



Investing in the future for Wallingford families

St Nicholas and Fir Tree schools
expansion 2026

Consultation meeting 17 September 2024

Welcome & introductions

AGENDA

1. **Vision for Wallingford** – Barbara Chillman, Oxfordshire County Council
2. **Vision for St Nicholas & Fir Tree** – Anne Dellar, ODST & Gordon Joyner, ODBE
3. **Transition in 2026** - Anne Dellar, ODST & Gordon Joyner, ODBE
4. **Next steps**
5. **Q&A: transition and education questions**
6. **Q&A: community & site-related questions**

Vision for Wallingford

Barbara Chillman

Oxfordshire County Council

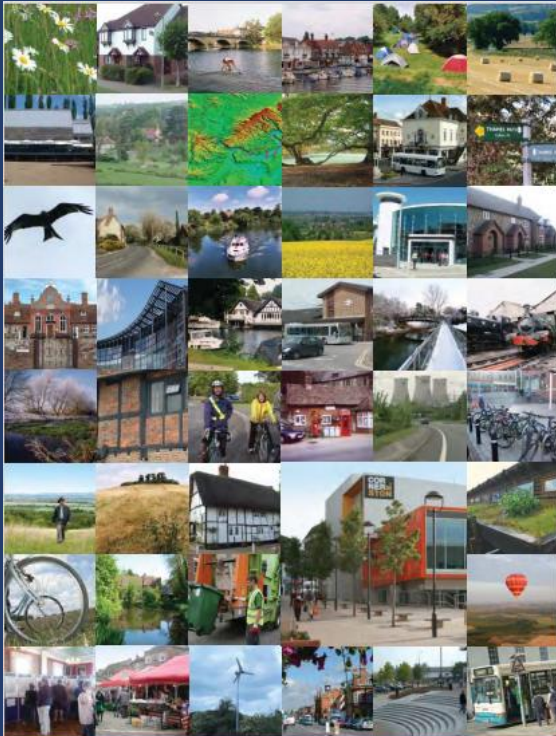
Vision for Wallingford

Oxfordshire County Council's role:

- Legal responsibilities for sufficiency of school places, children's wellbeing and reducing inequality; champions of educational excellence
- Strategic planning of school places for housing growth
- Capital funding for new and expanding schools to meet population growth
- Coordination of admissions to schools
- Collaborative working with academy trusts



Vision for Wallingford

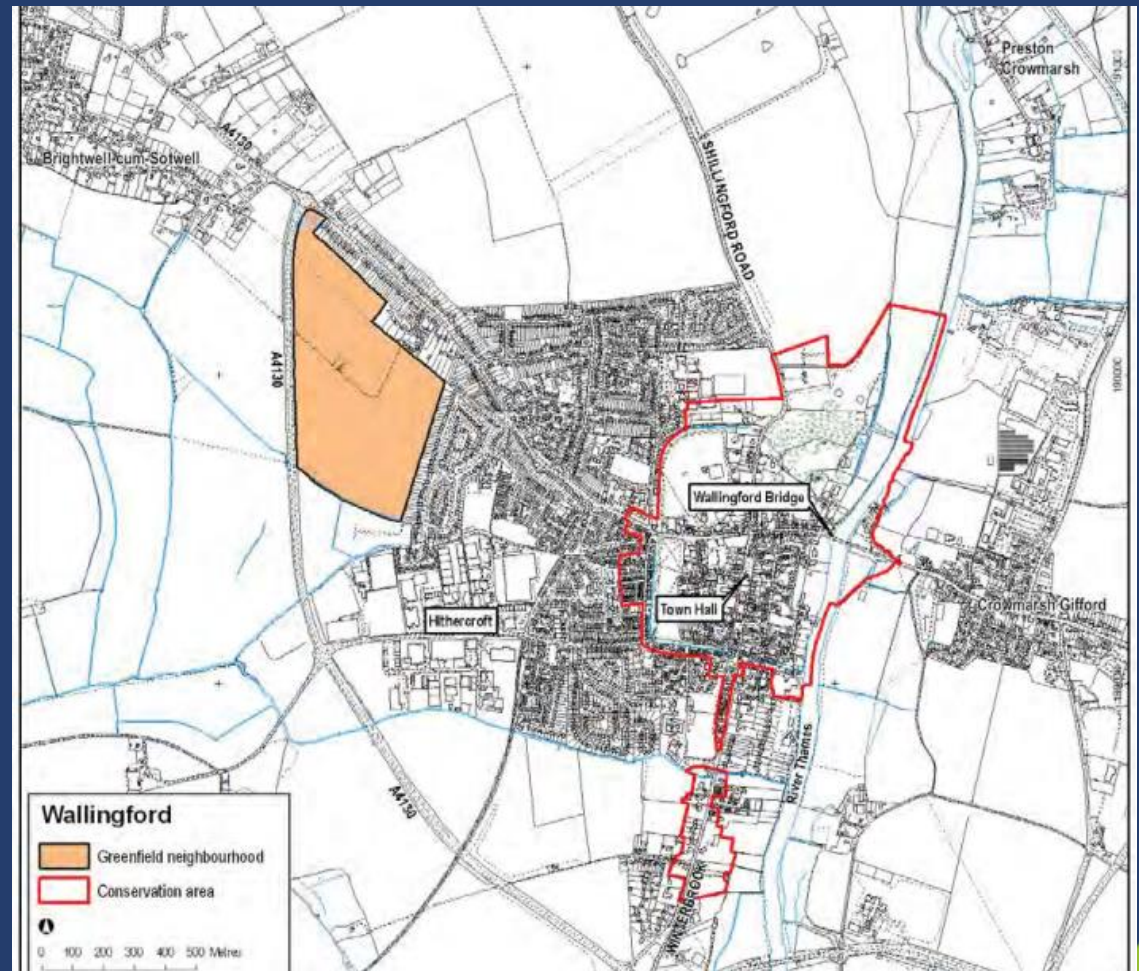


South Oxfordshire
District Council
Listening Learning Leading

South Oxfordshire
Core Strategy

December 2012

Part of the Local Plan



Vision for St Nicholas and Fir Tree

Anne Dellar & Gordon Joyner

Why are we running this consultation?

As part of the plan for education in Wallingford, St Nicholas and Fir Tree are expected to become all-through primary schools from September 2026.

- We want to ensure that families understand what this change means, and how we plan to continue providing the high-quality education these schools already offer.
- We want to gain your feedback to help us implement the plans in the most effective way for your families.
- We are required to consult as part of the planning, in order for the DfE to approve the new arrangements.

What are we consulting on?

- St Nicholas CE Infants' School becomes St Nicholas CE Primary School for 3-11 year olds, providing key stage 2 education for the first time.
- Fir Tree Junior School becomes Fir Tree Primary School for 3-11 year olds, providing nursery, reception and key stage 1 education for the first time.

Both schools offer high-quality education and work together closely. This will not change, and the close working between the two will help both become high-quality primary schools. The schools will also remain as part of the same multi-academy trust, ODST.

Vision for 2026 – transition arrangements

For children already enrolled at the schools, a transition plan for September 2026 will be developed with feedback from you as parents and carers, so that we can best meet the needs of you and your children.

We'll explore this in more detail a little later.

Vision for 2026

- The schools may open to different year groups progressively. For example, we don't anticipate St Nicholas having a Year 4, 5 or 6 in 2026 or Fir Tree opening Year 1 and 2.
- Both schools are likely to have capacity for up to 30 children per year group, for Reception starters in September 2026.
- The new St Nicholas site will be built to have capacity for 45 children per year group in the future, to meet demand as it arises from new housing. This would also be met with an increased number of classes and staffing as necessary.

Vision for 2026

- Admissions catchment areas are likely to overlap.
- This gives families more choice in the future than the current arrangement.
- A separate admissions consultation will run for September 2026 admissions onwards. As is normal in admissions policies, a set of admissions criteria will be in place.

St Nicholas: a brand new building

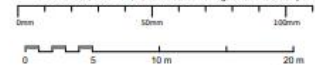


St Nicholas: a brand new building

St Nicholas CE Primary School will be located in a brand new, modern purpose-built building on the Highcroft estate.

- The new buildings are planned to be finished in summer 2026 for the school to occupy from September 2026.
- Built to latest standards with new hall, nursery, 7 classrooms and specialist spaces with scope of expansion when needed.
- For September 2026 the site is accessible by vehicles with a car park near to the school. There is also a footpath from the southern end of Fir Tree Avenue.
- A second footpath access from the northern end of Fir Tree Avenue is expected to be available for September 2027, once the developer has finished a particular phase of housing.

Responsibility is not accepted for errors made by others in scaling from this drawing.
All construction information should be taken from figured dimensions only.



- Key**
- Basic teaching
 - Kitchen
 - Learning resources
 - Non-net area
 - Nursery
 - Staff
 - Storage
 - SEN

Rooflight / canopy overhead

➔ Main Entrance

➔ Staff Entrance/Community Entrance

----- Potential Future Classroom Split

Proposed GIA Schedule	
Name	Area
GIA	2063 m ²

70 GIA Department Schedule	
Department	Area
Basic teaching	564.6 m ²
Kitchen	32.0 m ²
Learning resources	28.2 m ²
Non-net area	206.1 m ²
Nursery	29.2 m ²
Staff	14.7 m ²
Storage	145.6 m ²
SEN	170.8 m ²

Reference Models:
SNPS-HYD-90-XX-M-CS-0001
SNPS-STL-ZZ-M-L-0001

Notes:
For elevations referenced on drawing, refer to drawing SNPS-STL-32-00-D-A-20000
For sections referenced on drawing, refer to drawing SNPS-STL-33-XX-D-A-30000/30001

STATUS	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	REVISOR
D2	T03	25/07/24	Presentation Issue to School for Review prior to CEMS	RB
D2	T02	15/07/24	Drawing amendments following 4P comments and tender room change	SW
D2	T01	28/06/24	Tender Issue	SW
S3	PO3	17/06/24	4P Comments Addressed	SW
S3	PO2	13/06/24	Stage 4 Issue	SW
S3	PO1	17/06/24	Stage 3 Submission	SW

CLIENT: Oxford Dioceses Board of Education
ORIGINATOR NO: 156513

CONSULTANT:
STRIDE TREGLOWN
www.stridetreglown.com © Stride Treglown Limited 2027

PROJECT:
St Nicholas CoE Primary School
Wallingford, Oxford

DRAWING TITLE
GA Ground Floor Plan

SUITABILITY STATUS		SCALE
D2 : SUITABLE FOR TENDER		1 : 200 @ A1
PROJECT ORIGINATOR ZONE LEVEL TYPE ROLE CLASS NUMBER	REVISION	
SNPS-STL-31-00-D-A-10003	T03	

Fir Tree: brand new facilities

Fir Tree Primary School will remain on the same site, with new purpose-built facilities designed for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children.

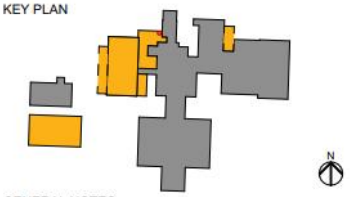
- There will be purpose designed nursery and reception classroom completed for September 2026.
- Various other alterations and refurbishment.
- A good quality modular classroom will be provided in September 2025 to facilitate the work and provide for any bulge classes from September 2026.
- Work is designed to be undertaken around the existing guide hut.

