

Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School, Maldon

Consultation on a proposal to enlarge the premises of the school and increase its capacity to 630 places from September 2025

May 2024



Essex County Council

Introduction

The County Council must ensure that there is a school place every year for each child in Essex. In doing so we want to take every opportunity to allow more parents to send their child to their preferred school and to support schools to increase the educational achievement and life chances of all young people.

There is predicted to be continued pressure on school places in Burnham-on-Crouch. Additional primary school places will be required from 2025 onwards. We have been working with the schools in the area to find solutions to meet the additional need. Whilst meeting the increased demand for places has been made harder by the restraints on public expenditure, providing sufficient school places remains a high priority for the County Council.

In response to this growth in the demand for primary school places we are seeking your views on a proposal to expand Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School permanently from 420 places to 630 places, making it a three forms of entry primary school. We show in this document why we consider it necessary to provide new school places in this part of Essex from 2025 onwards.

I invite you to let me have your views on this proposal. All the views expressed will be taken into account by the Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability when he decides whether to publish a statutory notice about the expansion.



**Clare Kershaw Director,
Education**

BACKGROUND

The number of children in primary schools in this area of Essex has increased over the last few years because of births, families moving in and new housing. Latest forecasts indicate that this increase in pupil numbers is ongoing and additional provision is required to balance future supply and demand for local school places.

Pupil Forecasts and Deficit of Primary School Places

Essex County Council (ECC) has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children living in the county. In order to do this we monitor birth rates, new housing developments and patterns of parental preference across groups of schools. This information is used to forecast pupil numbers and to ensure there are sufficient school places across the county.

The following table shows a forecast for the availability of Reception places over the next ten years in the planning group Maldon Primary E: Southeast (Burnham & Southminster), as shown in ECC's "10 Year Plan – Meeting the demand for school places in Essex - 2024 to 2033".

E. Southeast (Burnham & Southminster)

Current PAN: 135

Current Capacity: 975

Reception Place Forecast

| Year | 24/25 | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 | 31/32 | 32/33 | 33/34 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| +/- | 11 | -14 | -13 | -6 | -5 | -6 | -7 | -7 | -7 | -8 |
| Burnham-on-Crouch Primary, Southminster CE Primary, St Mary's CE Primary | | | | | | | | | | |

Number on Roll (NOR)

| Year | NOR |
|-------|-------|
| 24/25 | 961 |
| 25/26 | 989 |
| 26/27 | 1,003 |
| 27/28 | 1,001 |
| 28/29 | 1,001 |

Project Pipeline

| School | Year | Description | Places |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------------|--------|
| Burnham-on-Crouch Primary | 25/26 | 1 form entry expansion | 210 |

At present there are 135 Reception places available amongst the three schools in the planning group with a total capacity of 975 places. The forecast suggests that from September 2025 onwards this will not be enough places for all children who will need a school place. In mitigation of this the addition of 30 Reception places at Burnham-on-Crouch Primary is shown in the 'Project Pipeline'.

Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School is a popular and successful school. Expanding permanently to 630 places will allow the school to plan more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.

How Can You Make Your Views Known?

ECC is seeking the views of all interested persons about the proposal to expand Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School. At this stage no decision has been made on the expansion proposal and all the views received will be considered prior to a decision being taken as to whether to go ahead with the proposal.

This consultation is about whether you think an expansion at Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School is needed, given the predicted increase in the number of local children needing a school place.

If the expansion is approved additional accommodation will be needed at the school. To ensure that the local community understands the new building's potential implications, the County Council will undertake a pre-application exhibition at the school once design work on the new accommodation is sufficiently advanced. Parents and members of the local community will be given the opportunity to review the latest draft proposals and to provide feedback prior to submission to the County Planning Authority as a full planning application, should the expansion go ahead.

The proposed expansion and decision process is outlined below.

You are invited to respond to this consultation using the following electronic survey form:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/bocps>

You may also send feedback and comments to:

School Organisation Team
school.organisation@essex.gov.uk
County Hall
Market Road Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

All comments received through these mechanisms or made directly to council officers or members will be collected and included in the analysis of feedback received.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the consultation process or the expansion proposal you can call or email Mark Pincombe, School Organisation Officer, on 03330 131151 and Mark.Pincombe@essex.gov.uk

Alternatively, you may contact the chair of governors of the school via the school office.

School Expansion Proposal

It is proposed to expand Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School permanently from 420 places to 630 places by building new accommodation at the school, making it a three forms of entry primary school. This would enable the school to admit 90 Reception children each year, an increase of 30 each year over the current intake. The intention is that school will grow incrementally over time with successive intakes of 90 increasing the number of children at the school by 30 each year, until the maximum of 630 pupils on roll is reached.

Admissions

The admissions criteria and priority admission area for the school would not change as a result of the proposed expansion.

Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements would remain in line with the home to school transport policies of Essex County Council. The school will review and update its existing Travel Plan and will work to encourage sustainable methods of travel to school such as walking, scooting and cycling.

Building Work

Initial work has been undertaken to explore options for expanding the school which include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum.

The new building will include new classrooms, group space, practical space, and staff accommodation, as well as storage and toilets.

Site surveys, and detailed design work, are being undertaken which will lead to a proposed design for the additional accommodation. Once the design for the new accommodation is sufficiently advanced, ECC propose to undertake a pre-application exhibition at the school. Parents and members of the local community will be given the opportunity to review the latest draft proposals and to provide feedback. ECC will consider all comments received prior to submitting a detailed planning application to the County Planning Authority. A summary of the pre-application consultation responses will also accompany the submitted planning application.

Funding

The County Council has made provision in its Capital Programme for the proposed school expansion. The Council publishes its capital programme at www.essex.gov.uk

What happens next?

At the end of this consultation period the Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability will consider all feedback and views expressed by interested parties during the consultation and will make a decision on whether to proceed with the school expansion proposal. The governing body of the school will also consider the feedback from this consultation and decide if it still wishes to support the proposal.

Timeline

The consultation period will run from 13 May 2024 to 17 June 2024. Below is the expected timeline for the decision process:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 13 May 2024 | Consultation commences – consultation document can be viewed: https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-organisation-and-place-planning/consultations-and-statutory |
| 22 May 2024 | Drop-in session for parents/ carers, staff and the local community to be held at the school between 3pm and 6pm. |
| 17 June 2024 | End of consultation period |
| July 2024 | Decision by ECC on whether to publish a Statutory Notice |
| July 2024 | Publication of Statutory Notice (if decision above is to proceed with the expansion process) |
| August 2024 | End of four-week period for representations |
| August 2024 | Decision taken by Essex County Council on expansion Proposal |
| * September 2025 | Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School expands to become a 630-place primary school |

* This stage will apply only if the proposal is approved by the County Council.

All written comments should be received by ECC by 17 June 2024. ECC handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your responses to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed amalgamation and not for any other purpose. We will not give information about you to anyone outside the County Council.

The information contained in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk. Please call 03330 131071.

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