

CONSULTATION PAPER
Need for Extra Year 1 to Year 6 Places from September 2017
until September 2020
ROCHDALE BOROUGH



5th October 2017

To: Parents and carers of children in Rochdale Borough, Headteachers, staff and governors of primary schools, Rochdale Councillors, Secondary Headteachers, Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions, Manchester and Salford Dioceses, The Methodist Church- Rochdale and Littleborough Circuit, Neighbouring Local Authorities, MPs for the Rochdale Borough.

1. What is this Letter about?

The Local Authority is looking at how many extra Year 1 - Year 6 Class places are going to be needed in the next few years. The reason for this letter is to tell you how many extra places are likely to be needed through the Rochdale Borough, and to ask your views about where these places should be provided.

2. Why are extra classes needed in Year 1 to Year 6 and is the trend going to continue?

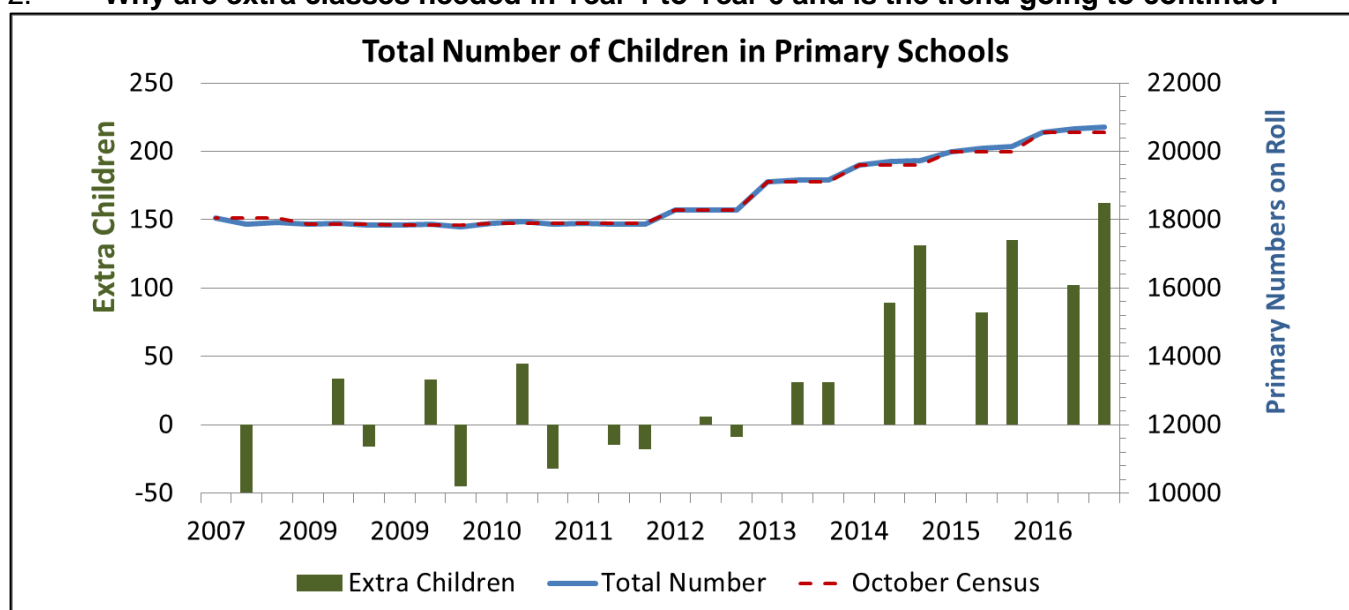


Figure 1: Numbers on Roll and Extra Children

The graph shows the Extra Children that have started Primary schools in the Borough after the October Census each year. These are children coming through our in-year admissions process and coming into all year groups. Over the last three years schools in the Borough have had sufficient places and could manage these Extra Children. However since the May 2017 census we have had to go over PAN in some year groups. The Authority maintains a strict policy of adhering to the Admissions Code class size legislation which limits infant classes to 30 pupils per teacher. In the junior classes at Key Stage 2, because of the large number of extra children arriving in the borough the Authority has asked some schools to exceed their PANs. The following table shows the number of children in classes that are over their PAN number.

| Over PAN Capacity (Sept 2017) | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | <i>Rec</i> | <i>Year 1</i> | <i>Year 2</i> | <i>Year 3</i> | <i>Year 4</i> | <i>Year 5</i> | <i>Year 6</i> | <i>No. of Schools</i> |
| <i>Heywood</i> | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| <i>Middleton</i> | 0 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 14 |
| <i>Pennines (South)</i> | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| <i>Pennines (North)</i> | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Rochdale (NE) & Pennine (Central)</i> | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 9 |
| <i>Rochdale (NW)</i> | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| <i>Rochdale (South)</i> | 0 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 17 |
| <i>total</i> | 10* | 15* | 12* | 20 | 26 | 26 | 29 | 69 |

Table 1: Count of pupils in over PAN classes

* Infant classes that are over PAN are predominantly VA schools who have chosen to exceed or classes where the teacher ratio is still 1 teacher to 30 children or less.

