



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

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be updated as required, with the latest version available at <https://malmesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/expansion>

#### **Summary of proposal**

The Governors of Malmesbury Church of England Primary School are consulting for opinions on expanding the School, using a grant from the James Dyson Foundation to create seven new classrooms (expanding the School from 420 to 630 places) and to create a new dedicated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) facility.

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### **Why are we doing this? What are the benefits for pupils and the town?**

There are three key benefits to primary school age children from this proposal.

1. The creation of a first-class Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) facility. Children will be able to experience the school curriculum through new and innovative teaching approaches, devised in consultation with world-class engineers, in purpose-built facilities. The School aims to share the curriculum and make the facilities available to other schools in the community.
2. The School will be able to grow in line with future demand, ensuring the School will be large enough to offer a place to every child living in the town who wishes to attend.
3. The School's expansion will enable it to take possession of 1.48 acres of land adjoining the current site. As well as the STEAM facility, and additional classrooms, this will create enhanced play and outdoor learning facilities at the School, and create the opportunity for increased childcare provision.

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### **How will the expansion be paid for?**

The School expansion will be paid for using the £6m grant from the James Dyson Foundation.

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### **Who are the James Dyson Foundation?**

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.

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### **What is STEAM?**

It is an umbrella term used to group together the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

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### **Will the School be focussing only on STEAM subjects?**

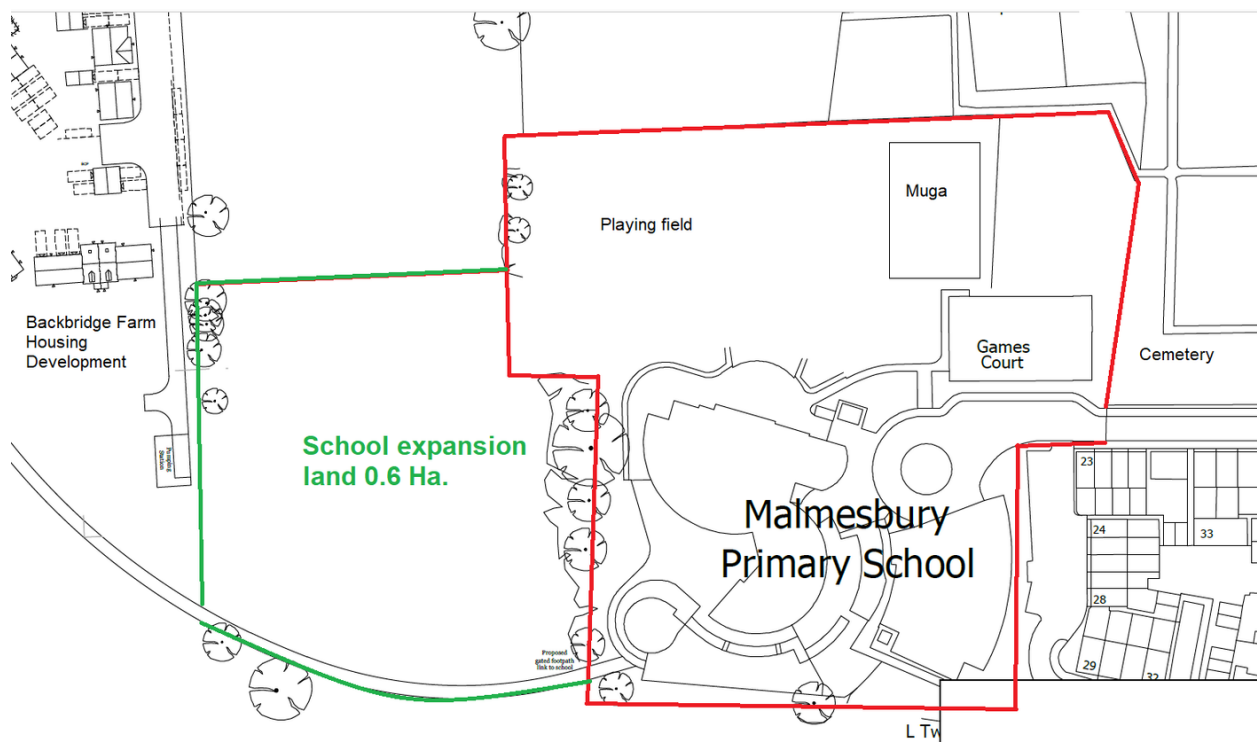
Literacy is fundamental to children's success. Helping children to develop a rich vocabulary, self-expression and reading comprehension are essential tools they need to become lifelong learners, and exploit all the opportunities that life will offer them. The School is committed to developing these core skills and very proud of its pupils' outstanding attainment and progress in reading and writing.

