

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Decision Making Session Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session

Date of Decision 5 February 2010

Report Title School consultations on changes to admissions numbers

Summary The purpose of this report is to brief members seek comments on proposals by Dunchurch Infant Foundation School and All Saints CE (Aided) Primary School to increase their admission numbers.

For further information please contact: Phil Astle
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10 Cabinet report

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllr Jose Compton – “I fully support the application by All Saints Primary School to increase the admission numbers.”

Cllr Robert Hazelton
- Other Elected Members Spokespersons:
Cllr Balaam
Cllr Naylor
Cllr Robbins
Cllr Ross

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Decision Maker) |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Victoria Gould <i>comments incorporated into report</i> |
| Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Linda Wainscot |

FINAL DECISION

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Cabinet | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families)
Decision Making Session**

5 February 2010

School consultations on changes to admissions numbers

**Report of Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families**

Recommendations:

- 1) That the Portfolio Holder notes and supports the proposals by the Governing Body of Dunchurch Foundation Infant School, Dunchurch to increase its Planned Admission Number from 56 to 60 places per year with effect from September 2011
- 2) That the Portfolio Holder notes and supports the proposal of the Governing Body of All Saints CE Voluntary Aided Primary School, Leek Wootton to increase its Planned Admission number from 17 to 20 places per year with effect from September 2011

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is brief the Portfolio Holder on proposals by the Governing Body of Dunchurch Foundation Infant School, Dunchurch and All Saints CE Voluntary Aided Primary School to increase their admission numbers from September 2011 admissions and to consider any response to the Governing Bodies concerned. The Governing Body of Foundation and a Voluntary Aided School is the admission authority and able to determine their own Planned Admission Number. Local Authority is a consultee in these circumstances. However, if the LA did not agree with a determination by the Governing Body in such matters, it could refer the matter to the Schools Adjudicator.

2. Dunchurch Foundation Infant School

- 2.1 Dunchurch Infant School serves the village of Dunchurch and other villages to the south of Rugby. The parishes of Willoughby and Grandborough are also served by Leamington Hastings Infant School). Both Dunchurch Infant School and Leamington Hastings Infant School feed into Dunchurch Boughton Junior School which occupies an adjacent site to Dunchurch Infant. A copy of the school's consultation document is attached as **Appendix A**.

- 2.2 The school is consistently oversubscribed and current numbers on roll indicates that some year groups already exceed 56 pupils. In fact, in 3 out of the last 6 years, pupil numbers in reception have been above the admission limit.

Comment

This is a small increase in admission number and although the increase is likely to draw on pupils from outside of the school's priority area, mainly from the suburbs of Rugby, it appears unlikely that any impact would fall on any single school. Generally, pupil numbers are also rising in Rugby primary schools.

There has always been a miss-match between the admission numbers from the two primary school that feed into Dunchurch Junior School. Even at 56 pupils per year at Dunchurch Infant School, with Leamington Hastings having an admission limit of 18 pupils, it is not always possible for all pupils in the two infant schools to be admitted to Dunchurch Junior School which has an admission limit of 66. Increasing the admission number of the Infant School could exacerbate the miss-match, however in practice Dunchurch Infant School already has more than 56 pupils in some cohorts. It should also be noted that admission arrangements to the junior school do not guarantee that pupils from the two Infant schools will secure admission to the junior school.

The capacity of the school has recently been revised from 54 to 56 places per year following building work at the school. It is calculated that a capacity of 60 pupils cannot be achieved under the Department for Children Schools and Families net capacity formula because the two classrooms currently used as Year 2 class bases are not quite full size (45 sq meters technically suitable for 27 pupils rather than the typical 54 sq meters for 30 pupils). However, the admission regulations allow an admission authority, in this case the school, to set an admission limit above its capacity.

- 2.3 The school has a very good track record of managing classes of 29 in its class rooms. Members may consider that managing 30 pupils in these classes will also be managed to the same high level and support the school's proposals.

