

Complete Statutory Proposal

Proposal to close Emberton School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the 'Opening and closing maintained schools - Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, November 2018', that **Milton Keynes Council proposes to close Emberton School with effect from 1 January 2020.**

Notice Date: 5 September 2019

School:

Emberton School
Emberton
Olney
Buckinghamshire
MK46 5BX

Proposer:

Education Sufficiency and Access
Milton Keynes Council
Civic
1 Saxon Gate East
Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

The lead officer for this proposal is Simon Sims, Strategic Lead, Sufficiency and Access. This consultation invites interested parties to respond to the proposal to close Emberton School.

Reason for closure:

In recent years the school has become less popular and numbers have declined, to the extent that with effect from September 2018, no children have been on roll at the school. The school, as an organisation, is no-longer viable. Birth data indicates that whilst a small number of children are due to start school in 2019 that live in the catchment area of Emberton School, there are sufficient places at other local infant schools to accommodate these children. In addition, parental preference in recent years shows that the school is not a popular choice for parents. There is currently no demand expected from new housing in the local area.

Pupil numbers and admissions:

Emberton School is an infant school with provision for children aged 4 to 7 years with an admission number of 12 in each year group, Year R to Year 2. The capacity of the school is 36. There are no pupils on roll at the school. Emberton School has been and continues to be an option on the Council's online application portal allowing parents to choose the school as a preference. Despite this, only 15% of Emberton catchment children have chosen the school as their first preference in the last three years. For 2019 specifically, no first preference applications were made.

Displaced pupils:

No pupils will be displaced by the school's closure as there are no pupils on roll at the school.

Impact on the community:

Pupil numbers have steadily reduced over recent years and there have been no pupils on roll since September 2018, so there is likely to be little impact on the local community. If the school closes, the governors can consider alternative uses for the site to support education within the local community and across the other federated village schools.

Rural primary schools:

Officers at Milton Keynes Council have considered section 15(4) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and do not believe there are any factors which support the school remaining open. The assessment for this can be found in the preliminary consultation document hosted on the Council's website.

Travel:

Emberton School has not been a popular choice for a number of years and parents are already choosing to access neighbouring schools. Closure of the school is unlikely to have any further impact on the use of motor vehicles within the village. The nearest school to the village of Emberton is Olney Infant Academy. The walking distance from Emberton School to Olney Infant Academy is 1.6 miles and is therefore within the statutory walking distance of two miles for children under the age of eight years. Any pupils who cannot access a school place within two miles walking distance would be eligible for Home to School Travel assistance, although it is estimated that this may impact on very few pupils.

How to respond to this statutory consultation:

The closing date for comments is **Thursday, 3 October 2019**.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (5 September 2019) any person may support, object or make comments by emailing sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Or in writing to the council address.

A copy of this consultation can be found online at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations