

# **Tendring Primary School**

**Consultation on a proposal to enlarge the premises of the school and increase its capacity to 210 places from 2023**

November 2021



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 support schools to increase the educational achievement and life chances of all young people.

As is the case across many parts of Essex there is predicted to be continued pressure on school places in the part of Tendring District covering Little Clacton, Tendring, Thorpe and Weeley. Additional primary school places will be required from 2023 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 Tendring Primary School permanently from 140 places to 210 places, making it a one form of entry primary school. We show in this document why we consider it necessary to provide new school places in Tendring from 2023 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 Tendring area has experienced a rise in the demand for primary school places in the last few years as a result of births, families moving in and new housing. Latest forecasts indicate continued growth in pupil numbers 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 Tendring Primary Schools Planning Group 1, as shown in ECC's "10 Year Plan – Meeting the demand for school places in Essex - 2021 to 2030". The planning group includes Engaines Primary School and Nursery, Rolph CE Primary School, St. Andrew's CE Primary School and Tendring Primary School:

Year	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
+/-	9	12	3	1	-2	-6	-11	-15	-19	-24
Engaines Primary, Rolph CE Primary, Tendring Primary, Weeley St Andrew's CE Primary										

At present there are 118 Reception places available amongst the schools in the planning group. The forecast suggests that in September 2023 there will only be three spare Reception places, reducing to only one spare place in September 2024 with a deficit of places forecast thereafter. Keeping the same number of Reception places would leave very little headroom from 2023/24 onwards and small increases in expected numbers, possibly caused by more families than expected moving to the area as a result of Brexit or the pandemic, could mean that children would not be able to access a local school place. It is prudent therefore to plan to increase the number of places available from 2023 to reduce this risk.

Longer term forecasts indicate that there will be further growth in the area, potentially increasing above the 10 additional places proposed at Tendring Primary School. The number of children registered with a GP will continue to be monitored, as will the actual numbers of pupils in schools. Total number on roll information in the 10 Year Plan shows that across the planning group there are very few spare places and a deficit overall is forecast from 2022/23 onwards. If the school is expanded the additional accommodation will help to ease this pressure. If pressure on school places continues to rise in the longer term a further expansion may be required at a school in the planning group.

Tendring Primary School is a popular and successful school and to help meet the demand for places in the area it has already admitted additional pupils in some year groups. Expanding permanently to 210 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 Tendring 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. A final decision will be taken in the context of the need for primary school places in Tendring.

This consultation is about whether you think an expansion at Tendring 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 ECC is proposing to undertake an exhibition at the school, in addition to this consultation. This will give the community an opportunity to provide feedback on the design of the additional accommodation being proposed, should the expansion go ahead. The exhibition will be held once design work on the new accommodation is sufficiently advanced.

The 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/tendring-expansion>

You may also send feedback and comments to:

School Organisation Team  
[school.organisation@essex.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@essex.gov.uk)  
County Hall – C418  
Market Road  
Chelmsford CM1 1GS

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 Kevin Wilby, School Organisation Officer,

on 03330 131147 and [kevin.wilby@essex.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.wilby@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 Tendring Primary School permanently from 140 places to 210 places by building new accommodation at the school, making it a one form of entry primary school. This would enable the school to admit 30 Reception children each year, an increase of 10 over the current capacity.

Expansion of the school will provide more places to meet the growing demand in Tendring and will enable more parents to gain a place for their child at their preferred local school.

## **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 and the existing Travel Plan would be reviewed by the school.

## **Building Work**

Initial work has been undertaken to explore options for expanding and remodelling the school which include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum. Site surveys, and detailed design work, are being undertaken which will lead to a proposed design for the additional accommodation. We propose to stage an exhibition at the school to share these plans with the community when they are sufficiently advanced.

## **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](http://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 4 November 2021 to 2 December 2021. Below is the expected timeline for the decision process:

4 November 2021	Consultation commences – consultation document can be viewed: <a href="https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation-and-place-planning/consultations-and-statutory-proposals">https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation-and-place-planning/consultations-and-statutory-proposals</a>
17 November 2021	Meetings for parents, staff and the local community to be held at the school at 2pm and 7pm
2 December 2021	End of consultation period
January 2022	Decision by ECC on whether to publish a Statutory Notice
Early February 2022	Publication of Statutory Notice (if decision above is to proceed with the expansion process)
Early March 2022	End of four week period for representations
May 2022	Decision taken by Essex County Council on expansion proposal
* 1 September 2023	Tendring Primary School expands to become a 210 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 2 December 2021. 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.