

## **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 2021/22 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**

**Alder Grange School, Rossendale - 14**

Current Admission Number	=	135
Indicated Admission Number	=	149
Proposed Admission Number	=	145
Governors' Proposal	=	150

**Comments made by the School**

Current numbers on roll have been rising over recent years, as a result of appeals. For example, in the current Year 8 we have 148 on roll, and have provision on the timetable to cope with 150 pupils in a year group, at times year groups have reached 150. The school has been able to manage these increases.

The latest net capacity assessment of the school was undertaken in May 2019, this identified the maximum number of available workplaces as 1003 and the minimum available workplaces as 902 (this includes the sixth form). Therefore, building capacity supports the increase, the current sixth form size is 135 and is not expected to rise significantly in future years. If the school population rose to 150 on roll in Year 7-11 and 150 in total in sixth form this would equate to a total of 900. The current total is 831

In addition we are aware of new building locally and anticipate pupil numbers in the area will increase. We would like to be able to support this.

We frequently receive requests from parents seeking places for children at Alder Grange and are not able to offer places.

**Officer Comments:~**

Although there are sufficient places in the planning area that Alder Grange High School is situated in, another local school is seeking to reduce the size of their intake. An increase in the admission number at Alder Grange High would positively impact on the number of parents securing a place at one of their preferred schools in the Rossendale area. Alder Grange High has been heavily oversubscribed for many years and for the 2018 & 2019 intakes siblings living outside the school's Geographical Priority Area were not successful in gaining a place at the time the secondary school offers were made.

Parents then had the stressful experience of going through the appeal process with the pupils subsequently being awarded places by an independent appeal panel.

If the admission number is set at 150 and there are further successful appeals going forward there is the possibility of overcrowding. The school would struggle to accommodate a year group with in excess of 150 pupils and therefore it would prudent to have an admission number of 145.

**Recommendation:~**

It is recommended that published admission number is increased to 145.

**b) PRIMARY**

**District 2 – Wyre**

**The Breck Primary School 02002**

Current Admission Number	=	35
Indicated Admission Number	=	38
Proposed Admission Number	=	35
Governors' Proposal	=	60

**Comments made by the School:~**

The school has capacity to increase its PAN to 60 as one off increase due to our current Year 6 leaving us in July 2020 – we now have an empty classroom and capacity to accommodate an extra class.

The Governors have made numerous requests to increase the PAN.

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.

25 additional places were provided at The Breck Primary School in PoultonLe-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)

Over 60 first place choices for Breck School for 7 consecutive years.

The school currently has the following children on roll:

Nursery – FTE 50

Reception – 38

Year 1 – 37

Year 2 – 36

Year 3 – 41

Year 4 – 36

Year 5 – 39

Year 6 – 57

Practicalities of expansion on the existing or nearby site

The authority has already expanded the school – the facilities are available from 2020 when the current Year 6 cohort move to the next phase of education.

Costs of expansion

Nil – the classroom is already in situ

The governing body's wishes\*\*\*

The Governing body have discussed this expansion intermittently since 2014 amidst long term planning for the school. The Governing body have approved the continuation of the one off 2 form entry on several occasions but more recently during the full governing body meeting held during the Autumn term 2018 and Autumn 2019.

Access for pupils by public transport and other sustainable modes with the aim of reducing travel by private car and commissioned transport.

The school does not rely on commissioned transport and there will be no impact on current transport modes as the school has maintained this number of children since 2014.

## Officer Comments

The School Planning Team provided the following reasons for objection to this proposal (which remain unchanged):

- Whilst acknowledging the fact that the school has capacity to be vacated by the 'bulge year', this must be balanced with the fact that there is not the forecast demand in the area for additional places in 2021. With 240 places available in the Poulton primary schools, there were only 150 live births in the Poulton planning area for the September 2021 reception intake.
- Therefore, the proposal would be expected to impact upon the numbers at less popular schools surrounding the Breck as the Breck Primary school is the only Poulton primary school that is currently oversubscribed with Lancashire residents.
- The Breck has a wide catchment, meaning that this proposal would not necessarily provide additional places for Lancashire children.

- The provision of additional places before they are required can result in a widening catchment, which can subsequently result in the admission of siblings from the wider catchment, displacing local children in the future. For information, the September 2017 and 2018 intakes, half the places were allocated to siblings. The last place allocated to a sibling in September 2018 was offered to a child who lived 3.7 miles, from the school, in central Blackpool. The last place allocated geographically was allocated to a child who lived 0.82 miles away.
- There is highly likely to be a need for additional permanent places to be provided in the future in Poulton-Le-Fylde. However, the proposal of the school to use their additional classroom to increase the admission number now (when not yet needed), could be detrimental to the feasibility of a future expansion scheme at this school.

In summary, there are concerns about an increased admission number for 2021 attracting pupils securing places from a larger geographical area. There would then be priority for siblings in the future to the possible detriment of Poulton residents. There is also a more immediate concern about the destabilizing impact on other local schools.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Published Admission Number at Breck Primary School currently remains at 35.

### **Nateby Primary School 02038**

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

### **Comments made by the 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 80 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 31 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 Comments**

Over the last three years, the school has been able to accommodate all parental preferences and there have been no admission appeals. There is only one year group in the school that is currently full and there are 13 available places. Officers have visited the school and recognise the constraints referred to about class room sizes in the school's submission.

Although it is recognised that there will be a demand for additional places in the planning area going forward, it is not considered that the removal of 1 place is significant. If the published admission number is reduced to 12 this will reflect the indicated admission number.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the published admission number for Nateby Primary school is reduced to 12.

### **District 6 – Preston**

#### **Catforth Primary School - 06/040**

Current Admission Number	=	10
Indicated Admission Number	=	12
Proposed Admission Number	=	10
Governors' Proposal	=	13

### **Comments made by the School:~**

In 2017 we extended our age range to include 3-year olds and as such now have an additional extra year group. With three class bases the teaching arrangements for three year groups can be difficult to manage. At the moment, we have Nursery, reception and Year 1 together, Year 2 and 3 together and Years 4, 5 and 6 together. It would be make more sense educationally to have two year groups together as follows, to avoid mixing key stages. Nursery and Reception (EYFS), Years 1 and 2 (KS1), Years 3 and 4 (Lower KS2), and Years 5 and 6 (Upper KS2).

In addition, our class of Y4, 5 and 6 children are also in a very small classroom, which at 43.78sq. m is technically too small to accommodate 30 children and although our 'net capacity' shows that the school is big enough, the configuration of useable space does not allow for children to be adequately supervised if additional adults are not available, which, due to budget constraints, they are not.

For at least the last year, we get inquiries at least once a month, asking if we have space for children moving into the area in the new houses that are being built – until earlier this year, we have been able to accommodate all the requests, admitting four new children in the autumn term, one in Y6, one in Y2 and two in Y1. We are admitting four new children in January, two in Y5, one in Y2 and one in Y1. All of these children are new to the local area. However, all but 3 of our year groups are full with 10 children and we are still getting requests which we have had to refuse on a number of occasions now.

The governors acknowledge that indications from live birth rates in the area do not indicate a need for us to increase our admission number, however, due to the nature of the housing being build locally, the families moving into these have older, school-aged children and these children need to go to school in the area in which they live.

To accommodate our rising numbers, the governors are proposing to build a new classroom to accommodate the additional class and hoping for this to be in place and ready to use by September 2021.

### **Officer Comments**

The School Planning Team do not object to the proposal.

It is agreed that the organisation of the teaching groups would benefit by the proposal to teach the foundation group separately. However, an admission number of 13 would not be class size compliant and any appeals would be heard on an ordinary prejudice basis. Therefore unless a very strong case was provided by the school, it is likely that appeals may be allowed by the admission appeal panel. If the school organises with 4 class bases going forward and the demand for places continues the governors may wish to increase their admission number to 15 in the future.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the published admission number for Catforth Primary School is increased to 13.

### **District 7 – South Ribble**

#### **Leyland St Andrew's CE [Voluntary Controlled] Primary School 07/15**

Current Admission Number	=	65
Indicated Admission Number	=	66
Proposed Admission Number	=	65
Governors' Proposal	=	60

### **Comments made by the School:~**

In regard to the statutory limit on infant class sizes, it is unreasonable and irresponsible for the LA to expect an infant school to be able to organise their teaching groups in an efficient and economical way to be able to comply with Regulation 1 of the Standard and Framework Act 1998 and subsequent Regulations.

There would be insufficient funding from the national funding formula to create an additional group that would be essential to ensure that no class has more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. There are now no sources of alternative funds to be able to supplement the school budget.

The LA would effectively be forcing the school to go into further deficit and this approach is unacceptable.

We do not have the capacity nor the funds to accommodate so many children without an extension (that we cannot afford).

There was an agreement with officers in a meeting that I had with them onsite in Summer 2019 that the building does not have the capacity to cater for 65 pupils and is over the Infant Class Size statutory number. I am aware that are other schools local to us who have empty places.

We have an onsite established nursery that uses one of our rooms and has done for over 20 years. They also provide us with the bulk of our reception children.

The Governors are keen for the LA to establish a sensible number of 60 for 21-22 which would be in line with School admission statutory limit on infant class sizes. Governors are very concerned about the school budget and the three year prediction shows a growing deficit. We do not have the finances to employ another teacher.

### **Diocesan Officer Comments:~**

**Although the school is maintained by the Local Authority, it still retains a link with the local Diocese. The Diocesan Officer, Mr Liam Eaglestone of the Diocese of Liverpool, stated,**

We would support the Governing Body's request.

### **Officer Comments**

#### **Comments received from, the LCC School Based Issues Officer**

If the school were full, with an admission number of 65, there would be 195 pupils on roll, necessitating 7 classes. If the admission number is reduced to 30 the school population can be organised in to 6 classes of 30.

With an intake of 65 there is insufficient funding from the national funding formula to create an additional group. This is essential to ensure that no class has more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. There are now no sources of alternative funds to be able to supplement the school budget. The school is at significant risk of going into a deficit budget situation.

Pupils from Leyland St Andrews CE Primary School normally transfer to Woodlea Junior School. The admission number at Woodlea Junior School is 60 and there may be insufficient places if 65 pupils were to transfer.

It is recognised that additional places may be required, due to the level of planned new housing in Leyland, but for educational and financial reasons the admission numbers for the infant and junior schools need to be aligned.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the published admission number for Leyland St Andrews CE Primary School is reduced to 60.

### **District 8 – West Lancashire**

#### **Tarleton Primary School 08071**

Current Admission Number	=	45
Indicated Admission Number	=	51
Proposed Admission Number	=	45
Governors' Proposal	=	30

### **Comments made by the School:~**

Following the approval of the Governing Board at the Full GB Meeting on 26/11/19 we wish to lower our PAN. This is due to the decline in birth rates over a five year period affecting the village. There are three schools across our two villages: All Saints Hesketh & Beconsall; Tarleton Holy Trinity and Tarleton Community Primary with 105 Reception places available combined. In September 2019, there were only 75 places leaving a deficit of 30 places. Put simply, there is not the need for a school in this area currently to have such a large intake.

Moreover, this has made setting budgets difficult and in response to LCC Finance we have needed to consider our budget and how we make it sustainable. We do not have the appropriate funds for an intake of 31 or 32 children as this would require an additional teacher therefore reducing PAN is the only option we have to secure control of our finances. We have spoken with an officer from the planning team who recognises there will be specific difficulties this year with the figures he has then over the coming years all indication is that numbers will be similar to this year which is 24. He felt therefore our request would be appropriate with the caveat that should

the local authority need to extend numbers in future years we would accommodate this if there was a sudden surge in numbers which we would.

### **Officer Comments**

The School Planning Team do not object to the proposal to decrease the PAN from 45 to 30 from 2021. However, should a need for additional statutory school aged places emerge in the future in this planning area, the Council reserves the right to request that the Published Admission Number (PAN) be reviewed, so that it could go back up to a maximum of 60 ( it had previously reduced their PAN from 60 to 45 in sept 2019).

In respect of infant class size compliance, the request by the governing body is supported but with the caveat that the school would return to a higher number should pupil numbers grow in the area.

The numbers on roll at the school show a significant drop over time, with 44 pupils on roll in the current Year 6 and only 24 pupils on roll in the reception year. There is also plenty of capacity in neighbouring schools.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the published admission number at Tarleton Primary School is reduced to 30 with the proviso that it will be increased if there is an additional demand for places in the future.

### **Asmall Primary School**

Current Admission Number	=	20
Indicated Admission Number	=	22
Proposed Admission Number	=	20
Governors' Proposal	=	23

### **Comments made by the School:~**

Over the past few years and this year in particular, we have had to turn down lots of families who have enquired about places in school at Asmall. We have waiting lists in several classes and there were initially 10 children on our Reception waiting list this year. Three children appealed successfully, however there remains 5 children on our current reception class waiting list. Because of the amount of siblings, our catchment area is reducing considerably. Children living less than half a mile from school were unable to gain a place this year. This means that children attending the on-site nursery have had to go to other schools.

There is also a lot of new housing in Ormsirk which will not be able to access our school if our intake remains the same. At the moment the school is not at full capacity (net capacity assessment). In the past when we have not been at full

capacity, we had an intake of 25. Moving forward, it would make sense to increase our class sizes to 23.

### **Officer Comments**

The School Planning Team provided the following reasons for objection to the proposal:

There is not currently a need for additional places in this planning area. The birth rate is reducing in this planning area, creating surplus places in an area where the authority has already taken action to remove some spare capacity. This proposal could, therefore, destabilise numbers at other local schools in the planning area.

This school is also an 'importer' which means it usually provides a proportion of places for pupils from outside its planning area. Therefore, creating additional places would not be necessarily creating more places for local pupils.

An admission number of 23 would not be class size compliant and any appeals would be heard on an ordinary prejudice basis. Therefore unless a very strong case was provided by the school, it is likely that appeals may be allowed by the admission appeal panel which, in turn, could cause additional issues for the school.

### **Recommendation**

As there is not the need for the additional places within the planning area, it is recommended that the published admission number remains at 20.

### **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 the School:~**

As you may be aware, the school made an application for this increase to take place for 2019/20 and for 2020/21.

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 2021 and feeding through the school over the following 6 years.

I discussed the capacity issue with an officer previously to this end. For the two out of the last four 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.

We are aware that another primary school in the local district has been looking to reduce their admissions number from 45 to 30 so it would seem to make sense for the wishes of both schools to be met, by allowing the changes to take place, with any existing Well-Being/Early Help services located currently at Duke Street moving to spare capacity elsewhere in the local district in 3 years time.

### **Officer Comments**

The Property Review Team have confirmed that there is no intention of moving the Wellbeing/Early Help Service out of Duke Street which the school has based the proposal on. The current forecasts produced by the school Planning Team also show that there is not a need for additional places in the planning area, in fact the number of births for intake in 2021 fell, which is the year the school want to increase their admission number. The school has been able to accommodate all of their parental preferences for the last three years and, based on the October 2019 pupil census, there is room in every year group apart from Year 6.

### **Recommendation**

As there is not sufficient accommodation currently available for an increased intake, and there is no need for additional places for 2021, it is recommended that the published admission number at Duke Street Primary remains at 50.

### **Highfield Community Primary School 09003**

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

### **Comments made by the 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, laptops, 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 child 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 6 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 wellbeing of pupils. Given that

a significant proportion of the pupils at Highfield rely upon the school for emotional stability (as identified in the recent Ofsted inspection), the disruption of friendship groups caused by the movement of pupils in and out of the school as places become 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 the learning of other children in the class.

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

### **Officer Comments**

It should be recognised that the school does have enough capacity because they have a nurture room and an IT suite which could be a classroom.

It is noted that the forecast numbers in Chorley Central Planning area for intake in 2021 and 2022 were lower than in previous years, due to a lower number of births. Whilst the situation will be kept under review, in line with future pupil growth and the impact of any housing development, the proposed reduction does not create a shortfall of places in the area. Therefore, the School Planning Team does not have an objection to this proposal at this time.

However, should the proposal be agreed and a future need arises for additional statutory school aged places in this planning area, the Council reserves the right to request that the Published Admission Number (PAN) be reviewed, with the view to raising the PAN.

At the time of the October 2019 pupil census there were 94 on roll in in KS1 and this necessitates 4 classes to meet infant class size regulations. There is not sufficient funding however, generated by these pupils, to employ 4 KS1 teachers.

It is accepted that Highfield Primary experiences a high level of pupil turnover and that this impacts on the stability and educational outcomes of the school.

In respect of infant class size compliance, the request by the governing body is supported but with the caveat that the school would return to a higher number should pupil numbers grow in the area.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the published admission number of Highfield Primary School is reduced to 30, with a view to re-consideration of this position in the future, should demand for places in the area determine a need.

## District 11 – Ribble Valley

### Sabden Primary School – 11/65

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

#### Comments made by the School:~

The growing population in Sabden. Currently, there are 30 new homes [3, 4 and 5 bedrooms] being built near to school.

#### Officer Comments

The School Planning Team provided the following reason for objection to the proposal: As the birth rate in the local area drops away from 2022, 30 houses would not generate enough pupils to require additional places in this planning area. Officers will keep this situation under review as new houses are built in the area. There is added concern that, as there are enough places in the area, raising the admission number could destabilise other schools in the planning area.

There are currently places available in all year groups with the exception of year 6. This is also the case in the other Sabden primary school. The school has been able to accommodate all parental preferences, for the reception intake, for the last three years. There have been no admission appeals.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the published admission number at Sabden Primary School remains at 15.

### CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS – 2021/22

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 2021/22 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.

## **SECONDARY**

### **District 14 – Rossendale**

#### **Whitworth High School – 14/107**

##### **Comments made by the School:~**

Governors have decided that it is not currently in the best interests of our school to request this change to the Geographical Priority Area (GPA) at this time of significant change in D14. Historically, the school has relied on students from the Rochdale area as well as from across D14 to ensure the school is fully subscribed, and the Chair of Governors and School Leadership Team have reconsidered our initial request and are reluctant to jeopardise the relationship with any of our current partner/feeder/local schools by requesting a change to the GPA at this time. We therefore withdraw the request but will keep the issue under review by the Governing Board.

##### **Officer Comments**

It is recommended that the proposed changes are considered for future intakes to Whitworth High School. There were over 35 Rochdale pupils offered places for the September 2019 intake with a number of Rossendale parents failing to secure any of their preferred schools.

##### **Recommendation**

That further consideration is given to amending the GPA for September 2022.

## **PRIMARY**

### **District 6 – Preston**

#### **Queen's Drive Primary School – 06/060**

##### **Comments made by the School:~**

The school governors would like to propose that Queen's Drive Primary School is part of a Geographical Priority Area from 2022/2023.

We are aware that this would need to go out for consultation in the next year or so.

The governing body are keen to pursue this 'GPA' to safeguard the community around Queen's Drive. The school would welcome some support from the school planning team in establishing a GPA.

The governors are keen to establish the following admissions criteria.

When a primary school with a GPA is oversubscribed the following priorities will be applied in order:

1. Looked after children and those who have been previously looked after, including those from overseas (see note (x) below), then
2. Children for whom the Local Authority accepts that there are exceptional medical, social or welfare reasons which are directly relevant to the school concerned. (See note (i) below) then
3. Children living within the school's geographical priority area with older brothers or sisters attending the school when the younger child will start, (see note iii below).
4. Children living within the school's geographical priority area, then
5. Children living outside the school's geographical priority area with older brothers or sisters still attending the school when the younger child will start (See note (iii) below) then
6. Children living outside the school's Geographical Priority Area (see note (iv) below).

Point 5 is the change for us.

We would also like to consider the possibility of utilising the 'staff in school' option on the online admission form.

### **Officer Comments**

The School Planning Team note the proposed amended GPA and will respond to the consultation at the appropriate time.

It is not possible to give priority to the children of staff without extensive consultation. As Queen's Drive Primary School is a community school the local authority is the admissions authority and determines the priority for places. The same admission criteria is applied to all the community schools.

Any change in criteria would have to be applied to all the community primary and secondary schools necessitating a widespread consultation involving all the schools and our neighbouring authorities.

### **Recommendation**

The proposed GPA will be consulted upon in the Summer Term 2020.