



Access & Organisation  
Building 3, Saltisford Office Park  
Ansell Way  
Warwick  
CV34 4UL  
Via E-mail: [consultations@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Re: Consultation on the proposal to extend the age range  
and increase capacity at High Meadow Infant School.**

The schools in and around Coleshill have historically and increasingly worked extremely well together for the benefit of all the children in the community. There is mutual respect, and supportive relationships between Headteachers and Staff. Whilst we are delighted that other local schools are successful and expanding, we feel compelled to reinforce the impact that increasing school places in Coleshill by 30 per year could have on us at Shustoke C of E Primary School.

Shustoke C of E Primary School is a highly effective rural school which offers a nurturing and family ethos and attracts children from a wide area. We have never fallen into an Ofsted category, we have consistently been rated Category A by the Local Authority, and have maintained high standards of achievement across the school year on year. Staff at Shustoke are recognised across Warwickshire for their high level of skills and expertise including staff being Local Authority Moderators and the Headteacher being a Local Leader of Education and member of the Warwickshire Education Challenge Board. We would urge you to consider and preserve the future of this popular and successful village school, and avoid it becoming a casualty to a short-sighted expansion programme.

As a result of the proposal to make High Meadow Infant School a Primary School, the children who had traditionally transferred to Coleshill C of E Primary School at the end of Year 2 will now stay in their setting. To avoid prejudicing Coleshill C of E Primary, it will become a full two form entry Primary School taking two rather than one class of 30 in the Reception Year, and consequently in Years 1 and 2, thus increasing the number of places in Coleshill by 30 - all in one school - the Local Authority need to consider the impact on other local schools.

This could obviously affect our number on role at Shustoke - it is worth noting that we currently have one space in Reception and four spaces in Year 1 even though we were oversubscribed and had waiting lists - therefore we have already been disadvantaged due to the increase in numbers at Coleshill C of E Primary School in preparation for High Meadow becoming a full Primary School. As we all know, it is vital that schools achieve and then maintain 30 children in each class if they are to be financially viable.

We do question how much of a genuine consultation this is, since Coleshill C of E Primary began taking two classes in Reception in September 2016. Therefore the expansion of two of the schools in our area would appear to be already in hand.

As previously stated, we work closely with and have the highest esteem and respect for our local schools, however we do need some reassurance from the Local Authority that before an additional class of children is filled, places are allocated to the existing schools in the area.

We look forward to your timely response and assurances about the future of our excellent school.

Yours faithfully,

Carole Byng  
Chair of Governors

Michele Wall  
Headteacher

Your Ref:  
My Ref: E&L/SM/EBS



Carole Byng and Michele Wall  
Shustoke C. of E. Primary School  
Forge Road  
Shustoke  
Near Coleshill  
B46 2AU

**Communities Group  
Warwickshire County Council**

Sarah Mills  
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Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Ms Byng and Ms Wall

**RE: Response to proposal to extend the age range at High Meadow Infant School**

Thank you for your response regarding the proposal to extend the age range at High Meadow Infant School. Whilst the future plan for Coleshill C of E Primary School has not yet been confirmed we appreciate your concerns regarding any potential increase in capacity in the area. However, as you mention as your school is a popular and successful village school with the large majority of children in the priority area choosing to go to your school we don't anticipate changes in capacity in Coleshill having a significant impact on parental preference to Shustoke C of E Primary School.

The Local Authority aims to maintain an approximate 4% surplus in places in an area to aid in year movement therefore we need spaces in schools. Coleshill is a problematic area in terms of pupil spaces in schools being available to aid in year movement with the LA consequently having to rely on transport to schools further afield. Whilst the additional reception class required in 2016 at Coleshill C of E Primary School and continued pressure in places in the Coleshill area did prompt the LA to investigate the feasibility of extending the age range at High Meadow Infant School, the decision is far from confirmed with Cabinet approval still to be sought and then a planning application to be determined.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Mills', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Sarah Mills  
Service Manager – Access & Organisaaton  
Education and Learning**

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Warwickshire*

## CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE AND INCREASE CAPACITY AT HIGH MEADOW INFANT SCHOOL

Response from the Governing Body at Coleshill Church of England Primary School

Summary Points:-

1. We support the proposal for High Meadow Infant School
2. We request additional WCC capital funding to further expand our school to a two-form entry Key Stage 1 within the same time-frame.
3. We support the future removal of the town's north-south divide for admissions arrangements between the two schools.

High Meadow Infant School and Coleshill Church of England Primary School (our school) co-exist as recognised partner schools, jointly offering school places for 5 to 11 years old children.

High Meadow Infant School is the only infant school in the planning area. But up until September 2017, our school was the only school with a one-form entry Key Stage 1 (for 5 to 7 year olds) and a two-form entry Key Stage 2 (for 8 to 11 year olds). This arrangement was put in place specifically so that the parents of High Meadow Infant School pupils, could choose and be guaranteed a place for their child in Year 3 at our school.

During the Autumn Term of 2015 our school's Nursery identified a significant increase in the number of enquiries and of pre-school children attending the nursery. Some of this increase can naturally be attributed to the growing recognition, that children who attend the school nursery are receiving a curriculum based educational platform, that gives them a head-start once they enter Key Stage 1.

Changes to Ofsted registration to simplify school provision, as well as free entitlement being extended from 15 to 30 hours per week, are also contributory factors. However, our school governors have previously voiced disagreement with the County's North Warwickshire primary schools sufficiency strategy and believe that the "blip" in demand for reception class places since September 2016 will be sustained in future years.

The strategy focus's on the North Warwickshire birth rates and it's future housing plan, the latter of which has been changing more recently. Our school governors believe that Coleshill's close proximity to the borough of North Solihull, mean that the local schools are better placed than Warwick, to predict the influence and impact of more new housing either side of the border and the increase of younger families moving into the area that has been associated with it.

Some of Warwickshire's key strategic priorities are local places for local children, removal of half forms of entry, increase one form entry to two form entry, the amalgamation of infant and primary schools, 4% available capacity at primary level and a reduction in the admittance of children from outside of Warwickshire.

However, Warwickshire's own pupil forecast data for future planning indicate that 6.5% additional capacity is needed up to 2020. We believe this to be on the conservative side and Coleshill's border location and transport links would undoubtedly result with increased admissions appeals.

At the authority's request, our school agreed to offer an additional 30 reception class places in September 2016, to cater for what the LA described as a one year "baby boom blip." However, for the current 2017/18 school academic year, our school was once again massively over-subscribed for first choice applications. This has meant that we are again running two reception classes with a total of 55 children. Our Key Stage 1 currently now has 145 pupils, an increase of 62% from September 2015. We have had to employ two more teachers, build an additional classroom and convert another replacement room for the dedicated use of our before and after-school club.

In the WCC Education and Learning Autumn 2016 Heads Update, Coleshill was identified as an area of pressure within the North Planning region. Potential options to increase capacity in the area were given as (a) convert High Meadow Infant School into a one-form primary, and (b) to look at expanding our school to 1.5 (KS1) / 2 (KS2) form entries.

This consultation focuses on option (a) but the fact that our school already now has two reception classes and two Year 1 classes, mean that option (b) has in part, already been initiated too. And this is due to the foresight and financial investment already made by the staff and governors of our school, coupled to the support of the Birmingham Church of England Diocese.

Our school governing body do not favour half-form entries and would wish to convert to a two-form entry through primary school. For this we would need a further additional classroom built, to accommodate a second Year 2 class. This would protect our existing Key Stage 2 class structure and mitigate for the transfer loss of High Meadow pupils into Year 3.

We request that the cost for an additional Year 2 class at our school, be considered as part of this overall consultation for capacity planning and be met by WCC capital funds.

Lastly, since High Meadow and our school would in future both be operating as primary schools, we see no need for the maintaining each school's current admissions arrangements. These set a mutually inclusive priority area boundary for Key Stage 1, by using the River Cole to recognise North and South Coleshill.

With a potential choice of three primary schools within the Town, we see no justification for a North and South divide and Coleshill parents should be left to make their own choice of school, through a combination of preference and convenience.

In summary, we believe we are in a unique position to provide a high quality education to the increasing number of children coming into the town. We look forward to working with you to make decisions on the way forward and to ensure high levels of achievement, attainment and wellbeing for Coleshill children.

For and on behalf of the school governing body

Carl Hindle  
Chair of Governors

LA response to Coleshill – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Re Consultation to extend the age range of High Meadow Infant School

Dear Carl

Thank you for your email in response to the proposal to extend the age range at High Meadow Infant School. The LA recognises the demand for pupil places Coleshill CofE Primary School has experienced from within Warwickshire and from across the border. However, the demand from across the border is not basic need, and can't be counted as basic need therefore we don't include this in our returns to the DfE or in our Sufficiency Strategy. On the other hand, the LA does find itself in a problematic situation whereby it finds it difficult to maintain a surplus in the area to aid in year movement.

The Local Authority will consider Coleshill C of E Primary School's request for funding for an additional classroom to facilitate two forms of entry through the LA's approval process once the outcome of the High Meadow proposal is confirmed.

With respect to the removal of the North/South divide and amalgamation of Coleshill C of E Primary School and High Meadow Infant School priority areas, with the agreement of High Meadow Infant, we can look at running a consultation to do this when proposals have been confirmed



## Nursery Hill Primary

Ansley Common, Nuneaton, CV10 0PY (02476) 392318

Head Teacher: Miss Becky Pebody

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your email sent on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 regarding the proposed increase of capacity at Michael Drayton Junior School.

This email has been shared with all of our Governors and we feel very strongly that we must express our thoughts and concerns as this matter will affect our school greatly.

Firstly, we would like to ask how Michael Drayton Junior School can suddenly increase numbers from 512 to 600? We currently have spaces within all of our classes, therefore if spaces are required, why are they not being filled at our school? Nursery Hill is only 1.2 miles, by road, from Michael Drayton.

If the increase of capacity was to be agreed, all of our Key Stage Two parents could decide to move their children to Michael Drayton. This would then mean that Nursery Hill would become another Infant School. What if some of our parents did not want to make the move but due to falling numbers, we are no longer able to secure their Key Stage Two places?

Not only would this have a major effect on the school and the community, this could also result in redundancies for many of our staff. If we do not have enough children, we would not be able to justify the number of teachers in school.

If this proposed change is a result of new houses being built, we would be interested to know where the boundary areas lie? Depending on where they lie, it may mean Michael Drayton could stop parents from our school area coming to their school. Not only would our school numbers increase, this would allow the children in the new houses spaces at Michael Drayton causing both schools to benefit greatly.

We would also like to ask, if new houses are being built, will this not take time? A new housing estate could take a number of years to build, therefore changes to our schools would not need to take such action so soon.

We can confirm, with the information that we have been given so far, that our full Governing Body is not in agreement with this proposal and we feel that as a school, this would have a major negative impact on us. It could also have a negative impact on our community as a whole and the options available to parents when choosing either a primary, infant or junior route for their children.

We hope that you will consider our points on making your decision.

Kind regards,

**Margaret Antil**  
Chair of Governors

**Becky Pebody**  
Head Teacher

It is our mission for everyone to flourish and exceed expectation in an inspiring environment where unique, confident children will sparkle.

We are on top of the hill and reaching for the stars.

Your Ref:  
My Ref: E&L/SM/EBS



Margaret Antil and Becky Pebody  
Nursery Hill Primary School  
Ansley Common  
Nuneaton  
CV10 0PY

**Communities Group  
Warwickshire County Council**

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Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Ms Antil and Ms Pebody

**RE: Response to proposal to increase capacity at Michael Drayton Junior School**

Thank you for letter in response to the proposal to increase capacity at Michael Drayton Junior School.

Firstly, we needed to provide an additional form of entry to the area to accommodate the anticipated pressure in year 3 places in 2018. Whilst your school may have some spaces, these would not be sufficient to accommodate the demand. With respect to your concern regarding movement out of key stage 2; if your parents decided to unsettle their children and move them to Michael Drayton at Key Stage 2, they would have to apply through the in-year process after the allocation of year 3 places through the coordinated scheme and there is unlikely to be sufficient capacity to take all these children.

The proposed change is the result of a combination of housing and increase in birth cohorts in recent years in the Nuneaton and Hartshill area. With further development planned for Nuneaton and Hartshill it is likely additional capacity will be needed in the area as this unfolds. With respect to housing development boundaries and the prevention of parents applying to other schools, this is not in accordance with the School Admissions Code whereby if a school is undersubscribed, any parent that applies must be offered a place.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah Mills**  
Service Manager – Access & Organisation  
Education and Learning

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