



The Heights Primary School

Consultation Document

Introduction

The Heights Primary School will be a new, mainstream primary school serving the Caversham Height area of Reading. The school will welcome children from 4 to 11 years old, from reception through to Year 6. Class sizes will be kept small, with a maximum of 25 children per class.

The Heights Primary is due to open in September 2014 with 100 students, made up of 50 in Reception and 25 in each of Years 1 and 3. The school will grow with two new Reception classes joining each year, and will reach full capacity of 350 children by 2020.

The Heights Primary School will open as a Free School under the Academies Act 2010. Section 10 of this Act requires us to carry out a formal consultation to ask the community whether the school should open. This document forms part of that consultation and we are inviting interested parties to complete our short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/theheightsprimaryconsultation>.

Our Vision

The Heights Primary School's vision is to provide a conventional primary school of exceptional quality at the heart of the community, within walking distance for the majority of pupils.

Our vision is:

ASPIRE: Achieving Success Promoting Individual Responsibility and Excellence

Our core values are:

- Thoughtfulness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Trust
- Compassion
- Commitment
- Co-operation
- Courage
- Positivity

The Heights Primary School will enable children to fulfil their own unique potential, growing into confident, capable individuals ready to thrive and achieve success in secondary school. We hope to instil within our pupils a love of learning and will support their academic, social, moral, intellectual, emotional and physical development.

Studying at The Heights Primary

At The Heights Primary we will care for each child in an engaging, caring and secure environment. We will provide a full and varied curriculum delivered by fully qualified and excellent teachers to prepare your child for the future, as well as equipping them with the skills and enthusiasm they need to pursue learning for the rest of their lives. We will encourage the children to become an integral part of the local community and have a sense of individual responsibility and worth, through our commitment to close relationships with all of our families and community network.

We will recognise the needs of our children as individuals, groups or whole classes and adapt lessons so that those needs are met. Monitoring children's understanding is important and we will do this by using assessments, carried out by teachers. We will use this data to track progress and to set relevant and challenging targets for each individual child.

Specialist support will be provided where necessary, involving one-to-one teaching, specialist resources or home support programmes.

Gifted and talented children will be identified and supported through in-class provision, as well as with enrichment activities, using specialist expertise to encourage different talents to flourish.

We understand the demands and practicalities of working families and want to make sure The Heights support the needs of parents. We intend to offer breakfast clubs within the first year or two of opening and hope to include after school care as soon as possible.

We will celebrate progress and achievement made by each child through individual recognition, as well as celebrating success for each class and as a whole school.

Curriculum

Our curriculum will be similar to the other primary schools in the local area. It will reflect the best practice of other local schools with 'outstanding' Ofsted ratings.

In the Reception year, The Heights Primary will follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. All learning experiences and activities will focus on these seven areas of learning:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics, science and technology
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The School will then follow the National Curriculum in Key Stages 1 and 2 to ensure pupils progress in core subjects.

Literacy and Numeracy will be delivered daily, mainly in the morning. The other core subjects of ICT and Science will focus on practical teaching and learning of key essential skills.

The non-core subjects will be delivered through an exciting Creative Curriculum, where different themes or topics provide a focus for teaching and learning for a period of weeks.

Our focus on cross curricular links will enable children to transfer their learning in the core subjects to the Creative Curriculum.

Technology and innovation will play an important role to make sure that our pupils have the skills needed to succeed in our increasingly technological world.

Our Team

The school is being set up by members of the local community to solve the shortage of primary school places in North Reading. The team includes experienced teachers, school governors, a department head, an ex-deputy head teacher, former Ofsted Inspector and an education consultant. We also have the full support of Reading Borough Council and the Department for Education.

The Heights Primary Trust is made up of parents, members of the local community and volunteer specialists. Our backgrounds are in education, finance, project management, governance, marketing and property management.

The Trust will also be supported by a Parent Teacher Association and an experienced Governing Body. These will strengthen the Heights Primary as a community focused and family orientated school.

Teaching Staff

We are committed to high quality teaching to encourage and challenge children of all abilities. Through our recruitment process, we will ensure that we attract the most committed, passionate and well trained teachers. We are delighted to have recruited a dynamic, experienced and enthusiastic Headteacher, who will ensure the school's core values are present throughout the school. The Headteacher will be announced by 14th December and will take up post in April 2014. Before then, the Headteacher is keen to engage with members of the community and will be present at the consultation meeting on Tuesday 7th January.

The Headteacher and Governing Body will be responsible for recruiting a team of fully qualified teachers, teaching assistants and support staff, ready for opening in September 2014. New members of staff will then be recruited as the school grows. We will ensure that we attract the most committed, passionate and well trained teachers.

Location

As we are a new school our exact location is still being finalised, but it will be located in the Caversham Heights or Mapledurham area. The government's Education Funding Agency (EFA) is responsible for finding and buying the school's site for us. We have been working alongside them whilst they've shortlisted potential sites within the school's catchment area.

The EFA is confident that it will secure our site (permanent or temporary) in time to open next year. We will announce details of our site as soon as they are available.

