



Consultation on the proposed permanent enlargement of Wood Fold Primary School

Author: School Organisation Team

Date: 8 October 2024

Contents

Consultation on the proposed permanent enlargement of Wood Fold Primary School _____ 1

Contents _____ 2

Proposed permanent enlargement of Wood Fold Primary School ____ 3

 Introduction _____ 3

 School context _____ 3

 Future pupil numbers in the area _____ 3

 Our proposal _____ 4

 What this means for you and your child _____ 5

 The consultation process _____ 5

 Next steps _____ 6

 Circulation list _____ 8

Response Form - Proposal for the permanent enlargement of Wood Fold Primary School _____ 9

Proposed permanent enlargement of Wood Fold Primary School

Introduction

This document is to tell you about Wigan Local Authority's (LA) proposal to permanently enlarge Wood Fold Primary School so that it admits 90 children each year with effect from September 2026.

The current published admission number for the school is 60.

This proposal, if approved, will ensure the buildings are enlarged so that the school can increase its capacity so that from 2026 the school will be able to admit up to 90 pupils per year group for each subsequent reception intake.

This booklet contains information about the schools in the Standish primary school organisation area. It explains the projected demand for primary school places and why the council is suggesting that we permanently enlarge Wood Fold Primary School.

School context

Situated in Standish, Wood Fold Primary School is a highly successful 4-11 community school situated in west of the borough, judged as Outstanding by Ofsted in September 2014.

Future pupil numbers in the area

Wigan LA calculate the number of primary school places that will be required.

The LA's forecasts show that the Standish area of Wigan is experiencing an increased birth rate which is steady, whilst other areas of the borough are in decline. The schools within the Standish primary planning area are –

- St Marie's Catholic Primary School
- St Wilfrid's CE Academy
- Wood Fold Primary School

In addition, several housing developments are due to be delivered with around 422 family homes to be built out by 2029.

Beyond 2029 there are circa 640 homes awaiting planning approval.

In its recent School Place Planning Strategy, the LA reported that the existing combined capacity for schools across Standish was 180 places. This is not sufficient to meet projected demand.

The table below shows projected demand with the increased capacity at Wood Fold Primary –

Reception class entry	Births	Projected demand on reception class places	Reception class capacity with proposed increase
2025-26	166	234	210
2026-27	170	239	210
2027-28	160	225	210

Projected demand is based on patterns of parental preference. Not all parents who apply will live in Standish and some will be accommodated in other place planning areas.

To highlight how the birth rate has increased, the average birth rate for the 5 years preceding the 2025-26 intake year was 122 births per year.

Our data indicates that by increasing the number of places available, we can ensure that children living in the Standish area where parents express a preference for a school in the area, will be able to secure a place for their child.

Our proposal

We are proposing to increase the admission number of Wood Fold Primary School from 60 to 90 on a permanent basis from 1 September 2026 for this and each subsequent reception intake.

The reasons why we are proposing to extend Wood Fold Primary School are:

- Educational standards at the school are graded Outstanding by Ofsted.
- The school is popular with parents and is regularly oversubscribed.
- The school is in the area where the places are required.
- It is possible to build a suitable extension on the school site.

To accommodate the extra 30 children per year group, we will extend the school building providing additional classrooms and other teaching and staff spaces. This will ultimately take the school to 90 places per year group with an overall capacity of 630 places available across the school.

What this means for you and your child

The amount of funding schools receive depends mainly on how many children there are on roll. Therefore, a larger school can employ more staff and class sizes can remain the same as they currently are. More staff also means that the school can use its staffing more flexibly. The headteacher and governors will decide on class organisation in the enlarged school.

The expansion will include additional classroom spaces and any necessary ancillary facilities required to accommodate the additional pupils.

The consultation process

We will hold meetings to provide more details about the proposal and to answer any questions you have.

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Meeting for staff and Governors	Date: 18 th October 2024 Time: 8.30am Venue: Wood Fold Primary School	All staff and Governors of Wood Fold Primary School
Open consultation sessions	Date: 8 th November 2024 Time: 8.30am to 10:30am And 2.30pm to 4.30pm Venue: Wood Fold Primary School	These sessions are open to everyone but especially the parents of pupils attending at or intending to apply for Wood Fold Primary School. If you wish to attend one of these sessions, please contact Wood Fold Primary School either in person or by phone on 01257 400271 and you will be allocated a time to attend.

This is an initial pre-publication consultation of the proposal to permanently enlarge Wood Fold Primary School with effect from 2026. The information provided in this booklet and at the consultation sessions should be enough to enable people to form an initial view on the proposal. However, at this stage we have not worked out every detail of the proposal as we need to listen to your views and concerns so that the detailed proposals which we make later in the process can take these into account.

We are sorry that due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal. We will post any relevant frequently asked questions (FAQs) with answers on the council website at:

www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations

We will send you a hard copy of the FAQs if you request one.

This consultation is primarily concerned with the educational elements of the proposal to permanently enlarge Wood Fold Primary School. Residents and members of the community will be consulted on the proposed enlargement of the school as part of the planning application process if applicable, which will take place later, and their views will be reported back to the council.

Please note that all responses to this consultation will be made available to Elected Members (councillors) for decision making purposes.

Next steps

We must follow strict legal procedures to enlarge a school. The timetable below shows the periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be made. If you make your views known outside these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
Informal consultation – during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken) • writing to or emailing the council; or • completing the response form on the Council’s website or at the end of this booklet 	8 October 2024 – 19 November 2024
Results of the informal consultation will go to the Cabinet of the council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to move onto the next stage of consultation and issue a statutory notice.	19 December 2024
Representation period – Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in other public places in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to or emailing the council at the address on page 8. The address and date by which you must send written comments will also be given on the public notice.	17 January 2025 – 14 February 2025
The council makes the final decision on the proposal*	20 March 2025
If approved, school is enlarged	1 September 2026

*The following can appeal against the council’s decision: Church of England (CofE) diocese and Roman Catholic (RC) diocese.

Please note the timetable may alter. The council or the staff of Wood Fold Primary School will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know the new dates we are working towards.

Circulation list

We are consulting the following:

- Parents and prospective parents of children attending Wood Fold Primary School
- Pupils at Wood Fold Primary School
- Governors and staff of Wood Fold Primary School
- Diocesan authorities
- Neighbouring primary and secondary schools
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations
- Elected Members (councillors)
- The local Member of Parliament
- The local community (via web site, placing of document in local community settings)

Address for correspondence -

The School Organisation Team

Wigan Council

People Directorate: Children and Families

Wigan Life Centre South

College Avenue

WN1 1NJ

Email: consultation@wigan.gov.uk

Response Form - Proposal for the permanent enlargement of Wood Fold Primary School

Responses should be made online at www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations

Please complete the form by **19 November 2024**.

Alternatively, you can request a copy of the form be posted to you by contacting us –

By phone: 01942 489013

By email: consultation@wigan.gov.uk

By post: The School Organisation Team

Wigan Council

People Directorate: Children and Families

Wigan Life Centre South

College Avenue

WN1 1NJ