

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF BLABY THISTLY MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 210 TO 420 PLACES

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations)(England) Regulations 2013 that Leicestershire County Council proposes to increase the capacity of Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School from 210 to 420 pupil places.

1. Name, address and contact details of proposer

Leicestershire County Council, School Organisation Service, Children and Family Services, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF
Tel: 0116 3050970
Email: SchoolOrgService@leics.gov.uk

2. Name, address and category of school

Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School (DFE No 2115)
Hospital Lane, Blaby, Leicester, Leicestershire LE8 4FE
A Community School.

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

An expansion of the school which will increase its capacity from a 210 place school to a 420 place school, with the school's published admission number increasing from 30 to 60 pupils per year group. The increase to 60 will initially apply to the reception year group only which will then feed through the school year on year with the remaining year groups retaining the current admission number of 30 in the interim. It is proposed that this will have effect for admissions which are due to start on or after Monday, 23rd August 2021.

The increase in numbers will be accommodated by providing additional accommodation comprising of a new 6 classroom block, hall extension and internal alterations to enable the school to increase capacity due to pupil growth in the area.

There are currently 211 pupils on roll (as at the school Autumn Term Census 2019). This figure is forecast to increase to 380 within the next 5 years due to the increase in birth rate and additional housing which cannot be accommodated in the current schools within the local area. The school' catchment area is being extended to include part of Countesthorpe Village as the primary school in the village of Countesthorpe is unable to extend.

4. Objectives

Leicestershire County Council proposes to increase the permanent capacity of Thistly Meadow Primary School to meet the demand for school places in the extended catchment area, both at

the current time and in the future.

The proposals will allow the school to provide additional classes to cope with the increasing demand arising from the increasing birth rate and number of new housing developments within the Blaby/Countesthorpe area.

The project fulfils Leicestershire County Council's statutory obligation of providing sufficient school places and to try to ensure pupils are able to attend their local primary school. The changes will also assist schools in improving educational standards by preventing excessive class sizes and will also ensure parental choice is maintained through the provision of the additional places.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational establishments within the area

There are 9 other Leicestershire primary schools within 2 miles of Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School: Blaby Stokes C of E Primary School (0.53 miles), Whetstone St Peter's C of E Primary School (0.83 miles), Whetstone Badgerbrook Primary School (0.99 miles), South Wigston Parkland Primary School (1.11 miles), Countesthorpe Greenfield Primary School (1.19 miles), Glen Hills Primary School (1.28 miles), South Wigston Fairfield Community primary School (1.76 miles), Cosby primary School (1.77 miles), Narborough Greystoke Primary School (1.91 miles).

The expansion of the school and catchment area into Countesthorpe is expected to relieve the pressure for places in Countesthorpe and the overfilling of Greenfield Primary School.

It is not anticipated that there will be any effect on other schools, academies and educational establishments within the area.

6. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The project to increase the capacity at Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School from 210 to 420 will cost an estimated £2.2 million. The project is funded from Basic Need Capital Programme for 2019/20 and S106 developer contributions.

The County Council uses the SCAPE framework for procuring works of this nature and regularly reviews the costs per square metre and per pupil to ensure long term value for money. The additional accommodation will be built to appropriate building and DfE requirements to ensure it can be used long term.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

It is proposed that the school will increase in capacity from a 210 place school to a 420 place school with effect from Monday, 23rd August 2021. In line with this the school's published admission number will increase from 30 to 60 pupils. This increase to 60 will initially apply to the reception year intake only for 2021, feeding through the school year on year unless there is a need for increases to other year groups.

The new school accommodation is expected to be completed in the Spring Term 2021 to enable the school to increase the number of admissions for the 2021/22 school year.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any interested party may support, object to, or make comment upon the proposal by sending them to School Organisation Service, Children and Family Services, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF or by email to SchoolOrgService@leics.gov.uk

The closing date for comments and objections is 24th March, 2020.

Signed: Lauren Haslam
Director of Law and Governance

Date: 25th February, 2020