

Consultation - A proposal to create primary education provision at Eaton Leys, Milton Keynes

What is this consultation proposing?

This six week consultation from 12 October 2020 to 22 November 2020 is seeking views about the proposal to create a new primary school at Eaton Leys. The purpose of this document is to provide background information behind the proposals and feedback will be used to help finalise the specification for the new school.

What role does the council have in school place planning?

The council has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children who are living in Milton Keynes. This duty has to be met in the context of significant growth in new housing in the Milton Keynes area. By 2026, almost 300,000 people will live in Milton Keynes rising to 325,000 by 2037 (currently 262,000). Of particular importance to new families is the ability to obtain a local place at a quality school for their children. Although the pace of growth in Milton Keynes makes this a challenge, we have continued to achieve this due to excellent partnership work with our local stakeholders. Since 2014, the pupil population has increased by just over 5,000 children and we have opened five new schools and completed 23 expansion projects to accommodate these additional pupils.

The council outlines its plan to ensure sufficient school places each year in its 'School Place Planning Forward View'. Where there is projected need the council plans for new places in advance, working with Headteachers and governing bodies to agree expansion of schools in areas where we know there will be extra demand in the coming years. This includes expanding successful schools within their existing sites, or on to additional sites to meet local

demand, as well as creating new schools in areas of development.

What is driving the need to consider new education provision at Eaton Leys?

The area of Eaton Leys is located in the South of Milton Keynes. This area is currently served by 11 primary schools and two secondary schools. An outline planning application for a residential-led development including up to 1,800 dwellings, distributed between Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes was proposed for this area but so far only the Milton Keynes element has been permitted. Within Milton Keynes the initial development will include up to 450 dwellings, a local centre to include retail and a community centre, a possible health facility and has reserved land for a one form of entry primary school. House building is expected to start in the autumn of 2020 with first occupations expected in the summer/autumn of 2021. This consultation is seeking views from stakeholders as to whether a one form of entry primary school is needed on the development of Eaton Leys. A new school would provide 30 places per year group from Year R to Year 6 with a total of 210 places and will also include nursery provision.

What is the proposal?

The proposal is to deliver a new primary provision offering 30 places from Year R to Year 6 and nursery provision. In order to address the needs of the local population, it is likely that a new school would open initially with a reduced admission number with more places released gradually in line

with growth from the new housing development. This would address the demands of the expected new homes in the Eaton Leys development. The table below provides general information about the school provision required:

Proposed opening date	1 September 2023
Phase	Primary Gender: Mixed Age Range: 4 – 11 years
Number of places	Total capacity: 210 (with an additional nursery) 30 places in Years R to Year 6
Catchment area	It is anticipated that the school will serve residents living in the Milton Keynes area of Eaton Leys. Residents of the Aylesbury Vale area of Eaton Leys will be considered as 'out of catchment'.

Next steps

This consultation provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the proposal for education provision in Eaton Leys. At the end of the consultation, officers will consider all comments made and make a recommendation to the Lead Member for Children and Families on whether to proceed to the next stages; this will include submitting a planning application for the school build project and running a free school presumption competition that will be launched in the spring term of 2021. This will be open to multi academy trusts that are able to deliver high quality education and establish the school ready for opening in September 2023.

How can I contribute to this consultation?

This consultation seeks views from all stakeholders including schools, parents and carers, local residents and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. Please respond by completing the online survey or by email, stating your name, organisation, whether you are a parent or local resident and your comments to:

sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

or in writing to:

Education Sufficiency
Milton Keynes Council
Civic
1 Saxon Gate East
Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

This consultation will end on 22 November 2020