

More school places in the Ascot area for primary school children

Consultation Summer 2016

We're asking you about providing new school places in Ascot.

We need more primary school places in the Ascot area, starting in September 2017.

This is because of planned new housing and families moving into the area.

We have some ideas about how to provide these new places. We now want your views on those ideas.

You can read more details about those ideas inside this consultation document.

**There will be a public meeting on:
Monday 4th July 2016, 7pm, Cordes Hall, Sunninghill.**

You can give us your views by completing the form in the centre of the booklet.

**You can also respond online at:
<https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/consultations>**

**Responses must be received by
Friday 15th July 2016.**

**We expect to make decisions about which
option(s) to go ahead with this summer.**

Your views needed

In this document 'Ascot area' refers to the whole area, unless noted otherwise. The Ascot area includes:

**Cheapside
Sunningdale**

**North Ascot
Sunninghill**

South Ascot

In recent years, most year groups in the five primary schools in the Ascot area have been full, or close to full. This has meant that there have not always been local school places for families moving into the area.

In addition, we expect up to 1,300 new dwellings to be built in Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale between now and 2030, which will further increase the demand for primary school places. We don't yet know when these new houses and flats will be built, and so we want to agree a set of proposals for new school places that can be implemented when needed.

We expect that the first new primary school places will be created in time for September 2017.

That's why the Royal Borough is asking for your views on school expansion in the Ascot area. Our options are summarised opposite, and addressed in more detail in the rest of this document.

What you say matters...

Parents, staff, governors, dioceses and community organisations are all being consulted. Your views are vital so please take time to be part of this consultation.

Public meeting – all welcome:

Monday 4th July 2016, 7pm, Cordes Hall, 8 High Street, Sunninghill. There is no on-site parking, but parking is available at the nearby Queens Road and Upper Village Road public car-parks.

You can tell us what you think by:

- Completing the online response form at www3.rbwm.gov.uk/consultations.
- Completing the paper response form (in the centre of this document) and:
 - returning it to your school, who will forward it on to us; or
 - posting it to Ascot Places Consultation, Zone F, Town Hall, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF.
- Writing to the address above.
- Emailing ascot.places@rbwm.gov.uk

The closing date for your comments is Friday 15th July 2016.

What happens after the consultation finishes?

The Royal Borough's Cabinet will consider the outcome of the consultation on 25th August 2016. At this meeting councillors will take your views into account before making any decisions. Cabinet will consider which option, if any, should be implemented in time for September 2017. It will also agree a priority order for the other options, to be given the go-ahead at a later date if needed.

If Cabinet does approve an option to provide new school places for September 2017, then we will publish a formal proposal in September 2016, with a four week representation period to allow objections to/comments on the proposal to be submitted. A final decision would then be made in late October 2016.

Primary schools in the Ascot area

There are five primary schools in the Ascot area.

School	Location	Places per year group (Published Admission Number or PAN)
Cheapside CE Primary School	Cheapside	16
Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Sunningdale	Sunningdale	30
St Francis Catholic Primary School	South Ascot	30
St Michael's CE Primary School	Sunninghill	30
South Ascot Village Primary School	South Ascot	30

North Ascot, although within the Royal Borough, is served by the Bracknell Forest schools, Ascot Heath Infant, Ascot Heath CE Junior and Cranbourne Primary School.

A map showing the location of the schools can be found on the back page of this document.

A summary of the options

We are consulting you on a number of options for providing new primary school places in the Ascot area. These are summarised below, with more detail given in the rest of the document.

The Royal Borough has agreed a provisional priority order for the options currently being considered, subject to this consultation. A combination of options is likely to be necessary to provide the extra places we need.

Options for new primary school places in the Ascot area...

