

**ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
DERBY STREET NURSERY SCHOOL, HEYWOOD.
PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOL**

PRESCRIBED INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED UNDER Schedule 2 of "The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013" SI 2013 No.3109

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

Local Authority: Rochdale Borough Council
Address: School Organisation and Development Team, Early Help & Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, ROCHDALE, OL16 1XU

Date of Publication of Proposals: 8th January 2014

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

Derby Street Nursery School,
Derby Street,
Heywood,
OL10 4QJ

Category of school: Maintained Community Nursery

3. The date on which it is proposed to close the school, or where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates and information about each stage:

31st March 2015

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

Any person can make representations on the proposals by using the following link to the council consultation website at: <http://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/derbystreet> or by sending them in writing, by 4th February 2015, to: Robert Aspinall, by e-mail at robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk, or in writing to this address: Robert Aspinall, School Organisation & Development Team, Early Help and Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, ROCHDALE OL16 1XU.

5. Reason for closure, a statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary:

5.1 The reason for considering closure is because there are have not been enough children taking up places in the school, and currently (September 2014) there are no children on roll. Nursery schools are funded on the basis of the number of children taking up places and not the number of places available. This means that the school if it continued in operation would be in a deficit budget position, without the likelihood of being able to put forward an achievable repayment plan.

5.2 Funding for all nursery provision, whether maintained, private or voluntary, is under the Early Years Single Funding Formula. Since 2007 all Early Years provision, which includes Nursery Schools, have been funded by a single funding formula (SFF). This is a participation based formula which funds actual hours of attendance and not places available (e.g. the Local Authority does not fund 26 places if only 18 children attend; providers are funded on the total number of hours that the 18 children use). Over the past two to three years the hours accessed at Derby Street Nursery School has steadily declined.

Derby Street NS	39	52	26	67%	35	17.5	45%	0	0	0%
All Souls CE	26	36	17.5	67%	41	20.5	79%	35	18	69%
Harwood Park CP	26	18	9	35%	14	7	30%	21	10.5	40%
Woodland CP	26	41	20.5	79%	30	15	58%	22	11	42%
St.Michael's CE	22	0	0	0	34	17	77%	30	15	68%
Our Lady & St Pauls RC	26	24	12	50%	13	6.5	25%	22	11	42%
Nursery School and Nursery Class places in Heywood	165	171	86	52%	167	84	51%	130	65.5	40%

6.2 In terms of the broader picture, the last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (April 2013) identified the levels of take-up of free entitlement places across each ward. Overall within North Heywood ward (location of the Nursery School) the level of take up of places was 60.3%, which compares to the adjacent West Heywood with a 107% take-up, and for Hopwood ward a 103% take-up. This is across all types of setting.

6.2 In North Heywood there were 361 children eligible for the free nursery entitlement. Providers in the ward offer 322 places that is 89% coverage. 218 children resident in the ward access their free entitlement, which is 60% take up. 73 children resident in the ward access their entitlement in other wards, about half of whom access places in West Heywood or Hopwood Hall.

6.3 In West Heywood there were 240 children eligible for the free nursery entitlement. Providers in the ward offer 367 places, which is 153% coverage. 257 children access their free entitlement in this ward, which is 107% take-up. 47 children resident in this ward access their entitlement in other wards, mostly in North Heywood.

6.4 In Hopwood ward there were 238 children eligible for the free nursery entitlement. Providers in the ward offered 114 places which is a 47.9% coverage. 247 children access their free entitlement in this ward, which is 103% take up. 143 children resident in this ward access their entitlement in other wards, 81 of them in North Heywood and West Heywood.

6.5 The take up of places by ward in Heywood is shown in the table below along with take up percentages by sector. In brief summary 40.8% of places are accessed in maintained (Nursery School & Nursery Classes) provision with the remainder accessed in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sectors.

LSOA	Ward	Children Accessing	Maintained School	Maintained Class	Playgroup	Private Day	Child minder
E01005497	North Heywood	16	2	5	2	7	0
E01005498	Bamford / N. Heywood	32	1	14	11	5	1
E01005499	Norden/N. Hey / Spot	18	1	11	1	5	0
E01005500	North Heywood	16	2	10	4	0	0
E01005501	North Heywood	15	1	5	5	4	0
E01005502	Hopwood Hall	17	1	0	10	6	0
E01005503	Hopwood Hall	10	0	5	1	4	0
E01005504	Hop Hall/N. Hey /W. Heywood	23	3	7	2	11	0
E01005505	Hopwood Hall	18	3	5	5	5	0
E01005506	Hopwood Hall	14	0	2	6	6	0
E01005507	Hopwood Hall	15	0	4	4	7	0
E01005508	Hopwood Hall	14	1	7	3	2	1
E01005509	Hopwood Hall	18	1	6	5	6	0
E01005510	West Heywood	15	2	4	4	5	0
E01005511	West Heywood	13	1	3	3	6	0
E01005512	West Heywood	12	1	3	4	4	0
E01005513	West Heywood	20	2	8	8	1	1

