



Question and answer sheet in relation to the consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Garrett Hall Primary School

The consultation document is available at www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations

Q. Common queries raised when there is a proposal to permanently expand a school are ‘why haven’t building plans been shared’ and ‘is this a planning application’?

A. This stage of the consultation is the ‘**pre-publication**’ stage and is not statutory. The purpose of the pre-publication consultation is to gather views from interested parties before any formal statutory process begins. This helps the Local Authority shape the proposal before deciding whether to proceed.

Responses from consultees at the pre-publication stage will be considered by the Council’s Cabinet who will be the decision maker on whether the proposal proceeds to the formal stage.

If permission is given to proceed to the formal stage, a **statutory proposal/notice** will be published and a 4-week representation/consultation period will commence. This stage gives further opportunity for stakeholders to make comment.

Again, responses from consultees will be considered by Cabinet and a recommendation on whether to proceed or not will be made by Council Officers. If Cabinet approves the proposal, the plans for expansion will continue.

Summary of the pre-consultation process

These early consultation stages focus on:

- Why additional school places are needed, and
- How the Local Authority proposes to meet that need.

They do not involve:

- Building plans,
- Detailed site layouts, or
- Submission of a planning application.

After these stages, the **planning process** will begin.

An example overview of the planning process is –

- Once a planning application is made valid the information will be uploaded to the Council's website for public viewing.
- Letters will then be issued to surrounding properties to notify them of the application. A site notice will also be erected and a press notice will also be published.
- Residents will then have 21 days to provide comments (from the date the neighbour letters are issued, or the site notice/press notice, whichever is the latter).
- During this time, the Local Planning Authority consult relevant internal and external consultees such as highways, landscape and design, United Utilities and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (amongst others).
- Once any representations and consultee responses are received, these are reviewed by the Planning Officer which will inform their overall recommendation.
- If less than 10 objections from separate addresses are received, then the application can be determined by delegated powers (i.e. at officer level). If over 10 objections are received (or a ward councillor call in), and the application is recommended for approval, then it will be presented to planning committee for determination.