



**Malmesbury**  
Church of England Primary School

## **CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO EXPAND MALMESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Growing together in wisdom and love; discovering life in all its fullness.*

The Governors of Malmesbury Church of England Primary School are consulting for opinions on expanding the school.

In accordance with Malmesbury's Neighbourhood Plan, land attached to the new Backbridge Farm housing estate and adjacent to Malmesbury Primary School was allocated during the planning process for school expansion. The James Dyson Foundation have generously offered £6 million of financial support to enable Malmesbury Primary School to explore using that land to expand from 420 to 630 places, along with professional support from Dyson to create a new dedicated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) facility.

The Governors of Malmesbury Primary School are proposing this combined expansion and partnership to enable the School to be of sufficient size to serve every family in our local community in the years to come and for its pupils to receive a first-class STEAM education. Many of the details about the build and how it would look are yet to be developed. The consultation is to discuss what parents, the local community and others think about the broad idea of expansion. Other details will form part of the planning process should the School receive permission to proceed.

This four-week consultation is running from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Open evenings, where you are welcome to discuss the proposals with the Governors and Senior Management Team of the School, will be held at Malmesbury Primary School on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023** and **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7pm – 8:30pm.**

Comments on the proposal can either be completed at this link, [here](#), or by letter to the School, marked "*School Expansion*" on the envelope. All comments must be received via the electronic form or into the School, by 3pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Comments can also be made on the relevant form at the open evenings.

More information and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the School website: <https://malmesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/expansion>

### **About the School**

Malmesbury Primary School serves the local community of Malmesbury, Wiltshire. In 2012 the School was judged by Ofsted as Outstanding. The School caters for children from Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Year 6 and has a two-class entry, with a published admissions number (PAN) of 60 students and a net capacity of 420.

The school ethos is summed up in the statement '*Growing together in wisdom and love; discovering life in all its fullness.*'

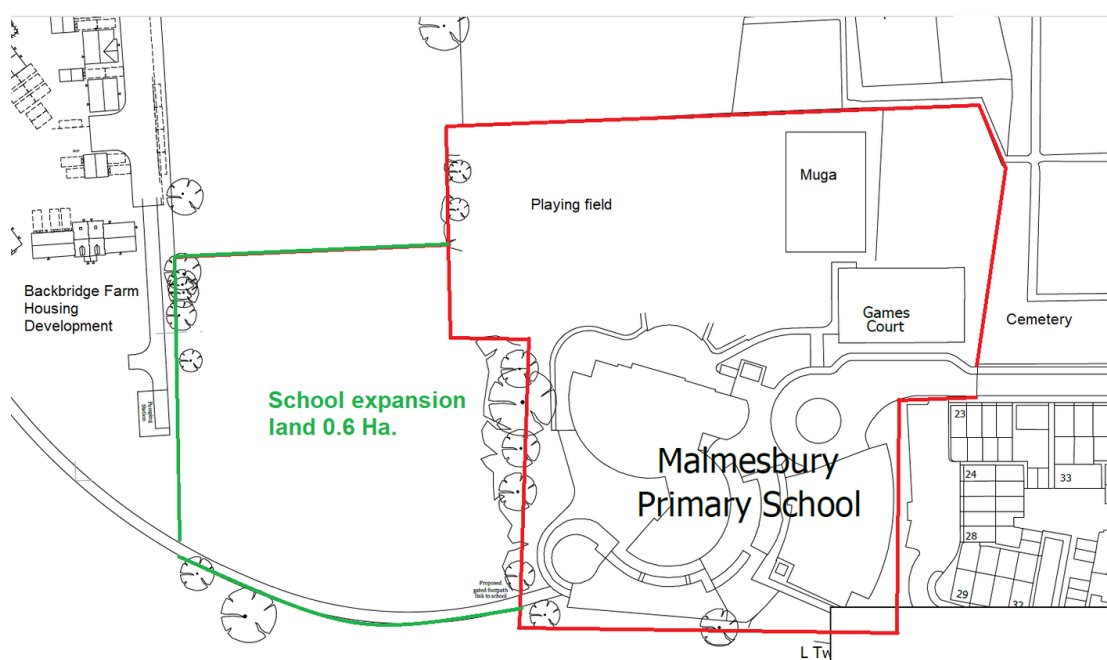
## **Why Malmesbury Primary School should expand.**

We are aware of the pressing need for primary school places within Malmesbury. At the present time our School is regularly oversubscribed, with waiting lists in many years. Additional housing is currently being built and even more has received planning approval. The School has considered expansion in the past, however the lack of additional land, and being unable to secure funding to create additional places for whole classes, have always been key factors in deciding not to grow. The additional land available for the School, and the generous funding from the James Dyson Foundation, mean that we now have the capacity to meet local need and deliver the outstanding education that our children deserve, and give all parents and carers a choice of where they would like their child to go to school.