- KEY**
- Site Area = 19,780 sqm
 - Ownership Boundary —
 - Site Boundary —
 - Secure Line —
 - Emergency Access - - -
 - Supplementary Area
 - Soft Outdoor PE
 - Soft Informal and Social Area
 - Non-Net Building Footprint
 - Hard Outdoor PE
 - Hard Informal and Social Area
 - Non-Net Area
 - Proposed Construction



Proposed Site Plan - Option A Phase 1 1:1000

Client Name:	Oxford Diocesan Board of Education	Drawing Name:	Option A: Proposed Site Phase 1
Project Name:	Wallingford Fir Tree Junior School	CDE File Name:	2402 - THB - ZZ - ZZ - DR - A - SK20 - P05
Site Address:	Radnor Road, Wallingford, OX10 0NY	Print Size:	A3 - L2
Project Number:	2402	Drawing Number:	SK20
		Status:	S0
		Revision:	P05

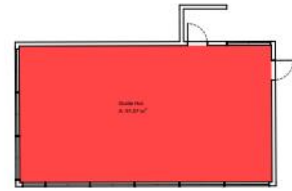


GENERAL NOTES
 All works to comply with the Building Regulations and completed to the satisfaction of Building Control. All works must be completed to the minimum standard required by Building Control & NHBC except where the standards required on these drawings are higher, in this case the specification on these drawings should be followed.

All works to comply with relevant British Standards and codes of practice including BS 8000. Works to be undertaken in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation, adopting safe methods of working and in accordance with manufacturers' product literature and H&S data sheets.

Drawing should be read in conjunction with relevant Structural and M&E design information, and Contractor to check all levels, dimensions and heights on site before commencing.

CHANGE MANAGER
 Change Description By



Proposed Ground Floor Plan

1:200

P01	Preliminary Issue	12/09/2024	BA	BA
Rev	Issue Status	Date	By	Chd

Thinking Buildings

Oxfordshire: 01295 236 246 | Derbyshire: 01332 416 405
 email@thinking-buildings.co.uk
 www.thinking-buildings.co.uk

Client Name:	Oxford Diocesan Board of Education			
Project Name:	Wallingford Fir Tree Junior School			
Site Address:	Radnor Road, Wallingford, OX10 0NY			
Drawing Name:	Proposed Floor Plan			
CDE File Name:	2402	- THB	- ZZ	- ZZ - DR - A - 0054 - P01
Print Size:	Project No:	Drawing No:	Status:	Rev:
A2 - L	2402	0054	S0	P01

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Transition to the new schools

Anne Dellar & Gordon Joyner

Proposed transition to the new school structure

The needs of children and families are at the heart of all decisions made by ODST, and we'd value your feedback on September 2026 proposals. We want to do this in a way which meets your needs as much as possible, while still providing high-quality education.

- Children currently change schools once during their primary school education (from St Nicholas to Fir Tree at the start of Year 3). It is our proposal that they will still only need to change schools once, which for some children will be during the transition period.
- We do not expect that children that have already moved to Fir Tree before September 2026 will have to move again.

This is an exemplar model – there may be changes as it progresses.

Proposed transition to the new school structure

- Children currently in Year 1 move either to Fir Tree for Year 3 as normal, or remain at St Nicholas (on the new site). Between the two schools there will be enough space for all current children. We will work with you to try and arrange this to suit your preferences as much as possible.
- We expect that children currently in nursery and Reception will remain at St Nicholas but on the new site.
- From September 2026, children joining Reception in either school will normally remain in that school until the end of Year 6.

This is an exemplar model – there may be changes as it progresses.

What might this mean for my child?

For children currently at Fir Tree Junior School:

Current year group	Year group in Sept 2026	Arrangements for September 2026
Year 6	Year 8	Secondary school
Year 5	Year 7	
Year 4	Year 6	Children will remain at Fir Tree
Year 3	Year 5	

This is an exemplar model – there may be changes as it progresses.

What might this mean for my child?

For children currently at St Nicholas Infants' School

Current year group	Year group in Sept 2026	Arrangements for September 2026
Year 2	Year 4	Children will remain at Fir Tree
Year 1	Year 3	Some children will join Fir Tree Primary School, and some children will remain at St Nicholas CE Primary school (on the new site).
Reception	Year 2	Children will remain at St Nicholas CE Primary School (on the new site).

This is an exemplar model – there may be changes as it progresses.

What might this mean for my child?

For children currently at St Nicholas nursery or other early years settings, and applying for September 2025 or September 2026 entry to Reception:

Current year group	Year group in Sept 2026	Arrangements for September 2026
Nursery (joining Reception in Sept 2025)	Year 1	Children will remain at St Nicholas CE Primary School (on the new site).
Nursery (joining Reception in Sept 2026)	Reception	Children start at either St Nicholas or Fir Tree primary schools. Applications will be made through the normal schools application process, during the admissions window of October 2025-January 2026.

This is an exemplar model – there may be changes as it progresses.

Transition to the new schools

Whichever school children attend in 2026, St Nicholas and Fir Tree will continue to provide the same high-quality education that they currently do.

Teachers are trained in primary education, rather than infant or junior education, and can adapt their teaching to a wide range of ages and needs. Staff already work very closely together and will do more in the coming years. Some staff may move from one school to another, but staff movement is common regardless of changes to schools.

Next steps

- Feedback and questions received during the consultation period will be compiled, and responses and further information published.
- The plans will be submitted to the relevant DfE authority for scrutiny and formal approval.

Next steps

- Parents and carers will be updated on the progress of plans and transition arrangements as needed, throughout the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.
- We will ask families to indicate school preference for children who will be entering Year 3 in September 2026.

Have your say

We'd be very grateful if you let us know you're happy with the proposal to change the age range of the two schools.

- Use the QR code or visit www.odst.org.uk/consultation to submit the consultation form. You can also add any comments.
- Email us at odst.consultations@oxford.anglican.org

Complete the consultation form



Q&A

A) Transition arrangements

B) Education-related questions

Summary

We are consulting on the proposed change in age range for both St Nicholas and Fir Tree schools. Both are planned to become Primary schools for ages 3-11, including nursery.

We expect this to happen from September 2026.

St Nicholas will move to a new site on the Highcroft estate. Fir Tree will remain on its current site, with new facilities.

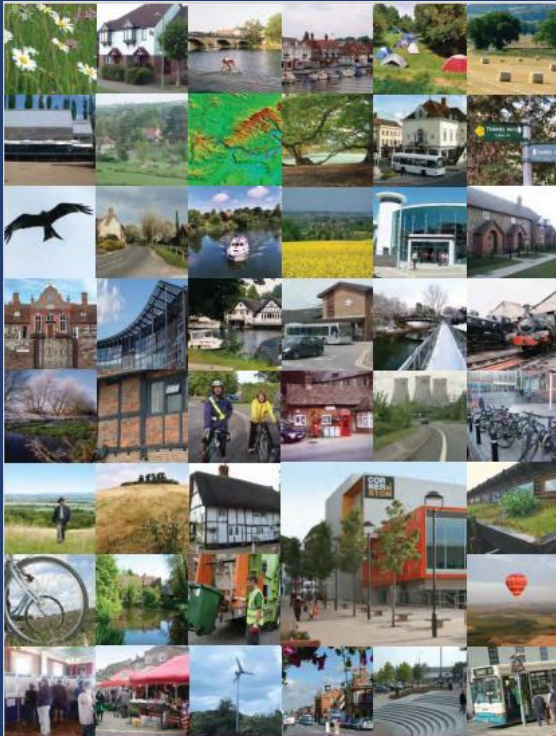
A transition plan will be in place for current pupils, and each school will open new year groups progressively.

