

Building Expansion

Frequently Asked Questions

We have put together these frequently asked questions and answers that have been asked of us by parents and the community. This page will be updated regularly.

Questions and Answers Update July 2016

What date has been set for the planning decision?

The date has been set for the 14th July 2016

What was the outcome of the planning meeting on the 14th July?

The decision was deferred because the councilors want clarification on the number of site parking spaces and road safety.

What happens next?

The points for deferment will be debated at a planning meeting for which we will be advised of the date.

Why is the expansion needed?

Farnborough Primary School is an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' school. The Government has made funding available as part of the Department for Education (DfE) Targeted Basic Needs Programme to expand schools like ours; where there is a need for high quality school places.

Farnborough is an excellent school which is always forward thinking; planning for the best opportunities for our children, staff and families. The expansion is needed to accommodate the growth of the pupil population in the Crofton and Farnborough ward that we serve. We will also be able to provide our pupils with enhanced facilities for teaching and learning across the curriculum including: sports, music and arts.

What will the impact of the expansion be on Farnborough pupils?

The expansion of the school will provide our pupils with: new classroom spaces, state of the art facilities for ICT including infrastructure and hardware, improved learning resource rooms to facilitate research and pupil support. There will also be a new small hall/studio, medical room and sick bay looking after pupils' health and well-being. Ultimately, all these improvements will ensure that our children have new learning opportunities and support fit for the 21st century.

The building programme itself will also bring the additional benefit of a real life learning opportunity. Our pupils will be offered a range of activities linked to construction including health and safety, design, using IT in construction and applying maths skills that will develop their understanding of progress, succession planning and hands-on, practical real-life learning which can be used across the whole curriculum.

What will be the impact on our children's curriculum?

The curriculum and learning opportunities will be enhanced rather than impacted on in any negative way. With regard to the physical environment; three classes will be rehoused in modular buildings for the duration of the build and they will be fully equipped. These will be sited on the willow walk and next to the BT land. The banking will be dropped to playground level to aid accessibility. Groundworks to accommodate these classrooms will not take away any of the hard playground space. Once the building is completed these classrooms will be removed and the space will become *additional* hard playground space.

The curriculum areas will continue to be broad and balanced providing rich learning opportunities for our children.

Are lunchtimes going to be extended in order to facilitate additional pupils joining the school?

No, each year group will have one hour for lunch with the exception of the Reception classes who need an additional ten minutes to support them in their routines. The school lunchtime runs from 11.50am to 1.30pm in order to accommodate universal free school meals. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a hot school lunch free of charge.

Will my child do less PE because the school is two-form entry?

No, each year group will experience the full PE curriculum as recommended by the DfE of 2 hours a week. Sport and physical education will take place both indoors and out with opportunities to participate in a range of extra-curricular sporting activities.

What is happening to the library?

The library has always been a part of a larger resource room. From September the library will become a defined room which can be independently accessed and as part of the expansion plan will be relocated into a larger space in our existing building.

Will my child have less access to ICT whilst the building programme is ongoing?

No, the expansion programme enables the school to introduce wider usage of mobile technology in the form of laptops and ipads, to support the curriculum and the development of computer skills. There will also be resource centres for our existing ICT hardware which will provide lunchtime and after-school facilities.

Will there be sufficient toilet facilities for the number of children in school?

Yes, the school follows the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines at all times. Improvements to the existing facilities will enable the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and infants to access their own bathrooms from September taking us over and above the guidelines and the expansion programme will see further upgrades to the toilets.

What are the current timescales for the expansion?

A planning application is presently with the local planning authority and it is due to be discussed at committee at the end of July 2016. A date has not yet been agreed for the decision.

What are the timetables if planning consent is approved?

Groundworks will begin early in the Autumn term with completion expected late Spring 2017.

What if the planning is not approved?

The school will review the objections received and after taking appropriate advice will decide if there are grounds for an appeal. Given grounds, the school will begin the appeals process which can take up to 26 weeks.

If you have any further questions that you would like to ask, please send them to the Chair of Trustees.

via email:

pchandler@nexustrust.org

Or by post:

P Chandler, Chair of Trustees (via the school office), you will either receive a direct response or it will be published on this page if it is a frequently asked question.