

## RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION NUMBERS

Consultation also takes place with Community and Voluntary Controlled Governing Bodies, which were consulted on the Proposed Admission Numbers for their schools for 2020/21 school year. The requests of the governors and background information are provided below.

The PANs are set by reference to the school's net capacity. The net capacity assessment is a national measuring tool provided by the Department for Education.

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 [IAN]. It is permitted to set an admission number higher or lower than the indicated admission number.

a) **SECONDARY**

**The Rhyddings Business & Enterprise School - 11105**

Current Admission Number	=	240
Indicated Admission Number	=	230
Proposed Admission Number	=	240
Governors' Proposal	=	130

**Comments made by the School**

The historic admission number has been 240 but falling roll over a number of years has now stabilised at a 4 or 5 form entry school with approx. 590 pupils currently on roll.

Current year 9 is the largest year group at 143 with the others averaging 109. Recent and extensive problems with 2 four storey blocks also means that over the next 2-3yrs there will be an anticipated programme of building demolition, design and re-build. During this time I believe our capacity (awaiting the full report) cannot exceed approx. an admission of 140, and is likely to be lower based on current estimates. Therefore, continuing with the PAN of 240 is both illogical and misleading.

The amount of temporary accommodation and how the building operates is also a limiting factor, as we are operating at capacity with the facilities we currently have and foresee having for some time to come.

Whatever the final PAN is to be, it still needs further discussion in light of the buildings situation, temporary accommodation and facilities, future requirements and subsequent building design solution (discussions with Asset Management are ongoing). However, we believe 130 to be a reasonable and indicative figure for the immediate future of the school (next 2-3yrs), rising in a phased approach to a maximum of 150 as the area forecasts requires and the final buildings solution is completed.

**Officer Comments:~**

School Planning Team forecasts for school places, shows that the minimum PAN to ensure that there are sufficient places in the Hyndburn area should be 150 in cohort years of 2020 and 2022. Therefore we cannot remove a greater number of places at this time. However there may be a mechanism to allow a lower PAN, but with an over-admission or a bulge in 2020 and 2022 to a PAN of 150 to meet the need for places.

## Recommendation:~

There is written agreement from the head teacher at Rhyddings Business and Enterprise School that 150 places can be offered for the September 2020 intake, if needed, to ensure all pupils within the locality receive a reasonable offer (ie within 3 miles of their home address). It is therefore recommended that the Published Admission Number is reduced to 130, with the proviso that this will be exceeded if there is the demand.

### b) PRIMARY

#### District 2 – Wyre

##### The Breck Primary School 02002

Current Admission Number	=	35
Indicated Admission Number	=	35
Proposed Admission Number	=	35
Governors' Proposal	=	60

#### Comments made by the School:~

In 2014 Lancashire expanded the school with 25 places as part of their Mainstream School Provision:

Section 7 of the School Place Provision Strategy Document published by Lancashire County Council.

Wyre In Wyre, 25 additional places were provided at The Breck Primary School in Poulton-le-Fylde in 2014. However there is significant housing development across Fylde and the Council are seeking housing developer contributions to mitigate the impact of these developments and there is likely to be expansion planned in Wyre as a result of these developments

In addition the school meets the criteria stated in:

Strategy to meet demand Commissioning New Places In areas which have been assessed as requiring additional places, the commissioned school places will be selected according to the following criteria:

Pupil attainment levels as determined by: o Latest judgement by Ofsted is Outstanding or Good\* o Pupil attainment and progress scores at Key Stages 2 and 4 The School is Outstanding and Pupil Attainment and Progress scores at Key Stage 2 are above national and local levels.

High levels of parental first preferences \*\* (in particular, oversubscribed schools) Pupil Access were able to provide data in relation to preferences for Sept. 2017 and 2018.

As at offer day in 2017 there were 206 total preferences – 58 1st preferences; 74 2nd preferences; and 74 3rd preferences. This will also include late applications.

As at offer day in 2018 there were 173 total preferences – 58 1st preferences; 66 2nd preferences; and 49 3rd preferences. This will also include late applications.

Data for the 2019 intake is not available as the closing date has just been passed and information has not been exchanged with neighbouring authorities. .

