

RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION NUMBERS

Governors were consulted on the proposed admission numbers for their schools for 2017/18 school year. The requests of the governors and background information are provided below.

Admission numbers are set by reference to the school's net capacity. In primary schools, the net capacity is calculated on the basis of the number and size of teaching spaces designated as 'class-bases'. In secondary schools, it is based on the number, size and type of teaching spaces and the age range of the school.

The net capacity formula provides a maximum and minimum number of workplaces, to guide the setting of the admission number. The formula produces an indicated admission number. It is permitted to set an admission number higher or lower than the indicated admission number.

a) SECONDARY

District 6 - Preston Longridge High School – 06/115

Current Admission Number	=	158
Indicated Admission Number	=	165
Proposed Admission Number	=	158
Governors' Proposal	=	165

Comments made by school:

The school has maximum workplaces at 825 within its current net capacity assessment. This means that it can accommodate 165 pupils per year group.

The school was oversubscribed for 2015-16 and demand is projected to continue into future years with the planned development of a large number of new homes in the Longridge area.

The Longridge Town Council website report that there are currently planning applications in progress for between 1,595 and 1,895 houses in Longridge and the surrounding area. There is ongoing liaison with the School Planning Team to look at how these new housing developments and consequent increases in the pupil population will impact on the school's capacity in the longer term.

Officer Comment:

For September 2015 intakes the school received 331 applications for 158 available places (including 169 first preferences). For September 2016 intakes the school has received 380 applications for 158 available places (including 170 first preferences).

The trend for higher numbers of applications has therefore started and house build and

additional pupils in the area will sustain this for the future. The school's current net capacity does confirm enough teaching space for 165 pupils per year group.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this school's PAN is increased from 158 to 165 for September 2017.

**District 13 - Pendle
West Craven High School – 13/103**

Current Admission Number	=	165
Indicated Admission Number	=	165
Proposed Admission Number	=	165
Governors' Proposal	=	140

Comments made by school:

The Council's Construction and Programming Team have confirmed that the whole school has now been designed to accommodate 700 students This follows refurbishment which included the demolition of an entire block. This equates to 140 pupils per year for Years 7 to 11 as an 11-16 school. To have an admission number greater than this would run the risk of the school being over populated and breaching Health & Safety guidelines within a couple of years.

Officer Comment:

Building work (refurbishment and improvements) did incorporate removing an entire block from the school. The former net capacity assessment had a minimum - maximum range of places from 823 to 915 which produced an indicated admission number at 165 (the same as the current published admission number).

The building programme was always working towards a school with a lower net capacity range and it was intended to reduce the IAN and PAN to 140. The net capacity measure is being re-assessed to reflect the changes.

The numbers on roll at the school in years 7 to 11 (at October 2015 census) were:- 135 - 110 - 97 - 93 - 82. The current number at 165 has therefore not been reached for some years. For September 2016 intakes the school has received 211 applications for 165 available places (these include only 110 first preferences).

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this school's PAN is lowered from 165 to 140 for September 2017.

b) PRIMARY

District 6 – Preston

The Grange Primary School – 06/010

Current Admission Number	=	25
Indicated Admission Number	=	25
Proposed Admission Number	=	25
Governors' Proposal	=	30

Comments made by school:

The Local Authority and school have agreed to build an additional classroom, due to be completed October 2016, in order to increase the capacity of the school and meet growing demand in the Ribbleton area.

The additional classroom will mean that there are 7 classrooms and that the school will be able to operate as a single form entry establishment. The classroom build is being funded by the Local Authority.

The Governors are therefore happy to increase the published admission number from 25 to 30. They are confident that there will be capacity within the building to accommodate this increase in pupil numbers. This would increase the school's overall capacity from 150 at present to 210 following the completion of the additional classroom.

Officer Comment:

The new classroom will mean that 7 teaching bases will be available (one for each year group).

It is logical therefore to increase the published admission number from 25 to 30. This also facilitates adherence to infant class size requirements in key stage 1 (reception, years 1 and 2).

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this school's PAN is increased from 25 to 30 for September 2017.

District 7 – South Ribble

Woodlea Junior School - 07/019

Current Admission Number	=	65
Indicated Admission Number	=	56

Proposed Admission Number = 65
Governors' Proposal = 65

Comments made by school:

The governors of Woodlea Junior School are content with an admission number of 65 for the 2017/18 school year.

There is however an issue regarding Leyland St Andrew's Infant School which has close links to Woodlea Junior. Almost all the year 2 children from St. Andrew's have traditionally transferred automatically to Woodlea each September. There is a difference however between the admission numbers of the two schools. Woodlea has an admission number of 65 and St. Andrew's has an admission number of 70. In the past this has never been an issue as St. Andrew's has not had more than 65 pupils transferring. This year however approximately 70 pupils are due to transfer to Woodlea and this trend looks like continuing as number rise in the future.

Whilst the governors and head teacher of Woodlea are prepared to admit the additional children for September 2016, particularly as parents have not been alerted to the potential difficulties, Woodlea cannot continue to admit additional pupils in future years.

