

**Report to Cabinet  
Thursday 3rd February 2022**

Consultation also takes place with Community and Voluntary Controlled Governing Bodies, which were consulted on the Proposed Admission Numbers (PANs) for their schools for 2023/2024 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.

<b>School name</b>	Penwortham Girls' High School	<b>District</b>	6
Current Admission Number	155		
Indicated Admission Number	155		
Proposed Admission Number	155		
Governors' Proposal	160		

### Comments made by the School

We have been oversubscribed for a number of years and continue to see the demand for single sex education in this area. As the only non-selective non-fee-paying girl's school in Lancashire, we believe we offer a unique opportunity for girls to be educated in a specialist environment, and our consistent outcomes are testament to our continued academic success. We therefore offer an educational environment that other schools in the area do not, and believe that by increasing our admission number we can give the opportunity for more families to choose single sex education for their daughters.

We have increased the number of classrooms this year by 2 with the addition of a modular building that is linked to the main school. This has offered us more flexibility across the curriculum; we currently have capacity for 32 students in most classrooms. Our current Net Capacity Assessment shows 775 as this is our planned admission number, although the capacity based on teaching spaces now that we have added 2 additional classrooms (61 square metres each) is 853. We could admit 160 per year group as soon as approved without any additional resources required.

The governors are fully supportive of the schools application to increase our admission number to 160.

### Officer Comments

The School Place Planning Team have no objection to this proposal.

### **Recommendation**

As there is no impact on the efficient delivery of education the Local Authority supports the request to increase the Published Admission Number to 160.

<b>School name</b>	Brockholes Wood Community Primary School & Nursery	<b>District</b>	6
Current Admission Number	35		
Indicated Admission Number	33		
Proposed Admission Number	35		
Governors' Proposal	30		

### Comments made by the School

The Headteachers and Governors of Brockholes Wood School & Nursery would like to reduce the PAN from 35 to 30 from September 2023 permanently. The reasons for this are:

The school's Indicated Admission Number of 33 is lower than the current PAN of 35 and the Net Capacity is lower than it should be, so reducing the PAN to 30 would resolve this issue. Without this reduction there continues to be a negative impact on the quality of the teaching and learning experiences due to inadequate classroom sizes, which in turn, along with 48% Pupil Premium that come with additional needs, impacts on provision when classes are over 30. In order to cater for the needs of children in a socially deprived area, academically, socially, and emotionally, the governors and Headteacher feel that capping the intake at 30 ensures more targeted and personalised learning where it is needed.

The births have dropped significantly and will result in over 100 surplus places for September 2023 Reception intake in the Preston East Primary Planning area. There are already surplus places in most year groups which places a financial burden on staffing costs as pupil numbers do not meet the current PAN. In Preston North and Preston West (which border Preston East) the births are forecast to drop in Reception Intake 2023, resulting in surplus places in these planning areas also.

The governors, therefore, feel that this is the right time to reduce our admission number to 30 due to the mismatch in projected pupil numbers and cost to the school of declining numbers over a sustained period and the net capacity being insufficient to cater for a PAN of 35.

### Officer Comments

The School Place Planning Team have no objections to this proposal.

### **Recommendation**

As there are no objections, in respect of the need for primary school places within this planning area, the Local Authority recommends that this reduction in the Published Admission Number is agreed.

<b>School name</b>	Caton Primary School		1
Current Admission Number	10		
Indicated Admission Number	10		
Proposed Admission Number	10		
Governors' Proposal	15		

### Comments made by the School

The school has consulted with the School Planning team and this is the outcome of their assessment:

*You have informed us that to accommodate the additional pupils you will be ceasing the lease agreement with your private nursery provider who are currently using room's 18 and 26 and that these will become a classroom for school age pupils. This change would allow enough space for the increase in capacity.*

*The school sits within the Caton primary planning area. Based on the current forecasts, from September 2023 there is an increase in predicted places required due to housing and migration.*

*Due to these reasons, the School Planning Team will have no objections to the proposal to increase the PAN to 15 from September 2023 as long as they convert rooms 18 and 26 into a classroom to accommodate the additional pupils.*

- The previous PAN at Caton Community Primary School was 17 and the school was able to accommodate 125 pupils in the current building. Pupil numbers reduced over a period of many years due to unsettled staffing, parental discontent and two Ofsted judgements of Requires Improvement and governors reduced the PAN to 10.
- Lancashire's School Place Provision Strategy identifies Rural North Lancaster as one of the areas of increasing demand for places.
- There is currently pressure on our neighbouring schools Caton St Paul's and Halton St Wilfrid's which have very large classes.
- Additional homes have been built in Caton and these are not yet fully occupied and there is movement into the village. There are plans to build a housing development adjacent to Caton Primary School.

- LCC is committed to fair access and equality of opportunity, providing places for different sections of the community, and providing diversity in school places. Caton Primary School is the only Community School (without a Religious Foundation) in the local area and it is over 5 miles from the nearest Community School in Lancaster. (That school is currently judged to be inadequate.)
- Lancashire's strategy for additional places states that it aims to expand popular and successful schools. Caton Primary School now has a very strong reputation and demand for places is high. We were oversubscribed for Reception places in September 2021.
- There is a very strong parental preference for our school as the standard of education is excellent and this is reflected in parental surveys that we have carried out.
- Our school has shown sustained and significant growth over the last 3 years. In September 2018, we had 24 pupils on roll. At our October census in 2020, we had 47 on roll and we now have 70 pupils, recorded at the most recent census in October 2021.
- We have had five appeals in the last few months, all of which have been granted and we now have more than our PAN of 10 in three years groups (Reception, Year 4 and Year 6).
- Our long-term plan is to always have a small Reception class of 15 with 3 other mixed age classes of no more than 30. We have carried out financial modelling with our School Finance Officer and this is a sustainable model for the school going forwards.

### Officer Comments

The School Planning Team have no objections to this proposal.

### Recommendation

As there is a need for additional school places within the planning area, going forward, the Local Authority agrees that the Published Admission Number be increased to 15.

<b>School name</b>	Duke Street Primary School	<b>District</b>	9
Current Admission Number	60		
Indicated Admission Number	52		
Proposed Admission Number	60		
Governors' Proposal	50		

### Comments made by the School

The LA cannot guarantee that the extra accommodation (from space currently occupied by the neighbourhood centre) will be available soon. Therefore, it is not possible to accommodate the extra pupils.

Discussions held with a were that we could only contemplate an increase in our admissions number if more space was made available to us. We have no capacity within our existing footprint to increase the number of classes from 11 to 14 over the next few years.

For the reasons stated above, the Governors are not in agreement with the proposed admission number of 60.

### Officer Comments

The School Planning Team have no objections to the PAN reducing to 50.

### Recommendation

As there are no objections, in respect of the need for primary school places within this planning area, the Local Authority recommends that this reduction in the Published Admission Number is agreed. The Published Admission number will then be more closely aligned with the Indicated Admission Number.



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FEEDBACK FROM THE GOVERNING BODIES OF LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY  
AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

The Local Authority has received requests from the following schools to include attendance at the school nursery within the Lancashire Primary Community and VC Schools admission arrangements.

Frenchwood Community Primary School (District 6)

Fishwick Primary School (District 6)

Officer comments

The Department for Education's School Admissions Code states that admission authorities must not take into account any previous schools attended, unless it is a named feeder school. There is an exception to this where parents pay optional nursery fees to the school for additional hours on top of their 15-hour funded early education.

Recommendation

The admission criteria for all community primary schools in Lancashire is the same and a significant change to the current admission arrangements would require a widespread consultation across the sector. Additionally, there would need to be consideration of how such a change could be administered.

It is recommended that a consultation takes place via the school portal to seek the views of primary school head teachers and governing bodies.

The Local Authority has received requests from Ormskirk CE Primary School to include Children of Staff within the Lancashire Primary Community and VC Schools admission arrangements.

We wish to propose a change to the admission criteria. The Governors are in agreement that we can now 'offer a place to children of current members of staff who have at least two years continuous service'.

We would like this addenda to go above the 'Distance from school' section.

#### Officer comments

An exploratory consultation was undertaken, via the school's portal, in respect of the possibility of changing the admission criteria for community and controlled schools. The possibility of giving priority to children of current staff members was proposed and there was a very limited response.

#### Recommendation

As there was little support across the primary school sector in respect of giving priority to the children of current members of staff this proposal is not supported.

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Consultation also takes place with the Community, who were consulted on the proposed admission arrangements for Lancashire schools - 2023/24 school year. The responses received are provided below :~

No responses were received from the Community during this annual consultation.