In addition they advised the following regarding appeals for places:

There were 66 appeals for places at The Breck Primary School between 1/12/2013 and 1/12/2018. 26 of these were unsuccessful and 23 were successful. The remaining were deferred/withdrawn.

We are aware that there are currently 156 parental choices for September 2019 on the School Portal System

Breck is currently oversubscribed with high levels of parental preferences.

The current size of the school

The school currently has the following children on roll:

Nursery – FTE 30

Reception – 38

Year 1 – 35

Year 2 – 41

Year 3 – 36

Year 4 – 39

Year 5 – 60

Year 6 – 35

There are 10 classrooms for the 8 cohorts

In 2020 there will be 10 classrooms for 7 cohorts if the alternative numbers are unallocated

Location of the school relative to population

The school is becoming more closely located to its population as housing development proceeds – the geographical catchment of the school has reduced each year with most children now being allocated places geographically within .65 of a mile.

## Officer Comments

The school has additional capacity as a result of a 'bulge year' which the school accommodated in 2013/14, which resulted in one of its cohorts being 60 pupils. This cohort will leave the school at the end of 2019/20 admission year, resulting in additional capacity becoming available and one additional classroom being spare within the school.

However the School Planning Team would object to this proposal for 2020/21 for the following reasons:

- The birth year for 2020 is not extraordinary, it is low by comparison to the previous year (150 vs 167) so additional places are not required
- Additional places provided in a cohort that does not require additional places could lead to destabilisation of other schools.
- Collective PAN in this area exceeds births, it is an importing area (pupils migrate in from other areas).
- Catchment of this school is wide, taking pupils from Blackpool, Thornton Cleveleys, Over Wyre and Staining – therefore, these additional places would not be for local children, but simply take the pupils out of neighbouring schools and the wider area.
- The school currently maintains a PAN of 35; in an ideal world this would be either a full FE or half FE, hence 30 or 45. The additional classroom could be used as part of a fuller expansion to enlarge the PAN from 35 to 45 should evidence of need for additional places be forthcoming, but if this classroom was brought back into use for the next 7 years, this may be a barrier to future expansion.

The School Planning Team would recommend that the PAN is maintained at 35 for 2020 and 2021, with the additional classroom being reserved until needed – either to accommodate a future bulge or to form part of a full expansion using housing contributions, if and when the need arises. The scale of housing development in Wyre would suggest that this could occur in the foreseeable future and therefore the School Planning Team will continue to closely monitor delivery of housing in the area.

### **Recommendation**

The School Planning team would recommend that the PAN is maintained at 35 for 2020 and 2021, with the additional classroom being reserved until needed – either to accommodate a future bulge or to form part of a full expansion using any available housing contributions if and when the need arises. The School Planning Team will closely monitor emerging need and liaise with the school if places are required.

### **Nateby Primary School 02038**

Current Admission Number	=	13
Indicated Admission Number	=	12
Proposed Admission Number	=	13
Governors' Proposal	=	12

### **Comments made by school:**

We have always had an admissions number of 13 as numbers had, historically, sometimes been low. The ability to accept more pupils then made up the shortfall from low in-take years. We currently have a school role that has doubled in the last few years and can no-longer sustain these high numbers. Our net capacity assessment has given an admissions number of 12. This would help us to manage our pupil role and ensure our pupils and staff are safe. At the moment we have 83 pupils on role an admissions number of 12 per year group would generate 84 pupils. Some of our year groups are at 13 or higher even now. Higher numbers are putting a strain on classes and class teachers with one class consisting of 29 year 4-6 pupils. This is only just manageable at the moment. There would not be enough space anywhere in the school to teach children if the role were to rise further. An admissions number of 12 would help reduce this problem and it is indicated by the net capacity assessment.

### **Officer Comment:**

School Planning team: Nateby Primary School lies within Garstang & Surrounding Primary Planning Area in which a significant shortfall of places is forecast within 5 years, therefore we must object to any reduction in Published Admission Numbers for the area at this time.

**Recommendation:**

Due to an anticipated shortfall of places it is recommended that the Published Admission Number remains at 13.

**District 8 – West Lancashire****Banks Methodist Primary School 08076**

Current Admission Number	=	10
Indicated Admission Number	=	10
Proposed Admission Number	=	10
Governors' Proposal	=	12

**Comments made by school:**

Due to the increasing numbers in our Nursery setting, with children now on a waiting list we believe there will be a need for extra places in Reception from 2019/20. Also due to increasing numbers and demand for nursery places in the area we are looking at increasing the number of sessions we offer 2 year olds which again will increase our numbers – we are currently the only provider for 2 year olds in the village.

As well as the increasing numbers in nursery there are currently 2 building projects in the village, adding over 100 houses. This will bring young families into the area and we want to capitalise on this by increasing our admission to 12.

With the school increasing and moving in the right direction we have now moved from three to four classes in the morning. The aim is from September 2019/20 have four classes permanently – a Y5/6, Y3/4, Y1/2 and EYFS/Nursery.

**Officer Comment:**

The school is currently Infant class size compliant with an admission number of 10. Is there sufficient capacity to increase to 12. Future appeals would be on an ordinary prejudice basis and therefore if there is housing development, unless there is a very strong case, the pupil numbers are likely to rise and this as you know will be binding on the school. Are they able to accommodate the additional pupils across all age ranges? If the school capacity measurement can accommodate more pupils - why not increase to 15 as this will be ICS Compliant and the case will be strong for the appeals? The 4 class organisation will still work.

Banks Methodist Primary School lies within Tarleton, Banks and Rufford Planning Area in which there are currently surplus places, with a forecast low birth rate in

2020. Therefore, we would object to any increase in Published Admission Numbers for the area. The proposal to increase the nursery places lies outside of this process and will be responded to separately.

**Recommendation:**

As forecasts suggest there are surplus places within the Planning Area and there is a low birth rate forecast for the September 2020 intake it is recommended that the Published Admission Number remain at 10.

**District 9 – Chorley**

**Duke Street Primary School – 09002**

Current Admission Number	=	50
Indicated Admission Number	=	52
Proposed Admission Number	=	50
Governors' Proposal	=	60

**Comments made by school:**

THIS IS THE NEW CONSULTATION DETAIL:~

As you may be aware, the school made an application for this increase to take place for 2019/20.

If, for 3 years, we can use just part of the area which was originally our KS1 area and which then became the Children's Centre, to use as a staff area and one small room for group work with children, we will have sufficient room to begin the process of becoming a 2 form entry school, starting incrementally with our reception intake rising to 60 from September 2020 and feeding through the school over the following 6 years.

I discussed the capacity issue with officers previously to this end. For the two out of the last here years we have had waiting lists for reception places and have had to turn people away from the school who wanted places further up the school. With the exception of our present Reception year we are currently full up to year 4, with one spare place in year 5. As you may be aware, the school made an application for this increase to take place for 2019/20.

If, for 3 years, we can use just part of the area which was originally our KS1 area and which then became the Children's Centre, to use as a staff area and one small room for group work with children, we will have sufficient room to begin the process of becoming a 2 form entry school, starting incrementally with our reception intake rising to 60 from September 2020 and feeding through the school over the following 6 years.

### Officer Comment:

THIS WAS THE COMMENT LAST TIME

The Authority is unable to support this at the present time.

Query Does the school have 14 classrooms available to be able to accommodate a 60 ad no across the whole age range? If not I would recommend that the ad no remains at 50 which is ICS complaint.

The SPT would object to the increase in PAN as there is not a need for permanent additional places in the planning area that Duke Street resides within and could destabilise other schools in the area. However, the LA would not object if the school wished to exceed their PAN from 50 to 60 **for one year only in 2020**, as there is a one year bulge year in numbers forecast. This would be on the proviso that the school could accommodate the temporary increase within the existing accommodation and without capital monies.

### Recommendation:

It is recommended that the PAN remains at 50 until there is more certainty about the available accommodation.

### Highfield Primary School – 09003

Current Admission Number	=	45
Indicated Admission Number	=	40
Proposed Admission Number	=	45
Governors' Proposal	=	30

### Comments made by school:

The building lacks the physical space for 315 pupils. This inhibits the implementation of a modern curriculum. When the school was built, pupils did not have iPads, lap tops, keyboards, etc.. The school also lacks storage facilities as every spare space is used for teaching. This has been highlighted as a concern on health and safety inspections.

