to be able to meet additional demand from the Whitton and Twickenham areas.
- Demand in the Heathfield/Whitton, St Margarets and North Twickenham and Twickenham Riverside wards is projected to continue to be high.
- Chase Bridge is a popular, oversubscribed and successful school, and in October 2007 Ofsted rated its overall effectiveness as 'satisfactory'.

Consultation:

- The Governors will consider in early 2009 whether or not to agree to a full feasibility being carried out and will make their decision whether or not to proceed once the report has been completed in 2009.
- The Governors will, in liaison with the Authority, consult with parents and local residents prior to making their decision. If a decision were then taken to proceed, and Cabinet approved the principle, a statutory proposal to expand the school to three-form entry would be published in 2009.

Section 4: Other Considerations

4.1 Legal Implications

The Authority has a duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure that sufficient schools are available for their area for providing primary and secondary education.

4.2 Funding

The Primary Strategy for Change² outlines the sources of funding that are available, namely: Basic Need, Basic Need Safety Valve, Modernisation, Access Initiative, Primary Capital, and Section 106 receipts.

4.3 Risk Assessment

If the Authority and its partners were unable to implement the proposed expansions, it would largely continue to be reliant upon temporary additional classes, which do not represent good value for money and can sometimes be disruptive for schools' organisation. The Authority would also run out of viable options for temporary additional classes in due course, so its long-term ability to provide sufficient places for its residents would be compromised.

4.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

Design of the new build needed will take account of the need to minimise the environmental impact and to create sustainable buildings. Further detail is provided within the Authority's Primary Strategy for Change³.

4.5 Background Documents

- [Report to Cabinet, 10 October 2005.](#)
- [Report to Cabinet, 20 March 2006.](#)
- [Report to Cabinet, 3 December 2007.](#)
- [Director's Report to Governors](#), Autumn 2005, Spring 2006, Summer 2006, Spring 2007, Autumn 2007, Spring 2008, Summer 2008 and Autumn 2008.
- [Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009.](#)
- [Richmond upon Thames Primary Strategy for Change](#), June 2008.

4.6 Timetable for consultation and statutory proposal process

Closing date for responses to this Strategy	2 February 2009
Cabinet considers consultation responses	23 February 2009
Statutory proposals published (for some schools)	27 February 2009
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	31 March 2009
Closing date for responses to statutory proposals	24 April 2009
Cabinet considers responses to statutory proposals	8 June 2009

² See: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/primary_strategy_for_change_june_2008-2.pdf

³ Ibid.

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Pro forma for responses

Name of respondent: _____

School / organisation represented, if any: _____

Capacity in which responding, e.g. headteacher, parent: _____

Do you agree with the strategy? Please tick one answer.

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Please write any comments you wish to make in the space below:

Please return the pro forma, to be received **no later than Monday 2 February** to:

Matthew Paul, Deputy Head of Commissioning, Delivery & Service Improvement,
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Regal House, London Road,
Twickenham, TW1 3QB.

m.paul@richmond.gov.uk