



## Consultation on the expansion of Ash Grange Nursery and Primary School



June 2026



# Consultation on the proposed expansion of Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School

## Local authority details

<b>Local Authority</b>	Surrey County Council
<b>Address</b>	Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill Reigate Surrey RH2 8EF

## School details

<b>Name of School</b>	Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School
<b>Category of School</b>	Primary
<b>Type of School</b>	Community School
<b>URN</b>	125116
<b>Address</b>	Ash Church Road, Ash, Aldershot
<b>Postcode</b>	GU12 6LX

# Consultation on the proposed expansion of Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School

We are consulting you about a proposal to expand Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School (Ash Grange) from a one form entry (1FE) primary school to a two form of entry (2FE) primary school from September 2028.

If the proposal was agreed, the expansion would be phased, with the school growing incrementally – or year on year. This means that existing year groups would remain their current size and each new Reception intake would increase from 30 to 60 pupils from September 2028 onwards.

## Background context

Although demand for primary school places has fallen at a county level, Ash and the surrounding area are experiencing the opposite trend as demand for primary school places is rising. This is because of the scale of additional housing developments in the area meaning that additional numbers of pupils are being created by an increase in the number of homes and families subsequently moving into the area.

Within the Ash & Tongham planning area, there are currently 240 Reception places available across six schools. For September 2026, schools in the Ash & Tongham planning area received a combined total of 271 first preference reception applications, which is 31 more applications for Reception places than there are Reception places available. This level of demand demonstrates an increase of 22% in applications over the last three years from September 2024.

As a result, more primary school places are needed locally to ensure there are enough spaces for children needing to start school in this area. Projections of future pupils needing Reception places in the Ash & Tongham planning area are presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Forecasts for the planning area of Ash & Tongham**

Ash and Tongham			
School year	Year R places	Year R Forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2026-27	240	267	-27
2027-28	240	279	-39
2028-29	240	284	-44
2029-30	240	287	-47
2030-31	240	287	-47
2031-32	240	286	-46
2032-33	240	285	-45
2033-34	240	286	-46
2034-35	240	286	-46

As shown in **Table 1**, it is currently projected that there will be more children who require a Reception place in the Ash & Tongham planning area than there are places. The forecasts show a rising and sustained deficit of Reception places across the planning period and clearly demonstrate that there is a sustained need for additional school places in the area. A core component of the strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of Ash Grange by 1FE, which, if approved,

would mitigate the impact of the anticipated place deficits by providing additional Reception places from September 2028.

## Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School

Ash Grange is a 1FE primary school located in the borough of Guildford, Surrey. The school was judged 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2020 and significantly improved in the ungraded inspection in June 2025. It currently has permanent accommodation for 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6, with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30. The school also has an attached nursery, with those places being offered separately.

Although Ash Grange currently operates as a 1FE school, it has previously supported additional pupil places by accommodating temporary 'bulge' classes. The school has accommodated a bulge class in academic year 2025-26 and will also accommodate a bulge class in 2026-27 due to the level of demand for a reception place within the local area.

## Why expand Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School?

Ash Grange sits on a large site that is centrally located in relation to the locality of the bulk of pupil demand. The site offers sufficient space for expansion, making it a practical and sustainable option for meeting the area's growing need for school places.

The school has already taken steps to support the community by accommodating temporary 'bulge' classes in both 2025/26 and 2026/27. This response to rising demand reflects the sustained pressure for places within the surrounding area. Without the additional bulge classes in 2025 and 2026, a significant number of local children would not have been offered a place at their nearest school. This would have resulted in families being allocated places further away.

Having established the need for additional places in the area, this proposal is then also a response to parental preference. As shown in **Table 2**, Ash Grange consistently receives more first-preference applications than its PAN of 30. For September 2026, the school received 65 first-preference applications, which is more than double the number of available places.

Therefore, expanding Ash Grange to a 2FE school will enable more children from the immediate community to attend their local school and will be beneficial in seeking to meet parental preference when offering school places. It will reduce travel distances for families and ensure that school provision keeps pace with the area's growing and sustained demand.