3. Where do you get your information from and how accurate is it?

The Authority uses house building planning information to predict possible increases in children moving into the borough and entering schools in the year groups above Reception. Once planning permission for a housing development has been given, the rate of house building is however entirely down to the developer. New house builds also do not cover families moving into the area into existing housing.

The Authority maintains a list of PAN, NOR and free spaces for every primary school and every year group. As of the 15th September 2017 the following table shows the number of free spaces by township by year group.

| <u>Spaces Available (Sept 2017)</u> | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | <i>Rec</i> | <i>Year 1</i> | <i>Year 2</i> | <i>Year 3</i> | <i>Year 4</i> | <i>Year 5</i> | <i>Year 6</i> |
| <i>Heywood</i> | 20 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 14 | 3 | 20 |
| <i>Middleton</i> | 57 | 55 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 39 | 12 |
| <i>Pennines (South)</i> | 18 | 29 | 27 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| <i>Pennines (North)</i> | 17 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 14 |
| <i>Rochdale (NE) & Pennine (Central)</i> | 35 | 10 | 25 | 38 | 3 | 26 | 0 |
| <i>Rochdale (NW)</i> | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| <i>Rochdale (South)</i> | 13 | 14 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 2 |
| <i>Total</i> | 169 | 119 | 87 | 69 | 46 | 99 | 66 |
| <i>Percentage</i> | 5% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 2% |

Table 2: Count of spaces available by Township by year group

Highlighted in yellow are where spaces are now too limited. Borough wide the Authority tries to maintain a spare capacity of 5% in Reception and 3% in other year groups in order to have enough spaces available to meet the changing demand of parents and in order to place siblings in the same school. The Authority has less than this spare capacity in Years 3, 4 and 6 and finding places for siblings has become increasingly difficult.

4. What do you take into account to decide where to put extra places?

The Local Authority has to make sure there are enough school places for all children who need them, as well as ensuring that there are not too many. In looking for extra upper year classes the Authority has taken into account a number of factors to decide where to put extra places, these are:- distribution of births; physical space in schools; scope to put in extra accommodation; making sure schools can comply with class size legislation; and avoiding creating too many extra places. Children arriving to start year 6 in the borough are the most difficult to place as any school will have very limited time to address any learning issues before exams are taken. Extra year 6 bulge classes are being avoided and schools are being asked to overcrowd in this year group. For year groups 1 through to 5 the

Authority is creating bulge classes where needed and where it is feasible to do so. **Alternative proposals and views are invited.**

5. How will you put extra space into schools and how will you avoid overcrowding?

The solution is likely to be different for each school. We will look at each school individually- some schools have more space than others and so extra places might be possible by using spare or under-used spaces. In some cases demountable classrooms might be needed or extensions to current buildings. Each year the Authority will need to look closely at the number of applications for places in each Township.

6. Where are any extra places needed?

Overall extra capacity is being sought in some Townships and some year groups as detailed in table 2 above. The Authority has been in touch with some schools to investigate possible extra classes and discussions are still ongoing.

7. How many places are there by year group in Primary Schools now?

Spaces by year group borough wide for September 2017 are currently as follows:

| | Rec | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| PAN | 3264 | 3207 | 3107 | 3062 | 3075 | 3100 | 2941 |

8. Where can I find out more?

This letter concerns Pennines Township, Rochdale Township, Middleton Township and Heywood Township. Information is available on the Rochdale Council website at:

<http://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/extra-primary-places>

You can also get a copy by contacting Robert Aspinall at robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk

9. Making your views known:

Your views on the following will be helpful,

* are we proposing enough extra places?

* are the places in the right locality to meet need?

* would you suggest something different about the need for extra reception places?

After the closing date a report will go to the Council's Cabinet for a final decision.

Please send any comments or responses to: **Robert Aspinall, School Organisation & Development Team, Rochdale Borough Council, Schools Service, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU** or e-mail: Robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk by **WEDNESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2017.**