



Investing in the future for Brize Norton Primary

Consultation meeting

22 May 2025

Welcome & introductions

Alistair Doran

Chair of Local Governing Body

Brize Norton Primary School

AGENDA

- 1. Education planning, Brize Norton & Brize Meadow**
– Barbara Chillman, Pupil Place Planning Manager,
Oxfordshire County Council
- 2. Brize Norton Primary** – Anne Dellar, CEO ODST;
Robyn Jones, Headteacher, & Gordon Joyner, ODBE
- 3. Next steps**
- 4. Q&A**

Education Planning for Brize Norton & Brize Meadow

Barbara Chillman

Pupil Place Planning Manager
Oxfordshire County Council

Education planning in Oxfordshire

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

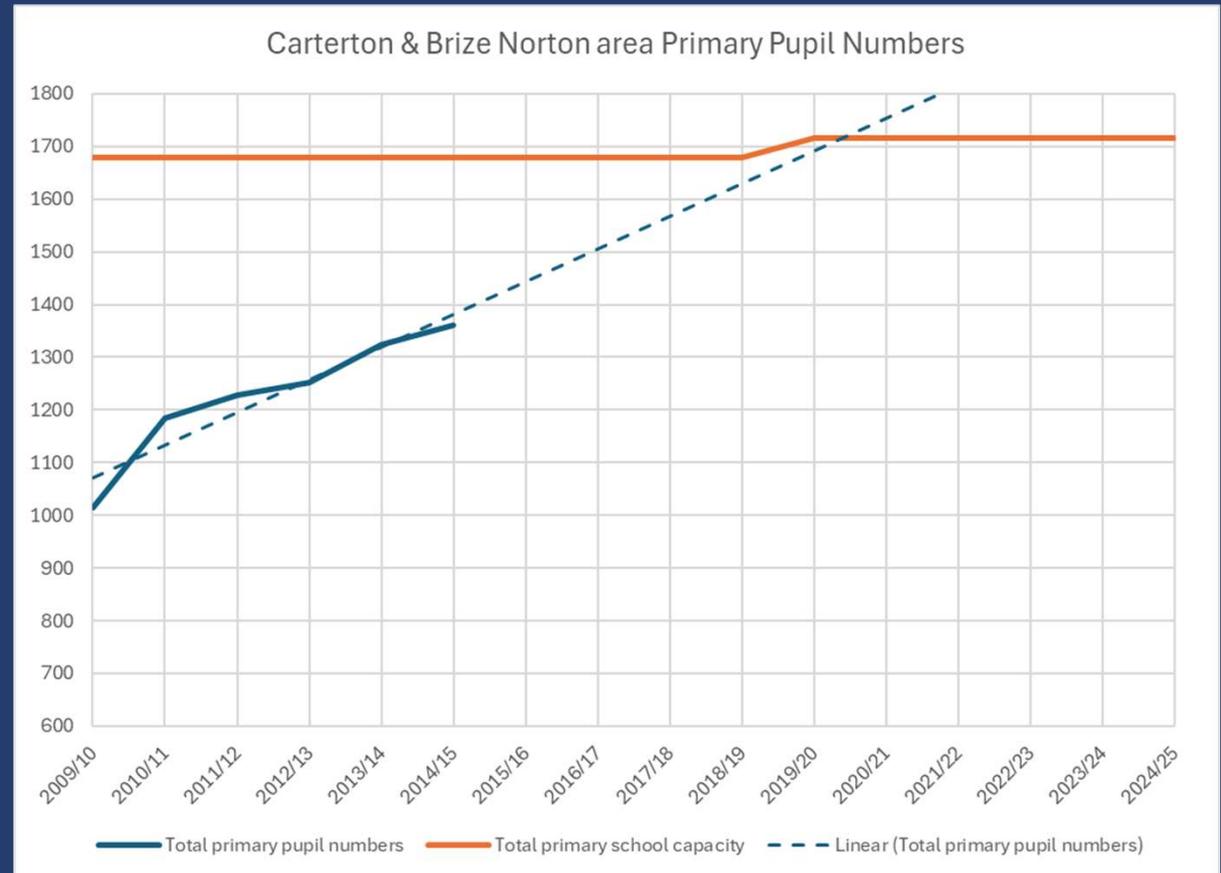


School Planning for Brize Meadow

2011(ish) to 2014: pre-application discussions

Rapidly rising primary pupil numbers

Context of planned redevelopment of REEMA sites; other large developments; discussions about 1,000 homes to the west of Carterton