3. All Saints CE Voluntary Aided Primary School, Leek Wootton.

- 3.1 All Saints CE Voluntary Aided Primary School, Leek Wootton has published proposals to increase the admission number of the school from 17 to 20 places per year with effect from September 2011 admissions. The school's proposal is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

Comment:

The school serves the civil parishes of Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe (including Hill Wootton) but draws some of its pupils from the wider area of Warwick, Hatton Park and Kenilworth. This is a small increase in admission number and any impact is unlikely to draw pupils from any single school.

The capacity of the school has recently been re-calculated and has been revised from 17 to 20 pupils per year in line with admission under proposal.

The guidance from the Department for Children, Schools and Families is that admission authority's should set their Planned Admission Number in line with its capacity.

The school is consistently oversubscribed and as a result of successful appeals, pupil numbers have grown steadily in recent years. In fact, 3 out of 7 year groups numbers are above the published admission number and the school roll is now 8 pupils above its previously calculated capacity.

- 3.2 Given that the school already has the capacity to admit further pupils Members may feel that the proposal should be supported.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The County Council has an opportunity to respond to proposals from the governing bodies' of Dunchurch Foundation Infant School, Dunchurch and All Saints CE Voluntary Aided Primary School to increase their admission numbers from September 2011. This report details the proposals and attempts to comment on them. Other stakeholders including local schools and parents are being consulted by the school and at this stage the views of other schools are not known by Officers. Any comments the Portfolio Holder wishes to make will be have to be considered by the Governing Body when it determines the matter in March / April.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

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Ansell Way
Warwick

5 February 2010

Proposal to Increase the Admission Number of Dunchurch (Foundation) Infant School Consultation Paper December 2009

The Proposal

The Governing Body of Dunchurch (Foundation) Infant School wishes to increase its planned admission number from 56 to 60 pupils per year with effect from September 2011 admissions.

Background

Dunchurch Infant School serves the village of Dunchurch and other villages to the south of Rugby (the parishes of Willoughby and Grandborough are also served by Leamington Hastings Infant School).

As a foundation school, Dunchurch Infant School admits pupils according to the admission criteria set by its Governing Body. The governing body is the Admissions Authority.

In 2003, Dunchurch Infant School had its capacity reduced from 180 to 163 following new DfES issued guidelines for assessing the physical capacity of a school ⁽¹⁾. At the time the school had asked for a PAN of 60, but this was declined.

Following an Ofsted report (also 2003), Dunchurch Infant School reorganised their Reception classrooms and had two new Year 1 classrooms built. The school currently has a calculated capacity of 167 and a planned admission limit of 56 pupils per year.

Actual Numbers

The school currently has 172 pupils on register. This is similar to 2003, when the Ofsted report showed 176 pupils on role. Table 1 shows figures for other years.

Table 1: Number of pupils on roll at start of the school year at Dunchurch Infant School.

2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
170	159	153	157	171	171

Table 2: Number of pupils admitted into Reception at Dunchurch Infant School.

2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
58	49	52	58	58	53

The figures in table 2 show that in 3 of the last 6 years the school has agreed to admit children above the planned number. This is allowed by the School Admissions Code (2).

The school governors believe that admitting more than PAN does not adversely affect the school. In fact it can have a positive impact on teaching and learning (see below).

Why Are The Changes Necessary?

While the village of Dunchurch has grown with new developments at Guy's Common and Adkinson Avenue, it is the neighbouring village of Cawston that has grown most dramatically in recent years. The primary school built to accommodate the new estate is oversubscribed (3), and parents from Cawston have to look at neighbouring schools.

This has resulted in a higher demand for places at Dunchurch Infant School. Provisional figures from County for 2010/11 suggest that 59 parents have already placed Dunchurch Infant School as their top preference. Following a government initiative, the school has recently converted its library into a kitchen for the provision of hot meals. The library also served to accommodate our before and after schools club. A new extension has just been built to accommodate the club and will allow the school flexibility to increase its extended services provision as required. It is believed that these new facilities will ensure the popularity of Dunchurch Infant School.