**Table 2: Preferences for Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School**

Academic Year	1st Preference	2nd Preference	3rd Preference	4th Preference	Total
2026/2027	65	54	23	10	152
2025/2026	62	45	31	11	149
2024/2025	74	43	24	7	148
2023/2024	58	31	29	14	132
2022/2023	55	37	20	11	123

## How would this proposal work?

Expanding Ash Grange from a 1FE to a 2FE school would increase the number of pupils admitted into Reception each academic year from September 2028 from 30 to 60 pupils.

The school would grow incrementally, year on year, rather than admitting additional cohorts of children immediately. If the proposal is agreed, it is anticipated that the first permanent Reception intake of 60 pupils (that is not a temporary bulge class) would start in September 2028. From that point onwards, each new mainstream Reception intake would consist of 60 pupils, with the school currently anticipated to reach its full capacity of 420 places by September 2032.

## What would this proposal mean for the children?

Should this proposal go ahead, the day-to-day experience for children already attending Ash Grange would remain similar. The main changes they would notice over time are the addition of new classrooms and a gradual increase in the number of pupils in the school.

It is important to understand that the school would not suddenly double in size. Instead, it would grow incrementally, admitting an extra class only at the reception entry point each year. This means that current year groups would remain the same size, and children already on roll would continue learning in the same class groups.

## Will the proposal have any impact on the school's admissions arrangements?

If the proposal is agreed, the school's PAN would increase from 30 to 60 from September 2028. This means the school would be able to offer more Reception places each year. Aside from the increase in PAN, there would be no changes to Ash Grange School's admissions arrangements, with all existing admissions criteria and processes remaining the same.

## Would there be any changes to the school buildings?

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, work would be required to the existing site to expand it and make it suitable to house additional pupils. This would involve the creation of four new classrooms.

The construction of the proposed extension would require a new haulage road to be in place for the duration of the construction period as the use of the existing school access is not possible due to site specific restrictions. The proposed extension and formation of the haulage road will require planning permission. There will be a separate public consultation relating to the extension, proposed road works and legislative requirements.

Responses to the education consultation should focus on the educational implications of the proposed change.

## What happens next?

This paper is part of a public consultation on the proposal to expand Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School.

The consultation begins on Monday 1 June 2026 and closes on Monday 13 July 2026.

There are several ways you can respond to the consultation, and these are set out below. We will also hold a public meeting for families, local communities and any other interested parties to discuss the proposal and get your input and feedback. This is important in helping us to further understand the views of parents/carers, staff and the local communities. Anyone who wishes to come is welcome at the meeting and you do not have to have a child at the school to attend.

The meeting will take place on:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

**2pm and 7pm at Ash Grange Nursery and Primary School**

The council will consider all the views put forward during this consultation period before deciding on whether to publish proposals required by law. These formal proposals may be altered, amended or different from this consultation. If proposals are published there will be a further period for comments, called the representation period in which the council will publish 'Statutory Notices'. This would last for 28 days, and a final decision would then be taken by Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning as to whether to expand Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School. The timeline for this proposal is shown in the table below (dates may be subject to change).

**Table 4: Proposed Timeline**

Date	Event
01 <sup>st</sup> June – 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Consultation
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Public meeting held at school
07 <sup>th</sup> September – 05 <sup>th</sup> October	A statutory notice is published for a 4-week representation period
24 <sup>th</sup> November	The proposal and responses are considered by the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning and a final decision on the proposal is made
1 September 2028	Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School would expand

## How do I respond to this consultation?

You can respond:

- online using the following link: [Consultation on the proposed expansion of Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School](#)

or

- by completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document.

You can either:

- email the form to [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

or

- print it, complete it and send it back to:  
Ash Grange Expansion Proposal - EPP  
Woodhatch Place  
11 Cockshot Hill  
Reigate  
RH2 8EF

**All responses must be received by 5pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026.**

If you have any questions about this proposal, please email [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk).