

The Headteacher of Whitchurch Primary School explains about the new classroom:

“Over recent years we have been experiencing applications for admission to Whitchurch Primary School that regularly exceed the number of places we have available. Our Planned Admission Number (PAN) has been 15 which means the local authority (Oxfordshire County Council) can allocate up to 15 children to places in our Reception class each year.

For admission in 2014, we were once again in the position where we had more applications from children in catchment (Whitchurch village and Whitchurch Hill) than we had places. From the information we had access to, it seemed likely that this would be similarly oversubscribed in the future too.

We believe the role for our school is to provide an excellent education for children from local families. After detailed consideration, the Governing Body therefore decided that we will accept an increased intake (20 children) in 2014 and confirm our intention to increase our Planned Admission Number to 20 from September 2015 onwards. This means that the Local Authority can allocate up to 20 children to our school in subsequent years.

Naturally, we sought to balance our commitment to providing for children in catchment, with the need to ensure that there is no detriment to the education of the children already enrolled in school.

The most significant practical issue we faced is that the building does not offer enough space to teach up to 140 children in the current configuration. We currently accommodate 126 children. Oxfordshire County Council committed to providing funding towards the cost of creating an additional teaching space. As you may be aware, capital funding for schools is extremely limited in all authorities. Oxfordshire’s commitment to us is a reflection of the importance that they believe this school expansion is to the local community. This expansion will be a gradual process and with the school not being at full capacity (140 pupils) until September 2017.

We are delighted to say the new classroom has now been installed and we look forward to welcoming our Year 5 and 6 pupils in to their new classroom in September.

Dawn Chesters ”