The 2003 Ofsted report recommended that the indoor accommodation for Foundation Stage children was improved. The Reception unit was enlarged as three existing classrooms were converted into two classrooms, a practical area and dedicated toilet block. To facilitate this, two new Year 1 classrooms were also built, and the governors believe that this represents a big improvement in the capacity of the school. This however, was not reflected when the capacity calculation was reviewed in 2007, when the figure only changed from 163 to 167. Since then further extensions have been built in March 2008, April 2009 and December 2009.

Finally the figures above in tables 1 and 2 reflect the relatively low number of live births in England between 2000 and 2002 (4). As pupil numbers approached 150, the school was faced with the prospect of losing a teacher and establishing mixed year group classes. Mixed year groups do not form part of the teaching ethos at Dunchurch Infant School and the school has sought to maintain separate year group classes. For sustainability, governors seek to offset low birth rate years by maximising numbers following high birth rate years. Part of this strategy is to raise PAN.

What Is The Impact Of The Change?

On class numbers:

Increasing the PAN does not necessarily mean there will be 30 pupils in each class. The governors are aware that following the 2003 recalculation of school capacities, the County still had a surplus of around 2800 places (1). It is unfortunate that any increase in PAN increases this surplus, but the governors believe that the proposed increase of 12 (4 per year group) makes minimal impact.

On parents:

A higher PAN would mean more parents offered a place at the school of their choice. In three of the last six years, the school has admitted 58 pupils into reception. This was two more than the PAN. This means that at least six children and their families have been placed on a waiting list and faced the prospect of an appeals process. An increase in the admission number of Dunchurch Infant School would enable the school to provide the maximum number of school places allowed, without parents having to face the uncertainty of a waiting list or appeal.

From September 2010, the Government requires that County process casual or in year applications for all schools (currently County only process places for September intake for Reception). The governors believe that increasing PAN will help reduce waiting times for these admissions as well.

Finally, the governors believe that a PAN of 60 provides parents with more accurate information when choosing a school. As has been shown, the school has had to accept more than the PAN in three of the last six years. Hence the governors believe that the PAN figure may be misleading to parents, as class sizes can and do go above 28. The School Admissions Code does allow schools to set a higher admission number than that indicated by the capacity assessment ⁽⁵⁾. Should a higher PAN be approved, the school's admission policy will be updated to reflect this. A statement such as

“The planned admission number, which represents the number of pupils the school will admit if sufficient applications for places are received, is 60 per year group. Please note that the 2009 School Admissions Code allows the school to set a higher admission number than that indicated by the capacity assessment (of 55).”

should provide parents with the necessary information.

On teaching and learning:

As pupil numbers have increased in recent years, the school has been able to afford additional Special Educational Needs (SEN) support throughout the school. Having a high number of children also allows governors more flexibility when agreeing to extra support staff, which in turn allows children to be in smaller teaching groups. It can be demonstrated that these practices have led to better attainment for all children, and such such practices would continue with a higher PAN.

On other infant schools:

Other schools gain a pupil if Dunchurch Infant School does not accept that pupil. However, as far as we know, any pupil that has been placed on the waiting list for Dunchurch Infant School has eventually been offered a place. In recent years the PAN has not affected final numbers, only the length of time parents have had to wait. The governors believe that raising the PAN figure will not impact on other infant schools.

On Dunchurch Boughton Junior School:

Both Leamington Hastings (PAN 18) and Dunchurch Infant School feed into the Junior school (PAN 66), and each year the Junior school has to consider appeals from parents.

The governors of the Infant School are aware of this and advise parents that admission into the Infant school does not guarantee admission into the Junior school. The school will continue to remind parents of this. However, the governors believe that the situation exists mainly because Dunchurch Boughton Junior School is a popular school, and partly due to the increase in housing to the south of Rugby. The effect of the Infant School PAN is believed to be minimal.

When Would The Changes Take Effect?

If approved, a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 60 pupils will apply to admissions to Dunchurch Infant School from September 2011 onwards.

What Happens Next?

Parents of Dunchurch Infant School, Leamington Hastings Infant School and Dunchurch Boughton Junior School will be informed of this consultation paper via newsletter. The Consultation paper will be made available to all parents via the school website: www.dunchurchinfantschoolandnursery.com.

Copies will be sent to governing bodies in Eastern Warwickshire, admission authorities and neighbouring Local Education Authorities, and other parties as required by the School Admissions Code.

Further copies available from the school office (address below).

We Want To Know Your Views

Please send your comments on the proposals in writing to:

The Clerk to the Governors
Dunchurch Infant School
School Street
Dunchurch
Warwickshire
CV22 6PA
by Friday 26th February 2010

References

- (1) Measuring the Capacity of Primary Schools, Report of the County Education Officer to the Cabinet - 26th June 2003.
- (2) School Admissions Code 2009 paragraph 1.18. "Schools should not admit children above the published number unless the school and the local authority agree that admitting above that number will not adversely affect the school in the longer term and will not have a detrimental effect on neighbouring schools."
- (3) Information taken from WCC booklets Primary Schools Eastern Area for admission in September 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11.
- (4) Population Trends: a National Statistics publication.
- (5) School Admissions Code 2009 paragraph 1.17

Consultation Paper- November 2009

Proposal to increase the Published Admission Number of All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, Leek Wootton

The Proposal

1. The proposal is to increase the published admission number (PAN) of All Saints' Primary School from 17 to 20 pupils per year with effect from September 2011 admissions. This would apply to admissions to all year groups.

Back ground

2. All Saints' is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School serving the civil parish of Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe (including Hill Wootton). The school currently has an indicated admission number (IAN) of 17 pupils per year and when its capacity was previously measured could accommodate 119 pupils. A summary of the current number of pupils on roll is given in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1- Number of pupils on roll by year group at All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, Leek Wootton in October 2009

School Year	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total	Capacity
Pupils on roll	20	17	20	19	17	17	17	127	119

Table 2- Total number of pupils on roll at All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, Leek Wootton

Year	Actual Sep 2008	Actual Oct 2009	Forecast Sep 2010	Forecast Sep 2011	Forecast Sep 2012
Pupils on roll	122	127	127	127	127

3. The school has been over subscribed for the last 8 years, oversubscription has significantly increased over the past 3 years.
4. In 2009 the school was unable to meet the Reception admission needs of the parish and was unable to offer places to 4 families living in the school's priority area. Subsequently 2 of these families went to appeal and were successful. In October 2009 an 'In Year' appeal by a family newly moved into the parish was successful resulting in a Reception group of 20 children.
5. The trend of successful appeals over the past 4 years has resulted in 3 out of 4 year groups up to Year 3 being above the published admission number.
6. As a result of appeals being upheld, a precedent has been set that All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School is able to admit and accommodate up to 20 pupils per year group.

7. Over the past 5 years the governors have responded to Ofsted feedback by extending the school building to enlarge both the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classrooms, and to provide a half size classroom to facilitate some year group teaching.
8. The review of the school's accommodation conducted by the Local Authority in October 2009, following recent changes to classrooms, gives a revised maximum capacity of 141 pupils and an IAN of 20 pupils per year once the half sized classroom is changed into a class base.
9. The school is currently organised into 4 classes. In response to a growth in pupil numbers over the last few years, and particularly in order to address the difficulties for staff and pupils in a mixed age group Y3/4 class forecast to contain 39 pupils in 2010, the school intends to bring the half sized classroom into use as a class base from September 2010. The use of this room as a class base would enable the school to be organised into 5 classes and to set a published admission number of 20.