Priority Option

- Option A – Cheapside CE Primary School.**
Expand from **16** to **30** places per year group.
- Option B – South Ascot Village Primary School.**
Expand from **30** to **60** places per year group.
- Option C – Holy Trinity CE Primary School.**
Expand from **30** to **60** places per year group.
- Option D – A new primary school.**
Build a new primary school on a currently unidentified site, with **30** children per year group.



No decisions
have been taken
on **any** options.

The Royal Borough is not currently considering expansion at either St Michael's CE Primary School or St Francis Catholic Primary School. Both schools are on sites with limited opportunity for expansion. Either school could, however, be relocated and expanded onto a larger site if one became available and if those school communities agreed. This could be an option for the longer term.

Why do we need extra school places?

Local demand...

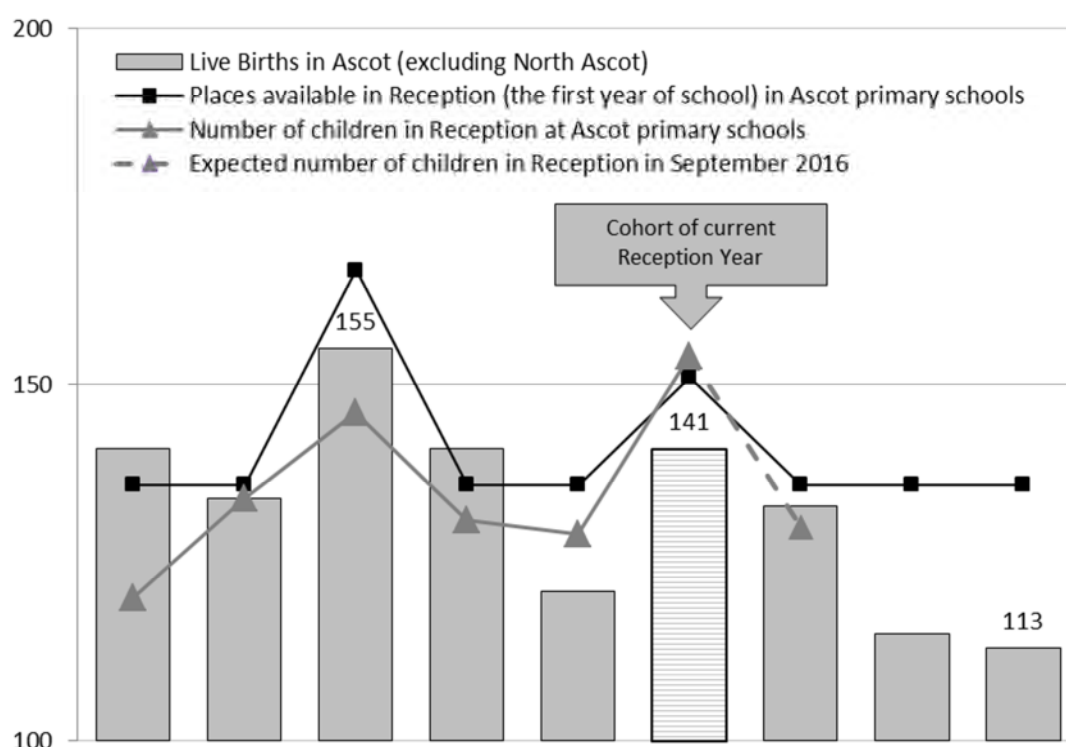
The number of children born in Ascot has fallen in recent years, which has led to a fall in the demand for Reception places in the five primary schools in September 2016.

The chart below shows, by year of start in a primary school Reception class:

- The number of Live Births in Ascot (the grey bars).
- The number of Reception places available in Ascot (the black line).
- The number of children on roll in Reception each year in an Ascot school (the grey line).

These figures exclude North Ascot, which is served mainly by Bracknell Forest primary schools.

