

Childs Hill Primary School Expansion Proposal

Childs Hill Primary School is currently rated 'good' by Ofsted and has 45 Reception children starting each September. We are consulting on the proposal to permanently expand the school from one and a half to two forms of entry. This would mean that 60 Reception pupils could join the school each September, starting in 2016. The school would eventually cater for 420 Reception to Year 6 children.

Why are we proposing to create new school places by expanding Childs Hill Primary School?

Demand for primary school places in Barnet is growing rapidly. There has been a 24% increase in births between 2002 and 2013 in Barnet. Since 2002, the number of children born in the local area (Childs Hill, Golders Green and Garden Suburb wards) has increased by 23.4% (from 685 to 845). The Brent Cross regeneration scheme will attract new families, creating additional demand for school places.

The projected shortfall of school places in the local area is shown below. The shortfall is calculated by comparing the capacity of existing schools in the local area with the projected number of pupils. In the scenario where Childs Hill's expansion is not delivered, the projections suggest that in the short term there will be insufficient spare capacity in the local area, with a shortfall of places emerging by 2020. In order to meet the need for additional school places in the local area, the Council is planning ahead in proposing to permanently expand Childs Hill Primary School.

	Without Childs Hill's Expansion (forms of entry)
2016-17	-0.1
2017-18	-0.1
2018-19	0.2
2019-20	0.1
2020-21	-0.1
2021-22	-0.3
2022-23	-0.5
2023-24	-0.9
2024-25	-1.2
2025-26	-1.5

Why Childs Hill Primary School?

When considering schools for expansion, the Council take a range of factors into account, including parental preference, site constraints, and whether the school is Ofsted good or outstanding. The Council's policy is to prioritise good or outstanding schools for expansion to ensure that the school will fill up. The expansion will support the school in managing their finances long term. It is estimated that the expansion will cost £350,000, which provides good value for money compared to similar permanent expansions in Barnet. These costs will be met from the Council's Basic Need Allocations (funding from the Department for Education).