Table 3: Current school organisation based on an admission number of 17, 4 classes, based on forecast pupil numbers for 2010-2011

Key Stage	Foundation Stage / KS1		Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 2	
School Year	Rec/ Year 1		Year 1/ Year 2		Year 3/ Year 4		Year 5/ Year 6	
Pupils on roll	17	7	13	17	20	19	17	17
Pupils in class	24		30		39		34	

Table 4: Current school organisation based on an admission number of 17, 4 classes, based on forecast pupil numbers for 2011-2012

Key Stage	Foundation Stage / KS1		Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 2	
School Year	Rec/ Year 1		Year 1/ Year 2		Year 3/ Year 4		Year 5/ Year 6	
Pupils on roll	17	7	10	20	17	20	19	17
Pupils in class	24		30		37		36	

Table 5: Projected school organisation based on a published admission number of 20, 5 classes, capacity 140

	Foundation Stage/ K S 1		Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 2
School Year	Rec/ Year 1		Year 1/ Year 2		Year 3/ Year 4		Year 4/ Year 5		Year 6
Pupils on roll	20	10	10	20	20	10	10	20	20
Pupils in class	30		30		30		30		20

Why are the changes necessary?

10. As a result of consistent oversubscription and successful appeals, pupil numbers have grown steadily in recent years. In 3 out of 7 year groups numbers are above the published admission number and the school roll is now 8 pupils above its previously calculated capacity. Assuming the school only admits its published admission number each year; this position is forecast to continue until and including 2015.

11. An admission number of 17 leaves the school vulnerable at appeal in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 since statutory class size limits of 30 are not reached in both classes. Additional pupils admitted in Key Stage 1 result in large class sizes in Key Stage 2. The size of these already large mixed age group classes has steadily risen from a baseline of 34 to a forecast 39 in 2010. It is essential that action is taken by governors to organise Key Stage 2 into 3 class bases in order to reduce class sizes to a manageable level. The school has identified a suitable room it can bring into use as a class base and this would increase the school's capacity.

What is the impact of change?

12. An increase in the published admission number at All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School would enable the school to better serve the needs of the parish community of Leek Wootton, Hill Wootton and Guy's Cliffe.

13. A published admission number of 20 pupils per year would enable the school to organise its class sizes to make the most effective use of teaching staff and learning resources in all Key Stages. The school would move to organising pupils into 5 classes. This would have a significant and positive impact upon the quality of teaching and learning and the governors' continuing commitment to raising standards and school improvement.

14. A published admission number of 20 would help to protect the school against appeals in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 since statutory class size limits of 30 would be reached in both classes. This in turn would greatly reduce the extent to which class sizes in Key Stage 2 would rise above planned sizes of at most 30. This would be a significant improvement on the current situation where Key Stage 2 class sizes are forecast to rise to 39.

15. The additional funding obtained as a result of increasing pupil numbers from the current number on roll of 127 to 140 would fund the additional staff necessary to change the school organisation. This additional funding would also improve the sustainability of the school as an efficient economic unit.

16. Currently the school attracts pupils from a wide area including Warwick, Hatton Park and Kenilworth. Forecast pupil numbers for primary schools in Warwick District indicate that there will be a higher demand for reception class places from 2011. The forecast in Table 6 below indicates this anticipated demand. Increasing the published admission number of All Saints' would provide a modest, but helpful, contribution to primary school capacity in Warwick District without having a negative impact on pupil numbers in other local schools.

Table 6: Total actual and forecast reception class numbers for primary schools in Warwick District – 2009 to 2013

Forecast Year	Jan 2009	Sept 2009	Sept 2010	Sept 2011	Sept 2012	Sept 2013
Reception	1243	1354	1255	1330	1323	1316
Total	8454	8535	8638	8770	9012	9142

When would the changes take effect?

17. If approved, a published admission number (PAN) of 20 pupils would apply to admissions to all year groups in All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, Leek Wootton from September 2011 onwards.

What happens next?

18. This consultation paper is being sent to the parents and prospective parents, the staff and their trade union representatives in school, the governing body, the pupil school council of All Saints' C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, the Local Authority, all other primary schools in Central Warwickshire, the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese Board of Education, the admission authorities of Church of England and Catholic schools in neighbouring parishes, neighbouring parish councils in Warwick District, Warwick District Council, and the local Member of Parliament.

We want to know your views

19. Please send your comments on the proposals in writing to:

Ms Sally Ellis
Chair of the Governing Body
All Saints' C of E (VA) Primary School
Warwick Road,
Leek Wootton
CV 35 7QR

by 28th February 2010