If we do not take this opportunity, the land will return to Persimmon Homes, who will be able to build more houses, further increasing the number of children in Malmesbury who will have to attend school out of town.

## **What is being proposed?**

0.6 hectares (1.48 acres) of land next to Malmesbury Primary School has been allocated to school expansion as part of the Backbridge Farm housing development. This has been provided by Persimmon Homes as part of their planning agreement with Wiltshire County Council, known as a Section 106 agreement. This agreement is in place until November 2031 and, if the School has not been expanded by then, the land will return to Persimmon Homes.



The chance to work with the James Dyson Foundation in developing a first-class STEAM facility is an exciting opportunity to enhance the education of our pupils and those in the wider community. The facilities proposed will include seven new classrooms and purpose-built rooms equipped for design, technology, art, science, and mathematics-based activities. This will be unparalleled for any primary school in the area and will give our pupils access to an education that will include the cutting edge of science and innovation.

Due to the terms of the Section 106 agreement, the land cannot be used by the School just for the STEAM facility, the School must also expand to take possession of that land.

Any building scheme would be subject to planning permission, which will be sought at the appropriate time and will separately consult on matters relating to highways, parking, and the proposed building itself.

The proposal is to expand the published admission number of the school gradually over several years, once the building is complete, from the current 420 students to an eventual 630 students. This will create a first-class STEAM facility and enable all children in the catchment to attend the school.

### **Maximising opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)**

The James Dyson Foundation is Dyson's charitable arm, their aim is to introduce young people to the exciting world of engineering, encouraging them to think differently, make mistakes and realise their engineering potential. Their main mission is to inspire the engineers of the future, but they also support medical research and community projects local to Dyson offices.

The School is proud of its pupils' existing outstanding attainment and progress in reading and writing. This project will put STEAM at the heart of our learning and also be the driving force for future improvements across the entire curriculum.

### **Equipping our children for the future**

The Government has set out ambitious plans to make the UK a 'Science Superpower' and to support UK development of new technologies, such as quantum technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), semi-conductors, life sciences and green technologies. This will increase economic productivity and prosperity through new products, services and jobs.

To do this the UK needs to build the workforce, but there is an annual shortfall of 59,000 graduates and technicians to fill the required roles. Simply, not enough young people are going on to study STEAM subjects after the age of 16 years.

The James Dyson Foundation has worked previously with Malmesbury Primary School and others with the goal of improving the STEAM provision in schools and ultimately encouraging students to go on to study STEAM subjects post-16. Most of the focus of the Foundation's previous support has been on secondary schools and the Foundation has realised the need and opportunity to improve teaching and learning for primary age children through supporting Malmesbury Primary School with this expansion.

Through a combination of problem-solving based science lessons and also the teaching of arts and sciences side by side, pupils' curiosity and interests will be sparked and their science learning deepened. Malmesbury Primary School will work with the James Dyson Foundation to produce resources, not only for this school, but also to be shared with others across the country, to give primary school children the ability to take part in a hands-on STEAM curriculum.

The Aspires research, [here](#), sought to understand what influenced the likelihood of a young person to aspire to a science-related career. This study found that by the time a pupil is 14 years old, they already have a very fixed idea of what they want to do. Therefore, it is critical that STEAM interventions happen during primary school years.

In addition, pupils who come from families who do not have science-related qualifications, knowledge or interests are highly unlikely to develop science aspirations by the age of 14, unless that interest is created while at primary school. Finally, many students and their families do not appreciate where science can lead. This can be addressed through showing them how science is used every day and what careers are available to them through continued study of STEAM subjects post-16.

The collaboration with the James Dyson Foundation and the new school facilities gives the pupils of Malmesbury Primary School greater use of practical problem-solving skills in science subjects.

### **What if I have questions or want to comment?**

To hopefully answer any questions you may have, we have created a FAQ document which can be found on the school website, [here](#). This will be updated as new questions come in.

To ask further questions or to make a comment, please use one of the following methods:

1. Sent via the online comments form, which can be found [here](#).
2. Discussed at the open evenings to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, at Malmesbury C of E Primary School, Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9JR at 7pm-8:30pm.

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3. Sent by letter to the School office at Malmesbury C of E Primary School, Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9JR, marked "*School Expansion*".