

24th November 2022

School Expansion Proposal

Dear Resident / Local Business / Neighbouring School / Prospective Parents

Wixams Tree Primary School have been working in partnership with Bedford Borough Council to increase its capacity in response to the ongoing and future shortage of primary school places, in Wixams. This will ensure that the Borough can meet the needs of its primary age students, by providing school places.

As a local resident, business owner or neighbouring school, we are keen to hear your views on this proposal.

In 2022-23 we were asked by Bedford Borough Council to take on an extra form of entry into Reception due to a bulge in need. We are now proposing to make this extra form of entry permanent year on year so that our capacity in each year group expands from 60 to 90 increasing the total capacity for the school from 420 to 630. It is likely the school will expand gradually in Y2-6 due to in-year admissions as new residents move into Wixams over the next few years. Bedford Borough Council have provided capital funding to increase the number of classrooms on the school site and we consulted on the planning permission for this earlier this year. Bedford Borough Council have now recently confirmed they will fund the pupil funding for this expansion for the next 4 years starting in September 2023 due to the shortage of school places and have consulted with all schools in the area on this aspect.

We have written to our parents/carers and shared these plans with prospective parents. We encourage local stakeholders to share their views on our plans to meet pupil need in the area. There will be a stakeholder meeting at Wixams Tree Primary on Tuesday 6th December at 4.10pm and we also encourage you to share your views by email at expansionconsultation@BCAT.co.uk. The consultation is open for a period of 4 weeks from November 24th to December 22nd, 2022.

With best wishes



Hywel Jones
Chief Executive Officer



Mary Langley
Headteacher

