

# Investing in the future for Brize Norton Primary School

## Consultation information:

Brize Norton Primary School  
relocation proposal

MAY 2025

## Investing in the future for Brize Norton Primary School

Demographic information suggests young families are increasingly likely to live in the Brize Meadow area and, given the strengths of the current Brize Norton school and the strong education it offers, OCC and ODST propose to invest in the current provision and relocate it into the brand-new premises already planned for Brize Meadow.

### Brize Norton Primary School & Brize Meadow: background and key information

#### **Background: Education provision in the Brize Norton area**

When planning education provision, Oxfordshire County Council considers what is already in place and working well, where the gaps are, and what the future looks like for population and housing growth.

***In place and working well:*** Brize Norton Primary is a very successful and popular school providing a strong education.

***Where the gaps are:*** There is demand for a school to serve an increase in families living on Brize Meadows. Brize Norton school however cannot expand on its current premises.

***What the future looks like:*** There are now fewer children expected in the education system overall due to a declining birth rate, however there is growth in the Brize Meadows area due to housing.

#### **Why relocate:**

A new school building at Brize Meadow is already funded and in development. However, a new school would likely drive demand away from the current school, and therefore it is proposed to relocate Brize Norton Primary into the new premises at Brize Meadow. This protects and retains the Brize Norton education on offer, while serving the changing demographics in the area.

#### **Key benefits for Brize Norton Primary School:**

- More space – potential for a bigger hall, sports facilities, performances, playground equipment.
- Accessible, environmentally-friendly, state of the art modern educational facilities and resources.
- Potential for adding more SEND provision, which the current building cannot accommodate.
- Less spending on maintenance of an old building, more money directly to education
- Additional pupil numbers will in turn attract more annual funding for the school

#### **Timeline:**

*12 May – 16 June 2025* – formal consultation

*Autumn 2025* DfE decision on proposal

*2026* Construction begins

*2027-28* It is estimated that the new school building could open during the course of the 2027-28 academic year, at the earliest.

#### **Funding arrangements:**

We are extremely fortunate to have a £7.5 million capital investment from the Brize Meadow housing estate developers and Oxfordshire County Council. Under Section 106 arrangements, this investment is ring-fenced exclusively for education; must be directed towards meeting needs arising from new housing development at Brize Meadow only; and is allocated to the new school building already planned there. This is therefore an

opportunity for Brize Norton Primary to benefit from this investment in a time when school funding is extremely limited, to extend the high-quality education already provided and secure the school's future.

**Organisations involved in this project:**

- Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) – the Local Authority responsible for education provision, pupil place planning, admissions, and planning permission.
- Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) – the multi-academy trust responsible for running Brize Norton Primary School.
- Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) – a trusted partner of ODST, delivering capital building work for the project.

All of these organisations have significant experience working together on education planning and managing school change.

## FAQs: Transition & plans for the new school

**How many places will the new school have?**

The PAN (Published Admissions Number) – the number of pupils admitted in Reception each year – is expected to increase from 20 to 30. The increase is likely to apply only for Reception entry, beginning from the first academic year after the new school building is opened. This means that the total number of pupils would increase by only 10 children annually, eventually reaching a maximum of 210 pupils at the school.

This creates gradual extra capacity, as well as supporting simplified class structures and more efficient use of funding. Class sizes are currently around 30 pupils and are structured as mixed-year classes. They will remain around 30 pupils, with fewer mixed-year classes as the school grows. For current pupils, and those joining before the new building opens, year groups and classes are likely to remain as they are currently.

**Will the catchment area change?**

All current pupils will automatically remain on roll.

The admissions area may change slightly due to the relocation, but will include the current area. An admissions consultation will provide further detail closer to the time.

**Will the school still be a 'feeder' school for Burford Secondary?**

The school remains Brize Norton Primary School and arrangements such as this are expected to remain. It is of course possible that local school partnerships of any kind may change at any time, but this is unlikely to be as a result of the relocation.

**How will the ethos and culture of the school be moved into a new building?**

The school leaders and governing body are extremely committed to retaining the 'family' feel and values of the school, in a new 'home'. The needs of children are at the heart of all decisions made by ODST, and the Trust will work closely with the school leaders and local governing body to ensure smooth transition. They will lead the day-to-day education with the same values and culture they do now.

### **Can we retain the current school as well as open a new school for Brize Meadow?**

All indications suggest that, if a brand-new school was opened at Brize Meadow, Brize Norton school would see a significant decrease in pupil numbers in the coming years. Other models and ways of operating two schools in the area have been considered, however relocating the school is proposed as the most effective way of securing its future as well as meeting changing needs for education in the area.

## FAQs: Community & other considerations

### **Can the Section 106 funding be directed towards more SEND provision?**

The Section 106 funding is ring-fenced for a mainstream primary school. However, ODST and OCC are very aware of the need for high-quality SEND provision and will be considering how best to meet this need within the new school building. The new building will offer a modern purpose-built environment in which to offer SEND provision, which is more limited within the current older Brize Norton School building.

### **What will happen to the current school building?**

The building is an Oxfordshire County Council property. Once not in use as a school, OCC would explore other community or council use, or the building would be sold.

### **What is the environmental impact of the proposal?**

The new school building will be built sustainably and carbon neutral. This is in significant contrast to the current school building. Demographic information indicates that more families will be living at Brize Meadow in the future, and therefore car use is not likely to increase if the school relocates. Safe walking routes and access is part of the planning process for new developments and schools.

## Have your say

ODST and OCC are committed to ensuring that the next steps in this project are taken with the needs of the children, families and school community at the forefront of decision making.

### **Consultation period**

The consultation period will run from 12 May – 16 June 2025.

### **Complete the consultation form**

Please let us know you have read and understood the proposals at [www.odst.org.uk/consultation](http://www.odst.org.uk/consultation)

### **Email us**

During the consultation we would also welcome email feedback [odst.consultations@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:odst.consultations@oxford.anglican.org)

### **Join the consultation meeting**

**Thursday 22 May 2025, Brize Norton Primary School**

**6-7pm** Community members only - an overview for community members and chance to ask questions.

**7.15-8pm** Parents and carers only - an update for current parents and carers.

**It is important to register for the meeting at [www.odst.org.uk/consultation](http://www.odst.org.uk/consultation)**

## What happens next?

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.

Parents and carers will be updated as plans progress.