

19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## **School Expansion Consultation Response**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware we recently consulted with you on the proposed increase of pupil capacity for Wixams Tree Primary in response to the ongoing and future shortage of primary school places in Wixams. We received 5 responses in total and raised the following practical issues for us to consider:

### **1. Wrap-around childcare**

A key theme in the consultation responses was for us to consider expanding the number of places of our wrap-around childcare provision in-line with the proposed expansion of places. We will conduct a feasibility exercise for this in March and expect further communication from us then. If there is a clear demand for the expansion of wrap-around childcare we would look to support this.

### **2. Lunchtime catering**

Another key theme in the consultation responses was the potential problem the increase in pupil number could cause to the serving of food at lunchtime. As you are aware we have been working closely with Dolce, our new catering provider, to expand the range on offer at lunchtime and to make sure that food is served to time. The number of catering staff will increase as the pupil numbers increase and we will look to use the additional space at lunchtime to make sure that we can cater for any increase in pupils. As mentioned in the consultation correspondence we expect the increase in pupils to be gradual over the next 5 years.

### **3. Traffic on Green Lane**

Whilst the traffic situation during drop-off and pick-up time has improved over the last year it is still a concern and was raised in the consultation responses. Bedford Borough Council are working with the relevant property developers in Wixams on the extension of Green Lane so that it becomes a through road. This will mainly solve the issue and we will keep you updated on this. Over the last year we have seen an increase in the number of pupils walking or cycling to school as the local infrastructure has improved.

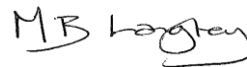


Although the consultation has now closed we will continue to keep you updated on this development and if you have any further queries on the proposed expansion then feel free to get in touch at [expansionconsultation@BCAT.co.uk](mailto:expansionconsultation@BCAT.co.uk).

With best wishes



Hywel Jones  
Chief Executive Officer



Mary Langley  
Headteacher