

The annual consultation also takes place with Community and Voluntary Controlled Governing Bodies, which were consulted on the Proposed Admission Numbers for their schools for 2024/2025 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.



1.

School name	Asmall Primary School, Ormskirk	District	8
Current Admission Number	20		
Indicated Admission Number	30		
Proposed Admission Number	20		
Governors' Proposal	25		

Comments made by the School

We would like to increase our admission number to 25 from September 2023. We would like to do this for financial viability for the school in the future.

As it stands, we have 7 single aged classes with an admission number of 20.

We are regularly approached by families asking for places in school. As we are full in all classes, we are not able to offer these places.

With our lower school numbers and our admission number capped at 20, along with the new teachers' pay award and the pay increase for other school and support staff, unfunded by the government, the school is forecast to have a deficit budget over the next three years.

Our priority is to maintain our high standard of education for our children by maintaining seven single age group classes. We will be able to do this with an additional five children in each class in the future. This will enable us to both fund the pay of teachers and support staff, along with affording other resources for the school .

Our net capacity assessment is 157 - 175 and therefore an intake of 25 would fit within this.

We would be grateful for your consideration of our request to increase our PAN.

Officer Comments

Thank you for providing details of Asmall Primary School's proposal to exceed their PAN from 20 to 25 from Sept 2023 and permanently increase their PAN from 20 to 25 from Sept 2024.

The following information is provided based on the current pupil projections (Autumn 2022) and the latest net capacity assessment, dated 22nd December 2022. The net capacity assessment was updated following the school providing information on significant changes to accommodation being carried out.

Pupil Projections - Need

- The school is located in the Ormskirk primary planning area. There is projected to be a surplus of places in the area and no projected need for additional places.
- The falling birth rate in the area means that the number of surplus places is expected to increase.



- For 2023/24 – there is projected to be a surplus of 14 places at Reception, with this number reducing to a shortfall of 3 places as the cohort moves through the school. In 2024/25 the surplus increases with there being a projected 43 place surplus at Reception, reducing to 31 surplus places as the cohort moves through the school. The projections indicate that these low numbers are maintained for the remainder of the 5 year pupil projections. These surplus figures do not include the proposed 5 additional pupils per year at Asmall.

School Capacity to Accommodate a PAN of 25

- The school's indicated admission number (IAN), determined from the Net Cap Assessment is 30 and the IAN at Maximum Capacity is 34 therefore there would be sufficient accommodation to support the proposed increase to the admission number It should be confirmed to the school that, as there is no need for additional places in the area, LCC would not support any capital requirements, now or in the future, in relation to this proposed PAN increase.
- Adding additional places to a planning area that already has surplus places could destabilise other schools in the planning area.

School Planning Team Recommendation

Due to the projected surplus places in the area the School Planning Team would not support this proposed increase.

In Year Admissions

It is noted that Asmall Primary School is full in most year groups. The neighbouring primary school, Ormskirk West End Primary school has lots of places available with only 93 pupils in attendance, with a maximum capacity of 210.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the PAN remains at 20. This is with consideration to current primary school place availability in Ormskirk and the anticipated surplus places going forward.



School name	Edenfield Church of England Primary School [VC]	District	14
Current Admission Number	25		
Indicated Admission Number	25		
Proposed Admission Number	25		
Governors' Proposal	30		

Comments made by the School

The school is very popular consistently oversubscribed and therefore we manage a lot of appeals annually.

In the light of completed and planned building works in the immediate area, we are keen to serve our local community and offer additional spaces by increasing our admission number to 30 from September 2024. This application has the full support of the governing body with all governors in full agreement.

In recent years, the school has benefitted from building works which have extended the building considerably and include extra classrooms and a purpose built EYFS classroom and fully resourced EYFS outdoor play area. An internal refurbishment provides brand new furniture and state of the art technology. Curriculum resources for both core and foundation subjects are extensive and up to date.

We can offer spacious classrooms which can easily accommodate up to 30 pupils comfortably and wide open spaces for outdoor play. This includes two playgrounds, a large field, a woodland area and vegetable garden. There are currently ten teachers including the headteacher and two additional teachers who provide SEN support, covid catch up programmes and PPA cover. There is also the equivalent of a full time TA for each classroom so staff ratios are high.

Current pupil numbers are as follows:

Class R (EYFS): 25
 Class 1: 25 (two moved out of area)
 Class 2: 28
 Class 3: 28
 Class 4: 28
 Class 5: 26
 Class 6: 30
 Overall number on roll: 19

Due to regular appeals, it is very difficult to plan the budget accurately as we have to rely on predicting pupil numbers based on possible appeals. This can make the three year forecast process more difficult and does not allow for accurate long term financial planning. Knowing that we can base the budget on an admission number of 30, and we are confident that we could fill 30 places should these be available, would allow for more accurate forecasting and long term financial security.



Thank you for considering this request.

Officer Comments

The following information is provided based on the current pupil projections (Autumn 2022) and the latest net capacity assessment, dated 5th January 2023. The net capacity assessment was updated following the school providing information on changes to accommodation being carried out.

Pupil Projections – Need

- The school is located in the Ramsbottom primary planning area. There is projected to be a shortfall of places in the area and a projected need for additional places in future years.
- For 2024/25 there are projected to be sufficient places to meet demand, however there is projected to be a sustained shortfall of places from 2025/26 onwards (up to a maximum of 13 places)
- The projections indicate that these increased numbers are maintained for the remainder of the 5 year pupil projections. These figures do not include the proposed 5 additional pupils per year at Edenfield.

School Capacity to Accommodate a PAN of 30

- The school's indicated admission number (IAN), determined from the Net Cap Assessment is 25 and the IAN at Maximum Capacity is 29.
- The increase in PAN from 25 to 30 would place Edenfield over their IAN from Maximum range (29) raising concerns about sufficiency of accommodation that should be considered as part of the decision making process It should be confirmed to the school that, at this time, LCC would not be able to support any capital requirements, in relation to this proposed PAN increase.

School Planning Team Recommendation

The current pupil projections identify the need for additional places in this planning area, therefore, should the school consider the existing accommodation sufficient, the SPT would not object to this proposal.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the PAN is increased to 30.