An assessment of the accommodation at Woodlea was undertaken in October 2013 by the School Planning Team. The net capacity was calculated as 227 giving an indicated admission number of 56. This is well below the current published admission number. It was found that whilst the school had sufficient classes to support the admission number of 65, many of the classrooms were small. The School Planning Team considered that it was extremely unlikely that the school could manage an intake of 70.

The governors are mindful of the close link with St. Andrew's School and would wish where possible to continue to ensure that all those children wishing to transfer to Woodlea can be accommodated. The school is conscious however that it would simply be unable to continue to admit 70 pupils without the provision of additional accommodation.

The governors would ask therefore that the Authority give some urgent consideration to the provision of additional accommodation at Woodlea Junior School to accommodate the number of pupils who are likely to be transferring from St. Andrew's Infant School in future years.

If it is not possible to provide additional accommodation at Woodlea School then urgent steps need to be taken to ensure that the appropriate admission policy for the School is applied for admissions for September 2017 to match the intake to the available places.

Efforts also need to be made to alert parents of children currently at St. Andrew's that transfer to Woodlea School will no longer be automatic and parents will be expected to complete a school preference form prior to transfer.

Officer Comment:

The published admission number for Woodlea Junior School has been set at 65 for some time and was at this number in 2002 (prior to net capacity measures being introduced).

The current net capacity measure gives a range of available places from 204 to 227 (which equates to a published admission number between 51 and 56). The school has therefore admitted over its assessed range of teaching places for some years.

It is recognised that in Lancashire there are 6 infant schools which have very close links to their 6 associated junior schools. Historically children have automatically transferred from the infant school to the associated junior school (where parents wanted this to happen).

Legally however parents with children on roll at the infant schools have no automatic right to transfer to a year 3 place at the associated junior school (where the schools are distinctly separate - have their own governing body). Automatic transfers have historically happened because low pupil numbers have facilitated this or because occasionally the junior school has agreed to exceed number to accommodate all year 3 transfer requests.

An increase in pupil numbers and, in this case, the difference between the infant school number (set at 70) and the junior school number (set at 65) have required greater focus on the situation this year and for the future.

Had the junior school decided to apply their published number at 65 then the Local Authority would have undertaken a formal admission round for the Year 3 transfers. All parents would have been given the opportunity to apply for year 3 places (3 school preferences per applicant). Then the published admission arrangements would have been applied in allocating up to 65 places at Woodlea Junior School - with alternative offers for any residual applications.

The offer to implement this exercise was made to Woodlea Junior School but they reconsidered the matter and decided to exceed number to accommodate all year 3 requests from St Andrew's Infant School in September 2016.

In addition the Local Authority has consulted in autumn term 2015 on formalising and explaining more clearly the infant to junior transfer process (to parents and for the schools involved). A letter and information was sent direct to each infant and junior head teacher ahead of formal consultation.

In future additional information will be in Lancashire's statutory scheme to co-ordinate admissions throughout the County; and also in additional information for parents (website and hard copy).

At present any decision to increase the published admission number at Woodlea Infants School would require an assessment of the current building (s) and teaching space, suitability and a broader view of current and future demand in the planning area as a whole.

At the October 2015 census there were around 15 available year 3 places in nearby primary schools (those within about 1,000 meters - straight line - of Woodlea). There is therefore some capacity to accommodate any surplus transfers from St Andrew's CE Infants at this time. Clearly however the views of parents and children will be mainly that they wish to continue in a junior school on the same site with their established peer group.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the school's PAN remain at 65 at present.

Also that this matter is referred to the Schools Development Group in January 2015 to initiate discussion / consideration around the need to expand Woodlea Junior School in relation to the wider need for additional places (or otherwise) in this locality.

District 8 – West Lancashire

Asmall Primary School - 08/009

Current Admission Number	=	25
Indicated Admission Number	=	22
Proposed Admission Number	=	25
Governors' Proposal	=	20

Comments made by school:

The school would like to reverse the original decision to expand from 20 to 25 children per cohort in September 2017.

Pupil numbers in school have increased significantly over the past 3 years and the school has re-arranged its accommodation to suit single age classes.

It now uses every available space in school for teaching accommodation and some of these spaces would not be suitable for class sizes of 25 or more pupils. The school would therefore like a published admission number of 20 to be reinstated. This will allow continued single age classes. The School Planning Team have confirmed that the net capacity assessment has been updated to 157 places. The projected pupil numbers in the area shows a reduction in numbers over the next few years and so a reduction in the PAN would not have a great impact.

Officer Comment:

The net capacity assessment of available teaching areas has been updated and now indicates 157 available places (equates to a published admission number at 22). Admission authorities should however set numbers to reflect and manage infant class size requirements for no more than 30 pupils in a class with a single qualified teacher. A number at 20 would therefore facilitate this requirement.

Current pupil number forecasts show that in 5 years' time there are surplus places in the planning area for this school. The School Planning Team do not have any objections to the proposed reduction.

If in the longer term the situation changes and there is increased demand for primary places in the area it will be necessary to once again consider increasing the published admission number to help to meet local demand.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this school's PAN is lowered from 25 to 20 for September 2017.