Number of children born in Ascot, by year that they start in Reception at a primary school



Source: Office of National Statistics and RBWM annual pupil census

	Actual intakes						Future intakes		
Reception Intake Year (September)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Year of births	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Age as at 31 st August 2015	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Live Births	141	134	155	141	121	141	133	115	113
Permanent Places	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136
Bulge Class Places	0	0	30	0	0	15	0	0	0
Total Places	136	136	166	136	136	151	136	136	136
Reception Intake	120	134	146	131	129	154	130	n/a	n/a

The number of live births in the Ascot area peaked at 155 with the cohort of children who went on to start primary school in September 2012. Since then, the number of live births has generally been falling, so that just 113 children were born in the cohort that is due to start primary school in September 2018.

The national birth rate has also fallen in recent years.

We believe, therefore, that we already have enough Reception places for children starting school in the Ascot area in both 2017 and 2018. It is possible, however, that the local birth rate will increase again at some point over the next decade.

New housing...

The number of new dwellings built each year in the Ascot area is, on average, about 60.

In 2014 Ascot residents approved (in a referendum) the Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan. This plan considered housing needs in the local area and identified a number of large sites that would be suitable for new housing. These sites could provide an extra 50 new dwellings per year. Overall, this would mean around 1,300 new flats and houses in Ascot by 2030.

These sites include:

- Ascot North (north of Ascot High Street).
- Ascot South (south of Ascot High Street).
- Land at Ascot Station.
- Heatherwood Hospital site.
- Shorts Yard, off St George's Lane.
- The Gasholder site, Sunninghill.
- Site at Broomhall Lane, Sunningdale.
- Sunningdale Park.
- Silwood Park, Sunninghill.

We don't know exactly what will be built on these sites until housing developers submit planning applications, but it is likely that many of the new dwellings will be three and four bedroom properties.

On this basis, 1,300 new homes could bring between **300** and **650** extra primary school age children into the area. Although some of these children would go to independent schools or schools in other local authority areas, we could need between 45 and 90 extra primary school places per year group by 2030.

The impact of these new dwellings is likely to be spread out over the next fifteen years, but we need to start planning for this additional demand now.

Movement into the area...

In recent years most year groups in the five primary schools have been full. This has created difficulties for families moving into the area and we have had to ask schools to take more children than they have space for in some year groups. Without more places, and even without any new housing, there is a risk that some children may have to be placed in schools outside the area.

To avoid this, we are keen to provide new school places in the Ascot area by September 2017 at the latest.

Having some spare places available...

The Royal Borough would also like to provide more primary school places so that there are some spare – surplus - places in the system. This is important because it means that:

- More families are likely to be offered a place at their preferred school.
- There are spaces available for families moving into the area.
- There is spare capacity in case demand for places is higher than anticipated.

Ideally we want to have up to 10% surplus places in Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale. In January 2016, six out of the seven primary school year groups had 2% or fewer spare places.

Funding new school places

Work on finding out the likely cost of providing the required new primary school places is now beginning. Most of the funding will come from limited government grants given to us for the specific purpose of creating new school places. This grant is already under pressure from the need to provide new secondary school places in Ascot and elsewhere in the borough. There is also some money available to us from housing developers, who are required to contribute towards the cost of providing new infrastructure.

As might be expected, some of the options given here are more expensive than others. The Royal Borough will need to consider these different costs, as well as a range of other factors, when considering which options to take forward. It is important that the cost of the expansion works is affordable, using the limited funding outlined above.

What happens if no new places are provided?

If none of the options go ahead then some children will be left without school places. Other children would find themselves taught in schools that are overcrowded or farther away from their home than their families would like.

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New Primary Places – Option A: Cheapside CE Primary School

Cheapside CE Primary School is situated in the village of Cheapside, and is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school. It has an admission number of 16, making it the smallest primary school in Ascot.

The proposal for Cheapside involves increasing the admission number from 16 to 30 for the Reception intake. Subsequent intakes would also be for 30 children. As these larger year groups move up through the school, the overall number of places at Cheapside will increase from the current 112 to 210. To help provide more places for families moving into the area, however, the school will also take additional children into other year groups once the building project is complete, if needed.