The School currently teaches a broad and comprehensive curriculum, including English, Maths, Science, Art, History, Geography, Design Technology, Computing, P.E., French and Personal, Social, Health and Religious Education. This project will not detract from these disciplines, but give pupils the opportunity to explore them through STEAM activities.

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### **Where is the new land?**

The land is currently owned by Persimmon Homes, who are building the Backbridge Farm housing estate. It is next to Malmesbury Primary School and, if the build goes ahead, will be fenced off so that it is within the School site (see plan below).



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### **What are the proposed building works?**

One of the exciting parts of the School expansion is that it is not just about new classrooms but also about purpose-built rooms equipped for design, technology, art, science, and mathematics-based activities, providing learning opportunities which most primary schools could only dream of.

The designs will be developed after the consultation and then subject to the normal planning process. The School would work with architects Wilkinson Eyre, who have produced multiple award-winning and innovative buildings, including the new cancer unit at Bath Royal United Hospital, the Dyson Research Facility in Malmesbury and a STEAM building at Gresham's School in Norfolk.

Some potential designs, from an earlier discussion about School expansion prior to the James Dyson Foundation's involvement, are included at the end of this document.

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### **When will the proposed work start?**

There are many steps to go through before work can commence, including seeking approval from the South West's Regional Department for Education, the planning approval process and tendering a contractor to do the building work. We will keep stakeholders informed of progress through the website and other communications.

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### **How might the building work impact on my child who is already a pupil at the School?**

Everything possible will be done to avoid impacting on children's learning. The position of the new building will ensure the work does not disrupt the normal daily running of the School. Disruptive aspects of the build would be scheduled for School holiday periods, and



Year 6	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	90
<b>Total number of pupils</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>630</b>

This will allow the School to grow slowly. See [here](#) for the School's current admissions policy.

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**If there are additional classrooms, why can't the School take children of any age from the date of building completion?**

The School will grow by one additional class of 30 places in Reception, each year from 2027/28 (as illustrated in the table above). This approach will ensure that places fill steadily and other local schools are not de-stabilised. It will also allow the School to ensure we have sufficient staff and resources in place, and remain financially stable.

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**Will the School maintain the same child to teaching staff ratios?**

Yes. The proposals will not affect the child to teaching staff ratios but may see the School able to expand specialist teaching support.

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**How will the School be able to recruit enough teaching staff?**

Additional teaching staff will be required over time, in line with the growing pupil numbers. We will recruit all new staff according to our HR policies (which can be found on the School website), and are looking forward to new members joining our enthusiastic, experienced, and exceptional team.

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**Will the wraparound childcare, also known as Peas in the Pod (PITP), provision expand in line with the proposed pupil expansion numbers?**

At the moment, PITP is restricted due to lack of space in the School. As the School grows, it is anticipated that the PITP provision will be expanded, subject to demand and financial viability.

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**Where will everyone park?**

Parking will be considered under the planning process. The School will maintain the barrier on Poole Road, to only allow those with prior agreement to enter the School grounds. The School encourages as many pupils as possible to walk to school.

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**How will we manage the additional traffic coming into/near School?**

Traffic and highways will be considered under the planning process. A path is currently being built by Persimmon which will connect the School to the new houses on the Backbridge Farm development (at the back of the School). This path will also cross the river to allow pupils who live up towards the secondary school to walk to School too. This path will minimise the number of pupils and parent and carers who need to drive or use the front entrance to the School.

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**What will the impact be on other schools in the area?**

The impact on other schools is uncertain as this depends on a combination of parental choice and demand for school places. The School's expansion is intended to meet the future needs of families living with the town of Malmesbury. The proposed expansion will not open to additional pupils until 2027, from which point we will be growing by one class each year over seven years. This will create the opportunity for children in Malmesbury to attend a school in their town, should they choose, within walking distance from their home.

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**Indicative designs of expansion School from previous discussions in 2016/17**

Please note: these three designs are for information only. New designs to include STEAM facilities will be developed, and options that include a separate building may be considered.

