The Governing Board of St Thomas’ Church of England Primary School

REDUCTION IN PUPIL ADMISSION NUMBER FOR

St Thomas’ Church of England Primary School

**Notice is given in accordance with the school Admissions Code that Rochdale Borough Council, Children’s Services, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU, intends to reduce the admissions intake to Stansfield Hall Church of England / Methodist Church Primary School.**

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the

Proposals:

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| Governing Body: St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School  Address: *St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale OL16 3QZ*  Date of Publication of Proposals for Consultation: *18th December 2024* |

1. The name, address and category of the school that is proposed to be altered:

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| Address: St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale OL16 3QZ  Category of school: Voluntary Aided CE Primary School |

1. The date in which the proposed changes will take effect in terms of both the buildings and additional place provisions:

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| *1st September 2026.* |

1. The place to which representations can be made, and by when:

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| *Any person can make representations on the proposal by using the following link to the council consultation website: [insert link], or by sending them via email to* [*office@stthomasnewhey.co.uk*](mailto:office@stthomasnewhey.co.uk) *by 29th January 2025, or in writing to:*  *St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey, Rochdale OL16 3QZ.*  *The consultation details can also be accessed via the school website:* [*https://www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk/page/reduction-of-pan-consultation/155097*](https://www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk/page/reduction-of-pan-consultation/155097) |

1. What is proposed?

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| *The proposal is to permanently reduce Pupil Admission Number at St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale from 21 places to 15 places with effect from 1st September 2026*. |

1. School capacity and places- current pupil numbers and admissions- (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made:

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| Stansfield Hall is a mainstream Primary school and has 134 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 6 based on the May 2024 school census. The current age range of the children is 4-11 and does not include a nursery.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **ROCHDALE**  **MAY 2024**  **CENSUS** | Places 2023 | Rec NOR | Places 2022 | Year 1 NOR | Places 2021 | Year 2 NOR | Places 2020 | Year 3 NOR | Places 2019 | Year 4 NOR | Places 2018 | Year 5 NOR | Places 2017 | Year 6 NOR | Total NOR | | St Thomas' CE VA | 21 | 10 | 21 | 13 | 21 | 24 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 134 |   The governing board has a statutory duty to deliver sufficient places for children living in the borough. |

1. Why do we want to make the change(s)?

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| Reasons for the reduction of places  7.1 The Governing Body of St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School has a duty to provide sufficient places for children living in the borough. This includes children who move into the borough after the normal start in Reception class and in higher year groups; termed in-year applications. The council has a duty of care to manage school places effectively and schools have a duty to adequately staff their schools.  7.2 The Governing Body has a duty of care to children in schools to make sure too many empty places are removed in order that the school is adequately financed through its per-pupil funding allocation, and that education is not compromised because of limited finance.  7.3 The applications to schools in South Pennines have dropped significantly since 2021, and an underlying birth increase for 2024 intake did not lead to an increase in uptake of places..  7.4 Since 2021 birth rates locally have dropped from 193 and will continue to drop until the 2026 intake which has a birth rate of 157. This is a reduction locally of 36 births. There sre no major housing developments planned for South Pennines.  7.5 Too much spare capacity is currently available in the forecasted time line across South Pennines.    Quality of Provision  7.6 The current Ofsted report for St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School was published in October 2023. The school was judged as ‘Good for Overall Effectiveness, ‘Requires Improvement’ for Early Years Provision but ‘Good’ in Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development.  7.7 The advantages to the school and the children will be:   * More stability in number of pupils * The school can staff the classrooms to the correct ratios   7.8 The Governing Body of St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School is committed to upholding the standards and ethos of the School. Through the Leadership and Management Team and alongside the Governing Body, the school aspires to provide an 'Outstanding' education to all of the children in its community. |

1. The need for a reduction in places - a statement and supporting evidence about the need for reducing school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils in the current schools:

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| 8.1 Pupil projections for Rochdale Borough, Township and planning area were published and reported to Cabinet on the 22nd November 2022. Documents were shared with schools on the local authority internal bulletin platform. The consultation information can be found in the link below:  <https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/school-admissions-policy-2024-25>  8.2 The need for Primary School Places 2024-2027 Report highlights that the need for a reduction in primary school places going forward within the Pennines planning area remains, key factors being:   * Reduction in local birth rates which follow national trends; * Reduction in take up of in-year places locally; * Assessment of new housing developments has been considered.     8.3 The forecast for places in Pennines South is shown above and suggests there will be 31 spare places in 2025 and 32 spare places in 2026.  8.4 The School Admissions Code requires a formal consultation on the reduction of Pupil Admission Number to be completed between 1st October and 31st January. The formal determination of the Pupil Admission Number is then required by February 28th in the year preceding the intake year.  8.5 Consultation is ongoing with school leaders and governors and all stakeholders are asked to write in to the formal consultation in the link above. |

1. Implementation of the Proposals

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| *The Governing Body of St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School as promoter has responsibility for implementing the proposals which must conform to the School Admissions Code.* |