E01005514	West Heywood	19	2	5	4	8	0
E01005515	West Heywood	34	5	10	9	10	0
	West Heywood	121	14	35	33	38	1
	North Heywood	77	7	33	18	19	1
	Hopwood Hall	114	7	31	35	40	1
	All Heywood Total	312	28	99	86	97	3
			8.92%	31.94%	27.19%	30.82%	0.80%

6.6 The table below shows the number of children born in the Township in recent years. Births in North Heywood ward were higher in 2009-10 than in the previous year:

Birth Year - Academic Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Heywood Township - Nursery admission year (Rising 4's)	Sep-12	Sep-13	Sep-14	Sept-15	Sept-16
North Heywood	139	151	149	154	138
West Heywood	171	145	162	156	164
Hopwood Hall (approx. 50% of Ward total)	60	68	72	72	75
Total Births	370	364	383	382	377

7. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places including-

- any interim arrangements;
- the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
- in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school:

Not applicable- see 6 above.

8. Details of any other measures to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance:

Not applicable- see 6 above.

9. Impact on the community- a statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact:

The very limited demand for places at the Nursery School, for provided places under the Nursery Entitlement and for the parent-funded day care, taken together with the general pattern of take up of places suggests that there is no adverse effect on the community. The adjacent children's centre will continue to operate and provide the required services to the community.

10. Rural primary schools- where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of Section 15, a statement that the Local Authority or the governing body (as the case may be) has considered section 15(4):

Derby Street Nursery School is not designated as a Rural School.

11. Balance of denominational provision- where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice:

Not applicable

12. Maintained Nursery Schools- where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out

- (a) the Local Authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative Provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and**
(b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents:

12.1 Should the Nursery School close, whilst there are no children currently on roll at the school there are enough places available elsewhere in the Township that are good or better to meet overall demand. Derby Street Nursery School has a current Ofsted grade of good. The Deputy Headteacher of the school has secured an Acting Headship position at another maintained nursery school in the borough. The long serving Headteacher and part time teacher have, however, both retired from teaching.

12.2 The vast majority of providers in the Township are graded Good or better by OfSTED. This means there is alternative provision of a comparable quality within a reasonable and accessible distance from Derby Street. All providers and their current OfSTED grade are detailed in the following table (June 2014):

Setting	Sector	Grade	Maximum Places FTE(*)
Ashfield View	Private Day Nursery	Good	67
Aunt Mary's **	Private Day Nursery	Good	46
Building Blocks	Private Day Nursery	Good	99
Buttercups	Private Day Nursery	Good	40
Daisy Chains **	Private Day Nursery	Good	45
Hawarden House	Private Day Nursery	Good	30
Woodland **	Private Day Nursery	Good	40
Wendy's **	Private Day Nursery	Good	71
Cabbage Patch **	Pre School	Good	30
Crimble Croft	Pre School	Good	40
Hopwood Park	Pre School	Good	22
Spring Willows	Pre School	Good	26
St Joseph's **	Pre School	Good	50
All Souls	Maintained Nursery Class	Outstanding	26
Harwood Park **	Maintained Nursery Class	Satisfactory	26
Our Lady & St Pauls **	Maintained Nursery Class	Good	26
St Michael's	Maintained Nursery Class	Outstanding	22
Woodland **	Maintained Nursery Class	Requires Improvement	26

* Full Time Equivalent

** Denotes setting within reasonable radius of Derby Street

13. Sixth form provision- where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16-19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of:

- (a) their educational or training achievements;**
(b) their participation in education or training; and
(c) the range of educational or training opportunities open to them:

Not applicable

14. Special educational needs provision- where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believe the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard,

quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children:

Not applicable

15. Travel- details of the length and journeys to alternative provision and the proposed arrangements for travel for displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use:

As there are no children on roll, there are no specific alternative transport arrangements to make. The number and widespread distribution of nursery places in the maintained, private and voluntary sectors means that there are alternative places accessible within a reasonable distance.

Sue Eastwood
Head of Schools
8th January 2015