



**CHRIST CHURCH CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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## **FAO: APPEALS PANEL**

Christ Church Church of England Primary School is in a small Victorian building and was built approximately 150 years ago for different expectations and a different form of education than that of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The school's age and design does put limitations on its use.

You are no doubt aware the Government have limited Infant classes to 30 pupils. An additional pupil in 2019/20, and potentially beyond this academic year, would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources by the need to take relevant measures at the school in order to comply with the law regarding Infant Class Sizes. This would mean building an extra teaching space and employing another teacher (or operating with two teachers within one classroom) or organising mixed age classes.

We believe one of the strengths of the school is its single age classes. Any more pupils admitted to our classes in Key Stage One would have a detrimental effect on the high quality education we offer our children. Also, if a class in Key Stage 1 were over 30, this would impact on the ability to teach that class when they reached Year 3 or 4 as these two classrooms are the smallest in the school and cannot physically accommodate more than 30 desks/chairs.

In the past, the school has already undertaken internal building work to enable the best possible use of space. This involved expanding a classroom and building more cupboards for storage in cloakrooms, but this still means some of our rooms are small. In addition, we currently have Teaching Assistants working with groups of children in cloakrooms or the Hall and pupil coats and bags are placed in narrow corridors.

Practical problems would also result from taking an additional pupil into Year 2 with regard to lack of space and the associated health & safety concerns within the main hall. The school hall was originally built to accommodate a smaller school. Space in the hall is currently extremely limited for Collective Worship, leaving only a small strip at the front of the hall for the person leading Worship. The staff and Governors value the whole school joining together for Collective Worship as they feel it develops whole school unity. Already, due to a lack of space in the hall, one or two year groups of children are sometimes unable to participate in enrichment activities, for example, theatre groups, due to the limited space available. In addition, the hall is not sufficient in size to accommodate 210 children for lunches, so classrooms are used for children's

packed lunches and for providing space for enriching curriculum opportunities during the lunch-time or after school. The hall space is also a very limited facility for dance and indoor PE.

For our ICT curriculum provision, we use a computer suite with 15 PCs. We can therefore split a class of 30 in half or double-up - two children to a computer. With a class size of over 30, this will add difficulties in organizing equal access for all pupils.

Outside, we have two small playgrounds. We like our children to have space to run freely and play different games safely and, due to the lack of space on these playgrounds, we stagger the children's breaks in order to provide as much space for them as we can. We have no field and walk to Ashcombe School field and travel to Hutton Moor Leisure Centre in order to provide the space needed to teach the whole curriculum.

An additional child/children would also compromise the safety of the children and adults due to increased numbers of people in the corridor/work space areas. Currently the areas outside the classrooms, including small teaching rooms, are utilised fully as additional work spaces for small groups to enhance their learning. These areas are limited and additional children would impact on their use for teaching. We also have fixed fire exits and space to assemble for fire safety and additional children working in classrooms or small teaching areas or commuting from the classroom to other areas of the school would pose a potential hazard.

Thank you for taking the time to read our submission. We strongly believe that, for the reasons stated above, we should not exceed our class sizes of 30 children.

Yours faithfully

Emma Bray  
Headteacher



*'Let Your Light Shine' – Matthew 5:16*