Cheapside currently has to combine its year groups of 16 into classes of 30, which means that each class has two year groups in it. If the school expands, however, they will be able to teach each year group as a separate class.

To expand, the school will need three new classrooms, associated toilets and a small group room. This could involve the loss either of the swimming pool or the biodiversity pond. Staff parking would need to be increased. The school will also need to lease an adjacent parcel of land that is currently owned by Sunninghill Parochial Charities. The heavily wooded site will require some clearing to make it suitable, but the school want to retain it as a mainly wooded area, creating a 'forest school' environment. The charity has agreed in principle to lease the site to the school, subject to a satisfactory lease agreement between both parties.

If we do proceed with this option, then the school may also need to consider changing the formal designated (catchment) area so that it covers a wider area.

Headteacher:

Mrs Kate Searle

Ofsted Inspection Judgement:

Outstanding (2007)

Address:

Watersplash Lane
Cheapside, Ascot
SL5 7QJ

Website:

www.cheapsideschool.org.uk

School Type:

Voluntary Aided



Numbers on roll (September) (excluding nursery)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PAN (Published Admission Number)	16	16	16	16	16	16
Reception Intake	17	17	16	16	16	16
Surplus (spare places) +/-	-1	-1	-	-	-	-
Net Capacity (capacity of buildings)	112	112	112	112	112	112
Total Number On Roll	112	114	112	113	118	115
Surplus (spare places) +/-	-	-2	-	-1	-6	-3

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Cheapside CE Primary School have considered the proposal and “are fully in support of proposed expansion plans to increase Year Group numbers from 16 to 30, thus going to one form entry.”

Advantages:

- ✓ The school is graded ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted.
- ✓ The school is popular, and is usually oversubscribed at Reception intake on first preferences.
- ✓ The school will be able to teach in whole year group classes, although this will be phased in as pupil numbers slowly increase.
- ✓ Expansion could be achieved quickly, allowing for more Reception places to be offered by September 2017.
- ✓ The borough would be able to provide places to children in other year groups as well, as the school is willing to take extra children in all year groups once the extra accommodation is provided.
- ✓ With more children on roll, the school will receive more funding. This will assist with the school’s longer-term financial viability, ensuring that the school can continue to serve the local community and deliver high quality teaching and learning.
- ✓ Larger schools can find it easier to recruit staff, and there are more opportunities for professional development.
- ✓ Bigger budgets and additional staff can make it easier to deliver a broad curriculum and improve outcomes for all.
- ✓ The leasing of the adjacent, wooded, parcel of land will create an attractive ‘forest school’ environment.
- ✓ This scheme costs less than the other options, although it also delivers fewer places.

Disadvantages:

- ✗ The school is located outside three main villages in the Ascot area, although it is still less than two miles away from most of the area.
- ✗ The school is in the Green Belt, and so we would need to prove that there are Very Special Circumstances that justify the new buildings.
- ✗ The expansion could lead to issues with congestion, parking and safety on-site and on local roads. We would work with the school to improve their existing pupil drop-off/pick-up arrangements to minimise any impact.
- ✗ The school site is not currently large enough for the proposed 210 pupils, which means that we will need to lease an adjacent parcel of land from the Sunninghill Parochial Charities. Although this is agreed in principle, we still need to negotiate a final agreement that is acceptable to all parties.
- ✗ There will be an annual cost to the lease of this land, which will need to be met from existing budgets.
- ✗ As with all of the options, expansion at Cheapside will not provide enough places for all of the expected demand. One or more of the other options would also probably need to go ahead in due course.

New Primary Places – Option B:

South Ascot Village Primary School

South Ascot Village Primary School is situated in South Ascot. The school is a Community school, with an admission number of 30, and also has a nursery class.

