



**Wigan**<sup>♥</sup>  
**Council**

# **Consultation on the proposed permanent enlargement Garrett Hall Primary School**

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# Proposed permanent enlargement of Garrett Hall Primary School

## Introduction

This document is to tell you about Wigan Local Authority's (LA) proposal to permanently enlarge Garrett Hall Primary School so that it admits 90 children each year with effect from September 2027.

The current published admission number for the school is 60.

This proposal, if approved, will ensure the buildings are enlarged so that the school can increase its capacity so that from 2027 the school will be able to admit up to 90 pupils per year group for each subsequent reception intake.

This booklet contains information about the schools in the Tyldesley primary school organisation area. It explains the projected demand for primary school places and why the council is suggesting that we permanently enlarge Garrett Hall Primary School.

## School context

Situated in Tyldesley, Garrett Hall Primary School is a 3-11 community school situated in east of the borough, judged as Outstanding by Ofsted in May 2024 (using previous Ofsted grading system).

## Future pupil numbers in the area

Wigan LA calculate the number of primary school places that will be required.

The LA's forecasts show that the Tyldesley area of the borough is experiencing a sustained high birth rate which experiences peaks and troughs, whilst other areas of the borough are in decline. The schools within the Tyldesley primary planning area are –

- Garrett Hall Primary School
- Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Boothstown
- St Ambrose Catholic Primary School
- St George's Central CE Primary School
- St John's CE Primary School, Mosley Common
- St Stephen's CE Primary School, Astley

- Tyldesley Primary School

Previous housing completions have driven an increase in demand in the area and contributed to the higher birth rate.

In addition, several housing developments are due to be delivered with around 209 family homes to be built out by 2030, this is in addition to the Mosley Common development referenced later in this document.

This demand is expected to exhaust existing capacity in the area.

In its latest School Place Planning Strategy, the LA reported that the existing combined capacity for schools across Tyldesley was 277 places. This is not sufficient to meet projected demand.

The table below shows projected demand with the increased capacity at Garrett Hall Primary School –

<b>Reception class entry</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Projected demand on reception class places</b>	<b>Reception class capacity with proposed increase</b>
2027/28	260	289	307
2028/29	295	328	307
2029/30	259	288	307

Projected demand is based on patterns of parental preference. Not all parents who apply will live in Tyldesley and some will be accommodated in other place planning areas.

Our data indicates that by increasing the number of places available, we can ensure that children living in the Tyldesley area where parents express a preference for a school in the area, will be able to secure a place for their child.

### **Additional proposal in Tyldesley**

In addition to the projections above, a large scale development is underway in Mosley Common which is expected to deliver circa 1100 homes. Using our pupil yield calculations, a development of this size could yield 33 children per year group. The LA's intention is to meet this demand

separately through the permanent expansion of St John's CE Primary, Mosley Common.

The projections provided in this document do not account for the yield from the Mosley Common development, they are based on current factors. Given the potential future pupil yield expected to be generated by the development, we are confident that it will require its own separate school expansion.

The delivery of the homes in the Mosley Common development will take place between 2026 and 2035. It is proposed that expansion take place before the final homes are completed to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet demand from the development as families move into the area.

The expansion of St John's CE Primary School will not meet all of the projected demand in the Tyldesley area and that is why a further expansion at Garrett Hall Primary is being proposed.

The consultation for St John's CE Primary, Mosley Common is being carried out separately, this proposal and consultation relate to Garrett Hall Primary School only.

## **Our proposal**

We are proposing to increase the admission number of Garrett Hall Primary School from 60 to 90 on a permanent basis from 1 September 2027 for this and each subsequent reception intake.

The reasons why we are proposing to extend Garrett Hall Primary School are:

- Educational standards at the school are graded Outstanding by Ofsted (using previous Ofsted grading system).
- The school is popular with parents and is regularly oversubscribed.
- The school is in the area where the places are required.
- The school has previously been expanded to admit up to 90 pupils in some year groups.
- It is possible to build a suitable extension on the school site.