Admissions policy

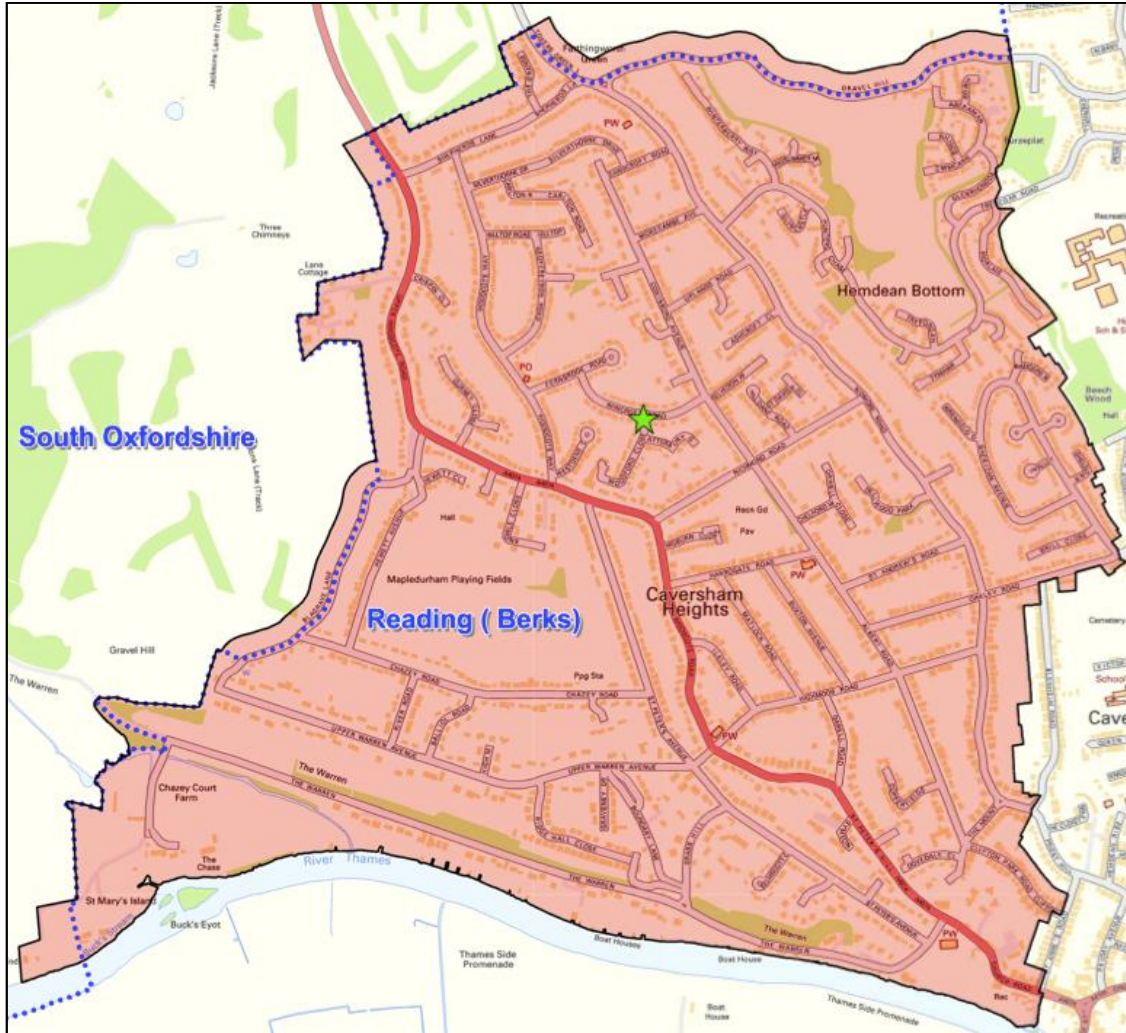
Parents wishing to apply for a place in Reception for 2014 must do so via Reading Borough Council's normal application process, which closes on 15th January.

On opening in 2014, there will be 50 places available in Reception, 25 places in Year 1 and 25 children in Year 3. We believe that transferring children into these years would have minimal impact on their education and these were the years that parents have most expressed a desire to transfer their children into. Applications for those wishing to transfer children into Years 1 and 3 will be carried out by Reading Borough Council in the summer.

If there is very high demand for places then priority would normally be given to those living closest to the school. As the location is still being finalised, we will calculate this from the junction of Wincroft Road and Woodford Close (the star on the map below).

Catchment area

The map below shows the catchment area for The Heights Primary School. We aim to cover the majority of homes where families have struggled to gain a school place.



Useful Links

Please complete The Heights Primary School's consultation survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/theheightsprimaryconsultation>

Our website is www.theheightsprimary.co.uk

Our email address is consultation@theheightsprimary.co.uk

You can review the Department for Education's Model Funding Agreement here: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools/a0074737/free-schools-model-funding-agreement>.

You can also follow us on Facebook at "The Heights Primary School, Caversham".