The proposal for South Ascot Village Primary involves increasing the admission number from 30 to 60 for Reception intake. Subsequent intakes would also be for 60 children. As these larger year groups move up through the school, the overall number of places at South Ascot Village Primary will increase from the current 210 to 420.

The school has already taken one 'bulge' class, in September 2012, to cope with a peak in demand in Ascot.

To expand, the school will need up to six new classrooms, associated toilets and group rooms, and either an extended main school hall or a second large space. This would probably be achieved by building a first floor onto the single-storey Foundation Stage building (at Liddell Way). Staff parking would need to be increased.

South Ascot Village Primary School already serves the whole Ascot area, with the exception of North Ascot. It would not be necessary to make any changes to the school's designated (catchment) area.

Headteacher:

Mrs Kate Rimell

Ofsted Inspection Judgement:

Good (2015)

Address:

All Soul's Road
Ascot
SL5 9EA

Website:

www.southascotvillageschool.org.uk

School Type:

Community



Numbers on roll (September) (excluding nursery)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PAN (Published Admission Number)	30	30	60	30	30	30
Reception Intake	22	28	39	26	23	31
Surplus (spare places) +/-	+8	+2	+21	+4	+7	-1
Net Capacity (capacity of buildings)	210	210	240	240	240	240
Total Number On Roll	167	193	204	211	200	209
Surplus (spare places) +/-	+43	+17	+36	+29	+40	+31

The Headteacher and Governing Body of South Ascot Village Primary School have considered the proposal and support it, saying “*The Head and Governing Body are very supportive of the proposals to expand primary provision, and would very much welcome this to occur at our School following public consultation.*”

Advantages:

- ✓ The school is graded ‘Good’ by Ofsted.
- ✓ The school is located in South Ascot, close to some of the larger sites identified for new housing in Ascot (Heatherwood, Ascot High Street and Ascot Station).
- ✓ The site is large enough to enable the school to take the extra children, while still leaving plenty of playground and outdoor space.
- ✓ The school site is not in the Green Belt.
- ✓ With more children on roll, the school will receive more funding. This will assist with the school’s longer-term financial viability, ensuring that the school can continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning.
- ✓ Larger schools can find it easier to recruit staff, and there are more opportunities for professional development.
- ✓ Bigger budgets and additional staff can make it easier to deliver a broad curriculum and improve outcomes for all.
- ✓ The school already serves the whole of the Ascot area, and so it will not be necessary to change the school’s designated area.
- ✓ This scheme should minimise disruption for children at the school, because the most likely option will be to build a first floor onto the Foundation Stage building, away from the main school.

Disadvantages:

- ✗ The school is not usually oversubscribed on first preferences.
- ✗ The expansion could lead to issues with congestion, parking and safety on-site and on local roads. We will be working with the school to build on their existing pupil drop-off/pick-up arrangements to minimise any impact.
- ✓ It is highly unlikely that this building project could be achieved for September 2017, making it more appropriate that expansion here happens later.
- ✗ As with all of the options, expansion at South Ascot Village Primary will not provide enough places for all of the expected demand. One or more of the other options would also probably need to go ahead in due course.

New Primary Places – Option C: Holy Trinity CE Primary School

Holy Trinity CE Primary School is situated in Sunningdale. The school is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, with an admission number of 30.

The proposal for Holy Trinity Primary involves increasing the admission number from 30 to 60. Subsequent intakes would also be for 60 children. As these larger year groups move up through the school, the overall number of places at Holy Trinity Primary will increase from the current 225 to 420.

The school has already taken one 'bulge' class, in September 2015, to cope with a peak in demand in Ascot.

To expand, the school will need six new classrooms, associated toilets and group rooms, and an internal alteration to increase the size of the hall. This would probably be achieved by either building a new two storey block at the front of the school or putting a first floor over some of the existing classrooms. Staff parking would need to be increased and the arrangements for off-site parental drop-off of children would need to be developed.

If we do proceed with this option, then the school may also need to consider changing the formal designated (catchment) area, so that it covers a wider area.

Headteacher:
Mrs Pamela O'Brien

Ofsted Inspection Judgement:
Good (2014)

Address:
Church Road
Sunningdale
SL5 0NJ

Website:
www.holytrinityschsunningdale.co.uk

School Type:
Voluntary Aided



Numbers on roll (September) (excluding nursery)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PAN (Published Admission Number)	30	30	30	30	30	45
Reception Intake	25	31	31	29	30	47
Surplus (spare places) +/-	+5	-1	-1	+1	-	-2
Net Capacity (capacity of buildings)	210	210	210	210	210	225
Total Number On Roll	207	211	210	212	216	232
Surplus (spare places) +/-	+3	-1	-	-2	-6	-7

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Holy Trinity CE Primary School have considered the proposal and agree it should be put to public consultation.

Advantages:

- ✓ The school is graded 'Good' by Ofsted.
- ✓ The school is popular, and is usually oversubscribed at Reception intake on first preferences.
- ✓ The school is located in Sunningdale, close to some of the larger sites identified for new housing in the Ascot area (Broomhall Lane and Sunningdale Park).
- ✓ The site is large enough to enable the school to take the extra children, while still leaving enough playground and outdoor space.
- ✓ The school site is not in the Green Belt.
- ✓ With more children on roll, the school will receive more funding. This will assist with the school's longer-term financial viability, ensuring that the school can continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning.
- ✓ Larger schools can find it easier to recruit staff, and there are more opportunities for professional development.
- ✓ Bigger budgets and additional staff can make it easier to deliver a broad curriculum and improve outcomes for all.

Disadvantages:

- ✓ The expansion could lead to issues with congestion, parking and safety on-site and on local roads. We would work with the school to build on their existing pupil drop-off/pick-up arrangements to minimise any impact.
- ✓ There would be disruption for children and staff during construction of extensions to the existing school buildings. The works would also affect the playground and staff parking.
- ✓ It is highly unlikely that this building project could be achieved for September 2017, making it more appropriate that expansion here happens later.
- ✓ The school is in a conservation area, which could make construction of the new buildings relatively expensive.
- ✓ As with all of the options, expansion at Holy Trinity will not provide enough places for all of the expected demand. One or more of the other options would also need to go ahead in due course.

New Primary Places – Option D:

A new primary school

Another way of meeting the demand for primary places is to build a new school. As there is only limited capacity on our existing school sites to expand, it may be necessary to build a new school, particularly if more of the new dwellings are family homes.

No specific site has currently been identified for this and the borough does not own any suitable sites of a sufficient size in Ascot. A landowner would, therefore, need to make land available for a school. The Ascot Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group is already in discussion with local landowners about some potential options.

A site for a 210 place primary school would need to be about 1 hectare (2.5 acres) in size, whilst a 420 place primary school would need about 1.6 hectares (4.0 acres). Much of Ascot area is in the Green Belt, which could make it difficult to get planning permission. A new site will also have many of the same issues with traffic congestion and parking as an existing school, although it may be easier to address via an on-site drop-off/pick up arrangement if the site is large enough.

Any new school would almost certainly be an academy, which is a state-funded school independent of local authority control, known as a 'free' school. If the Royal Borough decides that a new primary school is needed to meet demand, then we will need to work with the DfE to find a sponsor for the free school. This could involve running a competition to identify the best partner.

Having identified the need for a free school, the costs of land purchase, capital and start-up costs would probably have to be met by the Royal Borough.

If a new school is built, we would need to work with schools to consider whether the current designated (catchment) area boundaries should be redrawn.

Advantages:

- ☑ A new school site would increase the choice of provision in Ascot.
- ☑ Building works could be undertaken without disruption to pupils at existing schools.
- ☑ Building on an empty site should be relatively straightforward.
- ☑ If a site of sufficient size can be found, then it will be possible to allow an on-site drop-off zone and significant amounts of parking, although obviously we hope that the location would allow most children to walk to the school.

Disadvantages:

- ☒ No site is currently identified and it may not be possible to find a suitable, affordable, site.
- ☒ It is unlikely that a new school could be opened before September 2019, unless an appropriate building/site of sufficient size became available quickly.
- ☒ Building a new school will be significantly more expensive than extending an existing one.
- ☒ Most of the Ascot area is in the Green Belt, which means that any new school site is also likely to be in the Green Belt. This could make it difficult to get planning permission.
- ☒ A new site may have significant additional costs if, for example, it is a brownfield site that needs clearing and/or decontamination.
- ☒ Alternatively, a new site may have significant additional costs if it is a greenfield site, and needs a new access road and services (water, electricity, sewage) provided.
- ☒ Any new site may well have existing uses that need to be relocated or re-provided elsewhere.
- ☒ A new school is not immediately deliverable, as a site needs to be found, as well as a sponsor for the new school. This option is only likely to be implemented, therefore, in the longer term.
- ☒ We would need to change the designated area boundaries for the local primary schools.
- ☒ Unless we were to build a very large primary school, even this option might not provide enough places for all of the expected demand. One or more of the other options would also probably be needed.

Map showing schools in Ascot



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The map above shows the location of the primary schools in Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale. The schools indicated in black circles above are those directly affected by this consultation exercise.

1. Cheapside CE Primary School
2. Holy Trinity CE Primary School
3. St Michael's CE Primary School
4. St Francis Catholic Primary School
5. South Ascot Village Primary School

Pull-out Response Form

This is your opportunity to have your say about the proposed options for new primary school places in Ascot.

You can respond by:

- Using this pull-out form and sending it either direct to the address below or to your school (who will send it on to us)
- Writing to Ascot Places Consultation, using the address below.
- Emailing ascot.places@rbwm.gov.uk.



**Your
views
matter**

You can view this document online at <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/consultations>. An online response form is also available here.

The closing date for your responses is Friday 15th July 2016

Section 1 – About You

You do not have to provide this information but it would be helpful if you would complete these details about yourself. The information will be used solely for consultation analysis.

1. Name:

2. Address:

Postcode:

3. I am (please insert the school name where applicable):

A parent of a pupil at:

A governor at:

[illegible]

A member of staff at:

A resident (please specify area):

Other (please specify):

Please return this form either to your school for them to return to us or to:

Ascot Places Consultation
Zone F, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF

All views received by **Friday 15th July 2016** will be taken into account before any final decisions are made. All responses will be publicly available (with personal details blanked out) unless expressly requested otherwise.

If you have any questions about the proposal or need further information, please call 01628 796572, or email ascot.places@rbwm.gov.uk.

Section 2 – New Primary School Places – Your Views

4. Given that new places are required for children living in Ascot, please indicate your preferred solution(s) below.

Please rank the options in order of your preference, from **1 (Best)** to **5 (Worst)**. You do not have to rank every option if you do not want to.

If you do not support the option at all, or have no view on it, please put a cross in the appropriate box on the right.

Options		My preferred options, in ranked order, are:	I do not support this option.	I have no view on this option.
		Rank 1 to 5	Mark with an 'x'	Mark with an 'x'
Option A	Expand Cheapside CE Primary School from 16 to 30 places per year group.		☐	☐
Option B	Expand South Ascot Village Primary School from 30 to 60 places per year group.		☐	☐
Option C	Expand Holy Trinity CE Primary School from 30 to 60 places per year group.		☐	☐
Option D	Build a new primary school in Ascot		☐	☐
Option E	An alternative suggestion. Please give details below:		☐	☐

- 5. Comments. If you have any comments relating to the above options please give these below (you may use a separate sheet if necessary).**

The closing date for your responses is Friday 15th July 2016

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