Summary

While we are consulting only on changing the age range of the schools, we also recognise that you may have questions about the new school buildings or other community-related matters.

The St Nicholas school site belongs to the church land trustees. This ownership will transfer to the new building, and the ownership of the current site will be handed over to the local authority.

Vision for Wallingford

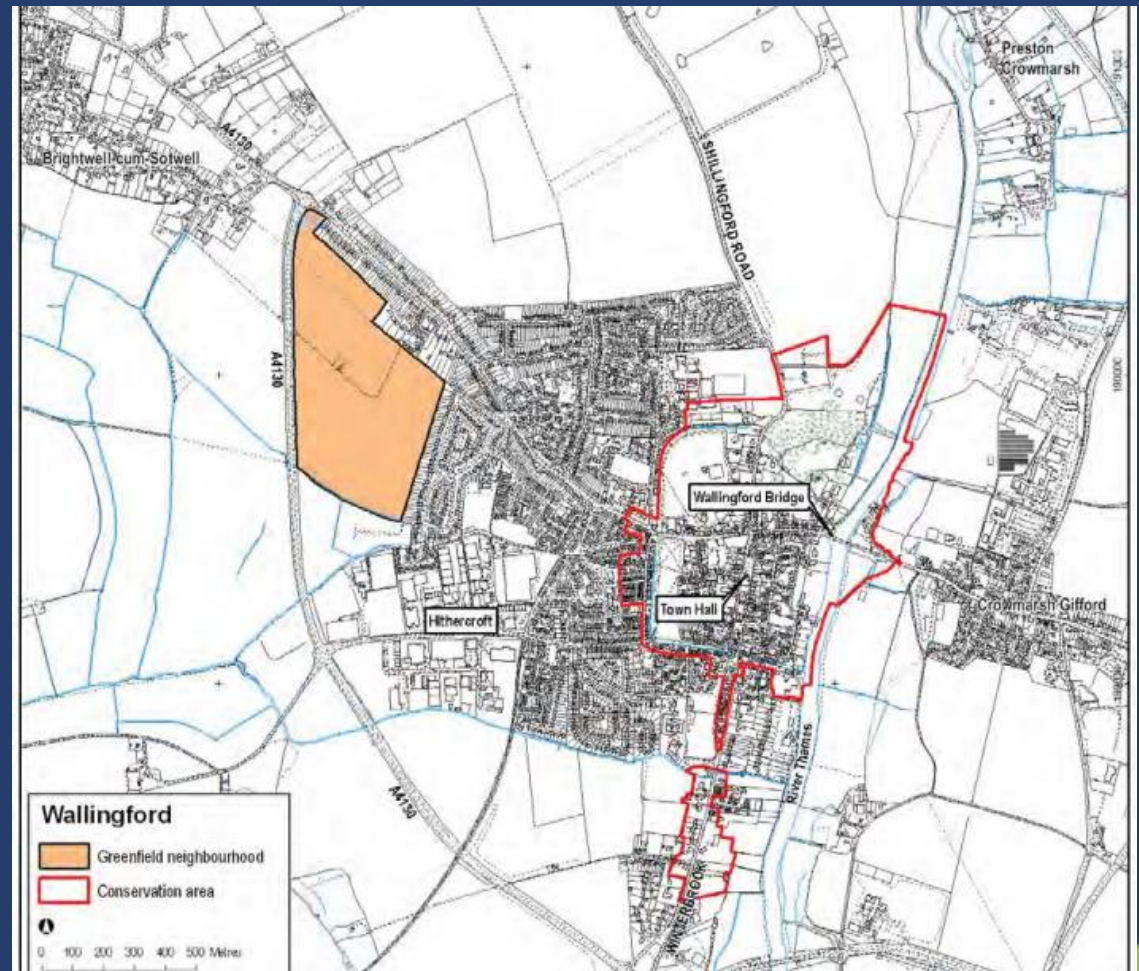


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Q&A

Site and community-related questions