



Maids Moreton Church of England School
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**Proposed expansion of Maids Moreton CE School from an Infant School (Ages 4-7)
to a Combined Primary School (Ages 4-11)**

Questions and Answers Document

Q. What evidence is there to suggest that there is a need to expand provision at Maids Moreton CE School on a permanent basis?

A. There has long been a desire from parents who would like the opportunity for their children to stay on into Key stage 2 (Year 3-Year 6) and finish their primary education at Maids Moreton Church of England School. We also know that significant numbers of houses are planned for the local area over the coming years and this will increase the need for local school places. We would like to provide the continuity and certainty of high quality education for the full primary age range for the local community.

The proposal would make the school more sustainable both financially and educationally in the longer term as small infant schools are coming under increasing pressure and are unlikely to be able to continue to operate with small and/or fluctuating class sizes due to budget pressures. This is exacerbated by children leaving before the end of Key Stage 1 due to concerns about the availability of places at their preferred feeder schools. Expanding the school would provide greater opportunities for staff development and recruitment and retention. It would also provide pupils with a larger peer group with which to socialise and learn as well as improved facilities and greater flexibility and efficiency in the use of staff and other resources.

Q. When would the expansion take place and how many classes would there be?

- A.** The plan is to have a phased expansion beginning with a Year 3 class from September 2021. The first Year 3 class would be our current Reception class pupils. The conversion process would be gradual, taking five years to reach full capacity. We envisage that when at full capacity there would be four classes:
- an EYFS class (Reception)
 - a KS1 class (Year 1 children and Year 2 children)
 - a Lower KS2 class (Year 3 children and Year 4 children)
 - an Upper KS2 class (Year 5 children and Year 6 children)

Q. How would the expansion to the school take place?

- A.** The Local Authority has conducted an initial feasibility study which concluded that the school grounds provide ample scope for expansion and the site is ideal. A new classroom would not be required until September 2023. The building expansion would in all likelihood include the addition of 1 classroom, 1 library, an extension to the school hall and other ancillary facilities. Plans will be drawn up at a later date and a public meeting will be held in advance of any planning application being submitted. This will allow the local community and parents to view the plans and discuss them with the architects and representatives from the Local Authority.

Q. What are the requirements for the proposed building works and what is the planning process?

- A.** The proposed extension would necessitate planning permission. The design would be sympathetic to the style of the existing building and local area.

Q. How would this proposal affect other schools in the area?

- A.** We believe that this expansion would have minimal effect on local schools. Our maximum number of children on roll would only increase by 15, from 90 to 105 pupils. The expansion would remove the need for our feeder school, Buckingham Primary, to keep open places in Year 3 for children from Maids Moreton. Therefore if this proposal was approved there would be no automatic link to the junior feeder school at Year 3 from September 2021.

Q. Would the catchment area change as a result of the expansion?

- A.** We do not anticipate any changes to our current catchment area.

Q. Who would fund the building works?

- A.** The build would be funded by the Local Authority (Bucks County Council).

Q. How would the proposal affect staff at Maids Moreton Church of England School?

The school already has a committed and capable team of staff who are positive about the future and are passionate about providing a high-quality full primary education at Maids Moreton CE School. The Governing Board, Head teacher and staff unanimously support the proposal as they believe it would benefit current and future pupils and the local community and help to keep the school at the heart of village life.

Q. How would the proposal affect pupils at Maids Moreton Church of England School?

A. The expansion would ensure that pupils living in the local area have access to a village Church of England school with provision from Reception to Year 6 giving them an uninterrupted primary education. Siblings would be able to travel to and from school together and attend the same school. The larger peer groups would give pupils increased opportunities to socialise and learn from each other. There would be improved educational facilities, ICT and resources for all children in the school. The proposed size of the school means that in the long term there would be mixed age classes. The Governing Board believe that mixed age classes have significant benefits for pupils. We have prepared a mixed age class fact sheet for parents and prospective parents. This document is available to view on the school website.

Q. Why are we proposing a half form option?

A. The Local Authority School Commissioning team have undertaken significant research into projected pupil numbers in the local area. Their projections would potentially allow them to fund the expansion of Maids Moreton as a half form entry school [15 intake] but not a full form entry [30 intake]. Without their financial support, any expansion is untenable. Furthermore, they will not support any project that puts other local schools in jeopardy, hence the half form option. The half form entry route would provide much greater stability against fluctuations in pupil numbers whilst retaining the small community feel and ethos of our school and meeting parental demand for the school to provide all through education up to the age of 11.

Q. Will there be extra traffic and if so, how will we reduce the impact?

A. The proposal would only increase the maximum number of children on roll by 15 from 90 to 105 and the expansion would be gradual. The vast majority of our children would be local and we believe that many pupils will already have siblings in the school so would travel together. Our aim is to provide a local C of E primary school for local children. Additional parking spaces have already been provided for staff, reducing the number of cars parked on Avenue Road by the recent expansion to the school carpark. The school would continue to promote sustainable methods of travelling to school [walking, cycling] as part of our School Travel Plan. The school has two park and walk facilities with ample parking at the village playing fields and church. Removing the need for parents to move their children to another school at the end of Key Stage 1 would not only improve social cohesion, but would reduce awkward drop off issues for parents.

Q. What is the statutory consultation process for proposals to expand the school?

A. A summary of the statutory stages is provided below:

Stage 1: Consultation

It is best practice for the Local Authority to first consult all interested parties on proposals. There will be a period of seven weeks for consultation on this proposal. The consultation period will commence on 3rd June 2019 and end at 5pm on 22nd July 2019.

Stage 2: Publication of Proposal

Buckinghamshire County Council and the Maids Moreton Governing Board will then consider the views expressed during the consultation period before reaching any final decision on whether to publish proposals in the form of a statutory notice. This would be published in a local newspaper and also posted at the entrance to the school.

Stage 3: Representations

Once proposals are published there is a four-week statutory period during which representations (e.g. support for, objections or comments) can be made. These must be sent to the Local Authority.

Stage 4: Decision

The decisions on the proposal would be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. We would aim for the process to be completed by the end of 2020 subject to the outcome of planning and confirmation of funding.

Q. How will we be kept informed?

A. There would be a public meeting at Maids Moreton CE School during Stage 3 of the process.