To accommodate the additional pupils per year group, we will extend the school building providing additional classrooms and other teaching and staff spaces. This will ultimately take the school to 90 places per year group with an overall capacity of 630 places available across the school.

## What this means for you and your child

The amount of funding schools receive depends mainly on how many children there are on roll. Therefore, a larger school can employ more staff and class sizes can remain the same as they currently are. More staff also means that the school can use its staffing more flexibly. The headteacher and governors will decide on class organisation in the enlarged school.

The expansion will include additional classroom spaces and any necessary ancillary facilities required to accommodate the additional pupils.

## The consultation process

We will hold meetings to provide more details about the proposal and to answer any questions you have.

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Meeting for Governors	Date: 23 March 2026 Time: 3.30pm Venue: Garrett Hall Primary School	All Governors of Garrett Hall Primary School
Meeting for staff	Date: 25 February 2026 Time: 3.45pm Venue: Garrett Hall Primary School	All staff of Garrett Hall Primary School
Open consultation sessions	Date: 11 March 2026 Time: 8:30 to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm Venue: Garrett Hall Primary School	These sessions are open to everyone but especially the parents of pupils attending at or intending to apply for Garrett Hall Primary Schools.  If you wish to attend one of these sessions, please contact Garrett Hall Primary School either in person or by email at <a href="mailto:enquiries@admin.garretthall.wigan.sch.uk">enquiries@admin.garretthall.wigan.sch.uk</a> and you will be allocated a time to attend.

		Times may be extended if demand exceeds the number of appointments available.
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This is an initial pre-publication consultation of the proposal to permanently enlarge Garrett Hall Primary School with effect from 2027. The information provided in this booklet and at the consultation sessions should be enough to enable people to form an initial view on the proposal. However, at this stage we have not worked out every detail of the proposal as we need to listen to your views and concerns so that the detailed proposals which we make later in the process can take these into account.

We are sorry that due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal. We will post any relevant frequently asked questions (FAQs) with answers on the council website at:

[www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations)

We will send you a hard copy of the FAQs if you request one.

This consultation is primarily concerned with the educational elements of the proposal to permanently enlarge Garrett Hall Primary School. Residents and members of the community will be consulted on the proposed enlargement of the school as part of the planning application process if applicable, which will take place later, and their views will be reported back to the council.

Please note that all responses to this consultation will be made available to Elected Members (councillors) for decision making purposes.

## Next steps

We must follow strict legal procedures to enlarge a school. The timetable below shows the periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be made. If you make your views known outside these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
Informal consultation – during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• writing to or emailing the council; or</li> <li>• completing the response form on the Council’s website or at the end of this booklet</li> </ul>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 to 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026
Results of the informal consultation will go to the Cabinet of the council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to move onto the next stage of consultation and issue a statutory notice.	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Representation period – Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in other public places in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to or emailing the council at the address on page 8. The address and date by which you must send written comments will also be given on the public notice.	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 to 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
The council makes the final decision on the proposal*	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
If approved, school is enlarged	September 2027

\*The following can appeal against the council’s decision: Church of England (CofE) diocese and Roman Catholic (RC) diocese.

Please note the timetable may alter. The council or the staff of Garrett Hall Primary School will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know the new dates we are working towards.

## Circulation list

We are consulting the following:

- Parents and prospective parents of children attending Garrett Hall Primary School
- Pupils at Garrett Hall Primary School
- Governors and staff of Garrett Hall Primary School
- Diocesan authorities
- Neighbouring primary and secondary schools
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations
- Elected Members (councillors)
- The local Member of Parliament
- The local community (via web site, placing of document in local community settings)

**Responses should be made online at [www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations)**

If you are unable to respond through the online web form, the address for correspondence is -

The School Organisation Team

Wigan Council

People Directorate: Children and Families

Wigan Life Centre South

College Avenue

WN1 1NJ

Email: [consultation@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@wigan.gov.uk)

Responses should be completed and returned no later than **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.**