



Investing in the future for Grove families

Consultation Period: 21st November – 19th December 2025

Changes to **Grove Church of England Primary School** to increase to 1.5 forms of entry and to lower the age range in phases to 9 months old

NOVEMBER 2025

OXFORD DIOCESAN SCHOOLS TRUST
ST MARY'S CONVENT,
DENCHWORTH ROAD, WANTAGE,
OXFORDSHIRE, OX12 9AU

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08143249

The expansion to Grove Church of England Primary School has been in the exploratory phase for the past twelve years but has been held up due to the timing of local housing developments. We are delighted to have reached the stage where we can begin to plan with more certainty. We are now at the point where we would like to hear your views on the proposal to expand the school and lower its age range.

The intention is that a new purpose designed block will be constructed to replace all the existing dilapidated temporary classrooms at the school and to provide further space for expansion so that the school can admit up to 45 pupils per year to serve the growing needs of the local community.

Alongside this expansion it is proposed to reduce, in phases, the age range of the school from its current point of entry at age four, down to 9 months old. It is currently envisaged to reduce the age range of the school to 3 from September 2026, to 2 from September 2027 and to 9 months from September 2028. In total the nursery will eventually hold up to 55 children.

As part of this proposal, additional land will be provided for the school by Oxfordshire County Council (who have secured it from the developer) and to enable the new buildings to be provided.

A planning application for the new buildings has now recently been lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council and the full details can be found on the attached link: [Planning Application P25/V2215/FUL](#)

In conjunction with the school expansion the developer will be providing a new entrance to the school, a car park, additional playing field and MUGA (multi-use games area). It is expected that these works will be completed by summer 2026.

Grove Church of England School expansion plan: background and key information

Subject to various statutory processes which have to be completed, we are expecting that the work to be completed as follows:

Summer 2026 – Install prefabricated classrooms to allow for decanting during works

Summer 2026 – Works to form nursery for 3-year-olds in main block

September 2026 – School admits 3-year olds

Winter 2026 – Summer 2028 – Main extension work

September 2027 – School admits 2-year olds

Summer 2028 - Remaining work to existing buildings completed.

September 2028 – All new facilities available and school admits 45 pupils into Reception Year and lowers age range down to 9-months.

How is the project being funded?

We are extremely fortunate to have a major £9 million capital investment from Oxfordshire County Council, who have secured it from local housing developments, through Section 106 planning agreements. This investment has been ring-fenced specifically for education and must be directed towards meeting needs arising from new housing developments.

Which organisations are involved in this project?

- Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) – the multi-academy trust responsible for running Grove Church of England School.
- Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) – the Local Authority responsible for education provision, pupil place planning, admissions, and planning permission.
- 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 of education planning and managing school changes.

Admissions

There will be no change to the admissions policy apart from increasing the planned admission number from 30 to 45 in September 2028

Proposed Completed Site Plan



Have your say

ODST and OCC are committed to ensuring that the next steps in this exciting project are taken with the needs of our school communities at the forefront of decision making. We would like as many of you as possible to contribute and are therefore seeking feedback from current families, families interested in joining either school in the future, and wider stakeholders. We would particularly like to hear from you if you are interested in the new nursery provision.

Consultation period

The consultation period will run from 21 November 2025 – 19 December 2025.

This consultation information and new school site plans can be found at www.odst.org.uk/consultation

How do I make my views known?

Email us your thoughts

During the consultation period we would welcome feedback and questions via email, to

ODST.consultations@oxford.anglican.org

Alternatively, if you are simply happy with these proposals, you can also let us know at www.odst.org.uk/consultation

Attend the consultation drop-in session

Thursday 4th December 2025, from **6.00pm to 8.00pm** (drop in at any point during this time) at Grove Church of England Primary School hall where you will be able to chat informally to School, ODST and ODBE representatives to find out more.

Follow-up information will be shared with parents and carers who are not able to attend.

What happens next?

Feedback and questions received during the consultation period will be compiled, and responses and further information published after the consultation period closes.

The plans will be submitted to the relevant DfE authority for scrutiny and formal approval.

Parents and carers will be updated on the progress of plans throughout the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 academic years.