

VICTORIA PRENTIS MP



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND

Our Ref: CW/VP28481

13 July 2020

Dear Yvonne

Please find enclosed my response to the consultation on expanding primary school capacity within the Kingsmere development in SW Bicester.

Yours

Victoria

Victoria Prentis MP

Westminster Office

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 8756

Constituency Office

Orchard House
Hopcraft Lane
Deddington OX15 0TD
Tel: 01869 233 685

Online

victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk
www.victoriaprentis.com
[@victoriaprentis](https://www.facebook.com/victoriaprentis)



Consultation on expanding primary school capacity within the Kingsmere development in SW Bicester

I am the local Member of Parliament for North Oxfordshire, which includes the Kingsmere development in SW Bicester.

Bicester is one of the fastest growing towns in the country. In recent years we have been building almost three houses per day. It is vital that the relevant infrastructure is in place to support growth and the challenges it brings.

My own view is that school expansion in Kingsmere is extremely welcome. Residents have a good relationship with St Edburg's which has shouldered most of the growth in the area over the past few years. Expanding the school to a second site has its merits, as does building an entirely new school. I am open to both options. My constituents tell me that nearby schools are often heavily over-subscribed so expanding provision in the area is timely.

For some time now I have been concerned that growth does not produce neat packages of thirty four-year old children ready to fill a reception class. The ages of children looking for school places span across year groups. As we look to expand school provision in the Kingsmere area, it would be helpful to understand whether any consideration will be given to two-form entry and how admissions will be dealt with going forward.

It is also important that in addressing primary school capacity, consideration is given to associated infrastructure. I share my constituents' concerns about traffic and parking, especially given ongoing issues with traffic at the existing St Edburg's site. Further clarity is essential.

Going forward, I hope that a decision can be made in good time to enable the opening of a new primary school as soon as possible. I would be very happy to engage with the Council further as it develops its plans.

Victoria Prentis MP
July 2020