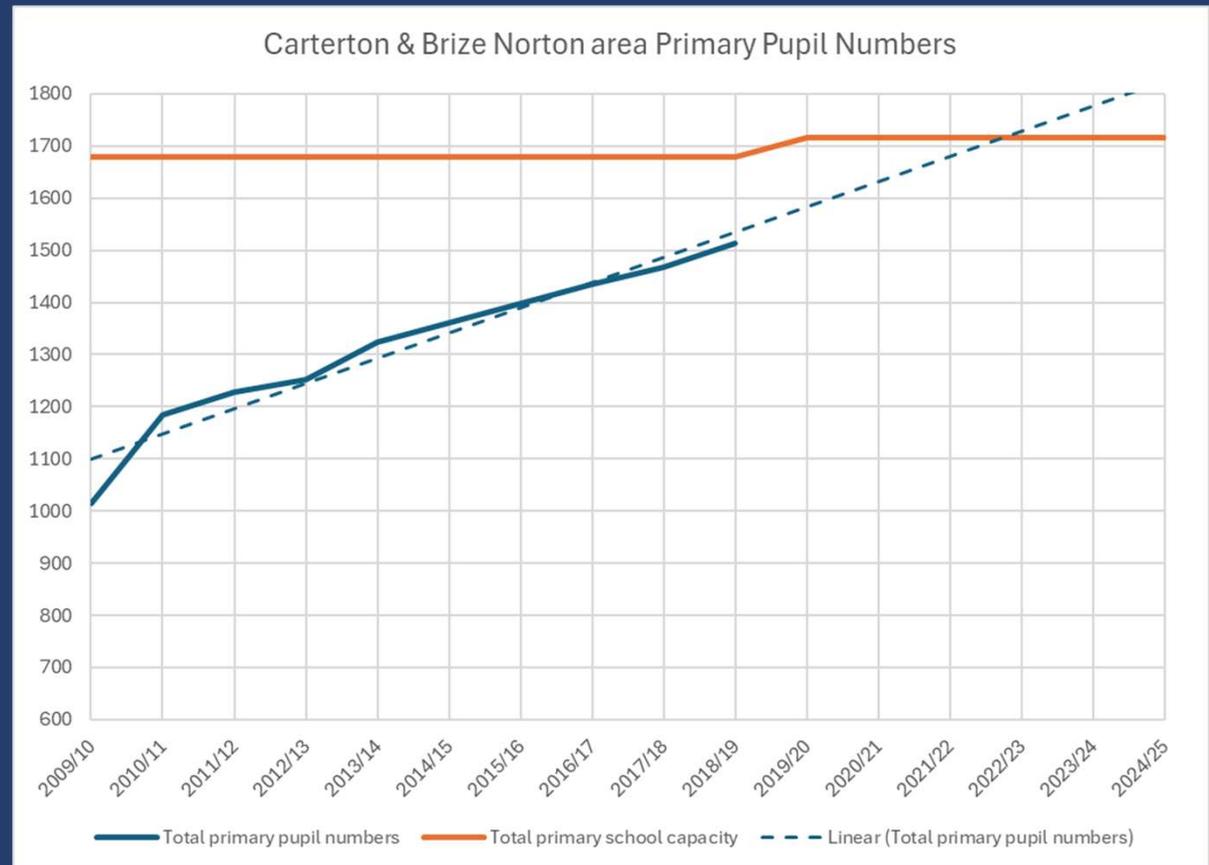


School Planning for Brize Meadow

2014 to 2018: from application to approval – Section 106 negotiations

Still rapidly rising primary pupil numbers

Section 106 Agreement – legal contract between the county council and the developers - secures funding (now worth £7.5m) and a site, ring-fenced exclusively for a primary school at Brize Meadow.

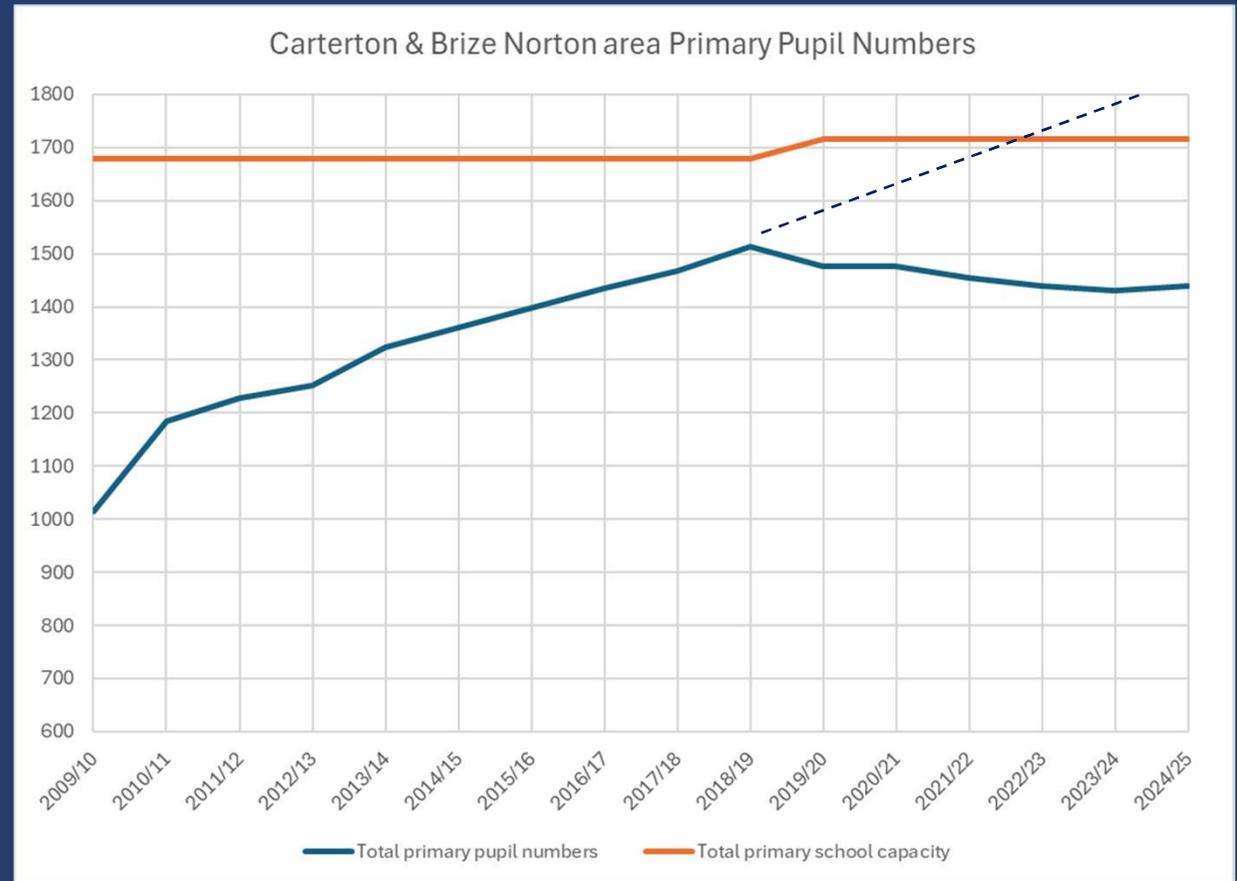


School Planning for Brize Meadow

Since 2018...

Reversal of primary pupil numbers, despite house-building

Reality changed – what does that mean for the plan?



School Planning for Brize Norton & Brize Meadow

Original plan: new school

- Creates excess school places
- New school will struggle to grow...
- OR it will harm other schools

Expand a school onto a split site

- Additional cost and management burden for the school
- If a school other than Brize Norton Primary School, could harm Brize Norton's intake

Relocate and expand a school

- Grow a small school to a more financially viable scale
- Invest in facilities
- If a school other than Brize Norton Primary School, could harm Brize Norton's intake

Do nothing

- Return the land and funding to the developer

Education in Brize Norton & Brize Meadow

Why are we proposing Brize Norton Primary School moves?

- Brize Meadow is in Brize Norton parish and Brize Norton Primary School's catchment.
- Brize Norton is a popular and successful school – we want to help it flourish, but its current site is too small to support expansion.
- If a new/other school served Brize Meadow it is likely that demand for the current Brize Norton school would drop significantly.
- Brize Norton Primary remains popular but there has been a significant drop in applications, down from 34 to 20 in 2 years.
- An increasing number of the school's children live at Brize Meadow. Over half of pupils now come from Brize Meadow or Carterton.
- Schools are funded per-pupil. Funding is very stretched for all schools, but particularly those such as Brize Norton with lower pupil numbers and higher costs eg building maintenance.

What about the longer term?

Confirmed planned and permitted housing

- REEMA, Milestone Road, etc
- Accommodate additional pupils within Carterton schools

Recent planning applications / proposals

- 350 homes off Burford Road – possibly more – in isolation, equivalent to about 0.5 forms of entry school need
- Plan in context of emerging Local Plan – not a new school, but contribution to another
- Not confirmed, and no timescale

Potential Local Plan allocations

- Large scale proposals from land-owners – nothing yet confirmed
- Plan based on scale and location
- Likely to require new schools
- Could take many years to generate pupils

Decision-making & consultation processes

1

Approval to spend:

- In February, **Oxfordshire County Council** approved the release of funding for project development. There will need to be a further capital approval to spend (expected autumn 2025).

Approval to relocate and expand the school:

- ODST plans to submit an application to the **Department for Education**, to seek the approval of the DfE Regional Director to relocate and expand.

Approval for building works:

- There will be another **consultation** on the proposed building works as part of seeking planning permission from **West Oxfordshire District Council**.

Decision-making & consultation processes

2

What would happen to the current school building if the school were to relocate?

- OCC would first look for a possible use of the site across its own functions.
- Should OCC not find a future need for the site, they are legally required to sell at best value.
- Before engaging with the market, we would approach partners, including Brize Norton Parish Council.

Vision for Brize Norton Primary

Anne Dellar, Robyn Jones & Gordon Joyner

Why relocate?

- We are here to serve the community, and it is clear that an increasing number of our families now live in Brize Meadow, particularly in the younger age groups.
- There is funding for a new school at Brize Meadow – if we take this opportunity, we get the benefit of that funding for our children.
- A new building and location is our opportunity to retain our current community of staff and children, while growing and evolving to meet changing needs.
- We want to support the school to grow gradually, safeguarding it and making it more sustainable in the long term.
- 'Moving house' - the family and values move with the school.

What a new building offers

- Space – potential for a bigger hall, sports facilities, performances, the school's own playground equipment.
- Potential for adding much-needed SEND provision.
- Accessible, state of the art modern facilities and resources.
- Less spending on maintenance of an old building, more money directly to education.
- A gradual increase in pupil numbers attracts more annual funding for the school.

Retaining the school ethos

- Brize Norton Primary does have a family feel, and we absolutely want to retain that. Staff and the local governing body will be ensuring we move our values, ethos, approach with us.
- We will be involved in planning the transition and the building, ensuring it offers the best for children, including outdoor space.
- What do the children like about school now? Tell us - that's what we'd want to take with us.
- This is a bittersweet situation but we are looking at it as an opportunity to develop what we have and to safeguard the school's future.

Pupil numbers and Admissions

- All current pupils would automatically remain on roll.
- We plan to increase the PAN (Published Admissions Number) – the number of pupils admitted in Reception each year – from 20 to 30.
- **This increase would be gradual** beginning with the first Reception cohort in a new building – therefore only 10 additional pupils joining annually.
- An increase of 10 places annually means extra capacity as the community grows and additional funding, but it remains a relatively 'small' school (one-form entry).
- **Growth from 140 to 210 pupils, over 7 years.**

Pupil numbers and Admissions

Class sizes are not expected to increase. Classes are currently around 30 pupils, and will remain that way.

- Class structures for current children, and those joining prior to a relocation, are not likely to change.
- Current children are in mixed-year classes, but moving to an intake 30 per year group would offer an opportunity for single-year classes in the future.
- Staffing levels will remain at the appropriate level for the number of pupils in the school, supported by more pupil funding.

Pupil numbers and Admissions

- The admissions area may change slightly due to the relocation, but will include the current area. The current area already includes Brize Meadow. An admissions consultation will provide further detail closer to the time.
- It is not expected that the school's status as a 'feeder' school for Burford Secondary School will change due to a relocation.

About the build process

- OCC works with ODST to manage the build.
- ODST contracts Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) to do this – they have significant experience of developing school buildings, for example, currently working on a new building for another ODST school in Wallingford.
- Mrs Jones and her team will be very involved in the detail and design from an educational perspective, to ensure the new school has what they think is best for the children and community.

Environmental impact

Sustainability – new building will be carbon neutral. This is in significant contrast to the current building.

Car use – 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 and OCC/ODST will be looking at this.

Timeline

- **Summer 2025** – Formal Consultation
- **Autumn 2025** – DfE decision on proposal
- **Autumn 2025** – OCC decision on Business Case for project funding
- **Autumn/Winter 2025** – Planning application submitted
- **Spring/Summer 2026** – Construction starts
- **Autumn 2026** - Admissions consultation on PAN increase for 2028
- **2027-28 academic year:** The earliest we expect the move to take place. Therefore, only children currently in Year 3 or below will move to the new building as Y4-6 will have moved to secondary by this time.

Why we want your views

- Getting it right for the families and community we serve is important to us.
- The DfE, Oxfordshire County Council and ODST are all committed to seeking community views when strategic change is planned.

Next step - consultation

- Feedback and questions received during the consultation period will be compiled, reviewed and responses published online in the form of Q&A.
- The plans and the consultation feedback will be submitted to the relevant DfE authority for scrutiny and formal approval.

Q&A

How to share your views:

Complete the consultation form

www.odst.org.uk/consultation

Or email us

odst.consultations@oxford.anglican.org



Complete the consultation form