We are not full in certain year groups. As a result, a lot of children who move to Chorley end up having to send their children to Highfield, even if we are not their first choice or their nearest school. We become a 'holding school' until places become available in closer schools. Children moving schools go back six months in their education so this has a detrimental impact on their attainment. The high levels of pupil mobility also have an impact on the emotional well being of pupils. Given that a significant proportion of pupils at Highfield rely upon the school for emotional stability (as identified in a recent OfSTED

Inspection) the disruption of friendship groups caused by the movement of pupils in and out of the school as places come available elsewhere is particularly damaging.

Inward mobility is high (22 children since September). This causes a massive amount of work for admin. Staff and teachers and interrupts with learning of other children in the class.

Mixed aged classes are becoming more and more difficult to accommodate with the current curriculum and the move towards a 'mastery' approach.

**Officer Comment:**

Query: Can it be confirmed that the school has a lower teaching space capacity or be able to take at least 3 classrooms out of the equation? It may be preferable on a pupil planning basis to take down to 40 initially with a review of the position next year.

The School Planning Team would object to the decrease in PAN as the current forecasts show there would not be sufficient school places in the planning area the school resides within for 2020.

**Recommendation:**

PAN to remain at 45, as any reduction in PAN would lead to a shortfall of places in the Chorley Central area.

**Sabden Primary School – 11/65**

Current Admission Number	=	15
Indicated Admission Number	=	15
Proposed Admission Number	=	15
Governors' Proposal	=	20

**Comments made by school:**

Sabden is a small rural school with low numbers. We have mixed age classes which are able to accommodate more pupils. We have classrooms which can also accommodate more pupils. We wish to increase pupil numbers in order to keep the school viable and are willing to adapt as necessary.

**Officer Comment:**

The School Planning Team have to object to this proposal as there is not a need for additional places and it would create further surplus places in the area. There is also a risk that provision of additional places at a time when they are not required, would undermine neighbouring schools in the area.

## **Recommendation:**

PAN to remain at 15, as there is no need for additional places in the area at this time.

## **CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS – 2020/21**

There has been one response by a Community and Voluntary Controlled [C&VC] Governing Body in relation to the Admission Arrangements [school admission criteria].

For the 2020/21 Admissions round, the Authority had suggested a number of amendments to the School Geographical Priority Areas; the priority area relates to each C&VC Secondary School, indicating a likely offer school to local residents.

### Ribblesdale High School – 11/113

We have received one comment from the Governing Body of Ribblesdale High School. The Local Authority proposed the inclusion of Ribchester, Higham, Goldshaw Booth and Barley with Wheatley [West of Barley Lane], Fence and Old Laund Booth.

The Governing Body of the School disagrees with the proposed change and wishes the Cabinet to be aware of its comments:~

Ribchester is in the priority area for Longridge High School, it seems illogical to be also included in Ribblesdale's.

The Wards now included outside the Ribble Valley will/could cause issues for parents in area, such as Mellor, as due to the geographical proximity of Fence, etc. these pupils could gain geographical priority over those in the Ribble Valley.

### **Officer Comment:~**

The expansion of Ribblesdale High School provided an additional 30 places in year 7 and expansions in the short term typically widen the catchment area of a school. The GPA expansion is expected to impact on as little as 5 pupils per year 7 cohort, therefore the expansion still provides for all Ribble Valley pupils.

For the quoted example of pupils residing in Mellor: Ribblesdale High School took 200 pupils from within the GPA against 255 PAN in 2018. The expansion of the PAN to 285 should ensure that all pupils within the wider GPA can be accommodated within the school.

Due to significant housing development near Longridge, there is expected to be a rise in pupils attending Longridge schools. The addition of Ribchester to Ribblesdale utilises the expansion at Ribblesdale to provide an alternative priority to Ribchester pupils who may be a risk of not being placed at Longridge as numbers increase. Ribchester pupils will also remain in GPA catchment of Longridge benefitting from an overlapping GPA.