

# Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School

Proposal to expand the school to 210 places  
(on a phased basis) from September 2019

September 2018





## **Introduction**

Each year, Essex County Council (ECC) must ensure that a school place is available for every child requiring one within its administrative border. In doing so we seek to maximise opportunities for parents and carers to gain places for their children at preferred schools, and in turn we support schools so that they may increase the educational achievement and life chances for all young people in their care.

Whilst restraints upon public expenditure make meeting the demand for additional school places harder, this remains a high priority for us. Pressure on places around Little Hallingbury is expected to mount, as the area in close proximity to the village continues to expand on both sides of the Essex/ Hertfordshire border.

Working in partnership with both the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford and Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School, we would like the school to grow by an additional 10 Reception places per year, to bring it to 210 places (one form of entry) once operating at full capacity. In addition to creating extra Reception spaces this would avoid any future need for mixed-age classes and help to secure the school's financial viability going forward (as school budgets are predominantly pupil-led). Further, it delivers an important capital investment to a village school at the heart of its community and increases the scope for local children to seek admission to several higher Year Groups that are currently full. For all of these reasons I believe the measures set out within this consultation document to be an important enhancement to the educational offer available to local parents.

Yet nothing is already decided, and I invite you to tell me your views on the potential expansion of Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School so that I may take full account of them when considering the best way forward.



**Councillor Ray Gooding**  
**Cabinet Member for Education**

## BACKGROUND

The village of Little Hallingbury is located within Uttlesford District, close to the border between Essex and Hertfordshire on the southern approach to Bishops Stortford. In recent times this District – in common with most others in Essex – has been experiencing increased demand for primary school places underpinned by a rising birth rate, and also the emergence of new housing developments within its locality.

For planning purposes, Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School is grouped with Hatfield Heath Primary School, Rodings Primary School, Sheering C of E Primary School and St Mary's C of E Primary School, Hatfield Broad Oak, with which the school is currently federated under the Executive Headship of Mrs Strickland. Latest forecasts suggest continued growth in pupil numbers locally, meaning that additional provision is required *somewhere* within the group to balance future supply and demand for places in the Reception Year. Being closest to the expected area of demand, as well as being the only school within the group that is west of the M11, Little Hallingbury would seem an appropriate location at which to deliver those extra places.

### Pupil Forecasts and Deficit of Primary Places

Amongst its statutory duties, the County Council must ensure that there are sufficient school places available to children living within Essex. To do this it monitors birth rates, new housing developments and patterns of parental preference across groups of schools. This information is then used to forecast pupil numbers, ensuring that demand and supply are appropriately matched throughout each District of the county.

The following table sets out the likely deficit of Reception Year places across Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School's planning group for the next decade, should no additional capacity be created during that time:

Year of admission to Reception	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	2026/ 27	2027/ 28
Reception places available	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
Requirement for places (including housing)	112	124	113	113	116	118	120	121	123	124
Deficit of places (including housing)	-1	-13	-2	-2	-5	-7	-9	-10	-12	-13

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

### **School Expansion Proposal**

Having considered the viability of several potential options within the planning group, ECC decided to approach the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford, in order to explore expanding Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School from 140 places to 210 places (creating a one form-of-entry primary school). Appropriate additional accommodation would be built at the school to support this, enabling it to admit 10 additional Reception children each year. Having worked closely with Mrs Strickland and her governing body on the school's continued improvement under her leadership, the County Council considers that a good outcome should be secured upon its next Ofsted inspection, and that this expansion is the best fit solution available to it at this time. Expanding the school (as described above) will help to meet the growing demand for Reception places within Little Hallingbury, and will enable more children to gain a local school place for those vital early years of formal education, accommodated within a more modern learning environment (bringing with it the scope to support and improve educational outcomes).

### **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 community 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**

ECC has made provision within its Capital Programme to deliver the proposed primary school expansion for September 2019. The County Council publishes its capital programme at [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

## How Can You Make Your Views Known?

The County Council is eager to engage with all interested persons about this proposal to expand Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School. Community engagement sessions have been arranged at the school to provide an opportunity for parents, carers and members of the local community to ask questions of those leading this process and make comments about what is proposed. These will take place in the school hall from **2pm to 4pm**, and again at **6pm to 8pm** on Tuesday, **18 September 2018**.

At this stage no decision has been taken, and all of the views expressed during the consultation period will be considered prior to one being made on whether or not to move to the next stage of the process. Should the final decision stage be reached then this will be taken within the context of the growing need for more primary school places around Little Hallingbury.

## Your Comments

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

<http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/LittleHallingbury>

You may also send written feedback/ comments to:

David Mason – School Organisation Support Officer  
School Organisation Team  
County Hall – E3 Zone 1  
Market Road  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1GS

or get in touch by email using [school.organisation@essex.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@essex.gov.uk)

All comments received through the mechanisms set out above will be collated and included in an analysis of the feedback received.

Essex County Council should receive all written comments no later than close of play on **8 October 2018**. It handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998, and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your responses to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed amalgamation, 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 and/ or proposal you can call David Mason, School Organisation Support Officer, on 03330 131189, or alternatively contact the chair of governors, via Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School.

The information contained in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk. Please call 03330 131071.

### What happens next?

At the end of this consultation period the Cabinet Member for Education 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 10 September 2018 to 8 October 2018. Below is an estimated timeline for the decision process.

Date	Activity
10 September 2018	Consultation period begins. Consultation document can be viewed at: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/EssexCC-Consultations">http://tinyurl.com/EssexCC-Consultations</a>
18 September 2018	Drop in sessions for parents, staff and the local community, to be held in the school hall from 2pm to 4pm, and again at 6pm to 8pm.
8 October 2018	End of consultation period.
October 2018	Decision by the County Council on whether to proceed with the publication of a statutory notice.
November 2018	Publication of Statutory Notice (if decision above is to proceed to next stage).
December 2018	End of period for representations.
January 2019	Decision taken by Essex County Council on expansion proposals.
* 1 September 2019	Little Hallingbury C of E Primary School begins its expansion to become a 210 place primary school.

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