

**ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO WHITTAKER MOSS PRIMARY AND
NURSERY SCHOOL
STATUTORY PROPOSALS**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (2013/3110) that Rochdale Borough Council, Children's Services, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU, intends to make a prescribed alteration to Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery School.

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 for Consultation: *19th December 2016.*

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

Address: Whittaker Moss Primary & Nursery, Elmsfield Avenue, Norden, Rochdale, OL11 5UY

Category of school: Community Primary School.

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

1st September 2017.

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

Any person can make representations on the proposal by using the following link to the council consultation website at: <https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/enlargement-of-whittaker-moss-primary-school> or by sending them by Friday 20th January 2017 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. What is proposed?

The proposal is to permanently enlarge Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery School, Norden from 315 places to 420 places with effect from 1st September 2017. This would mean that the Published Admission Number would increase from 45 to 60 in each successive new year group.

6. 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:

Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery School has 330 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 6 based on the October 2016 school census. The current age range of the children is 3-11 and includes a nursery provision for with 31 children on roll (or 16 full time equivalent).

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

Reasons for the expansion of places

7.1 Rochdale Borough Council needs to make sure there are enough primary school places for those who need them, taking account of the demographic growth and change and demand for places. Previous analysis of data and consultation has shown that there are four key factors driving the need for more school places in the Rochdale Township:

- i. Increased level of demand for school places at popular schools
- ii. Overall increase in the birth rate across the Council contrary to national trends, which if it continues will mean that reception places are likely to exceed provision from 2020-21. The birth rate in Rochdale Township is now starting to increase.
- iii. Movement within the Borough and Township which is highlighting the lack of capacity for in year transfers – 33 places per year group are needed to meet the 5% threshold.
- iv. New housing developments.

	PAN	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	places required
Heywood	445	19	7	9	7	11	-1	1	8
Middleton	720	-31	24	8	31	-8	26	29	11
Pennines	570	1	-4	26	21	26	15	2	12
Rochdale	1457	33	18	30	59	-3	62	33	33

The proposal to increase the number of school places at Whittaker Moss will make sure that there are enough school places available for families within a reasonable distance of this popular school.

7.2 Additionally, included in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, there are proposals for a further 750 houses in the west of the township (Bamford) in addition to existing proposed schemes.

7.3 The proposal is therefore to enlarge Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery School by providing an additional 15 places in each new year group.

Quality of Provision

7.4 The current OfSTED report for Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery School was published in April 2015 and the school was judged as 'Good', an excellent result bearing in mind the increased targets and having an above average number of disadvantaged children. The increase in the number of available places is not considered to impact adversely on the quality of provision.

7.5 The advantages to the school and the children will be:

- Opportunities for young people to interact with a wide range of peers, and to prepare for secondary school;
- Capacity to develop a strong leadership team which will share the responsibility of knowing children and their families individually, and have direct and empowered links with the Head teacher and governors when necessary;
- Flexibility of organisation due to multiple year groups and a significant budget;
- Opportunities for staff to specialise and offer high quality support to colleagues;
- Capacity to retain high quality staff by offering a wide range of experience and consequent promotion opportunities within one organisation; and
- Opportunities to offer a very wide range of extra-curricular activities due to the range of talents and interests of the staff.

7.7 The Governing Body of Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery 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. It is helpful that the expansion will be on a progressive basis enabling the school to plan ahead, step by step, ensuring that all is in place as each additional class, in each year group, arrives.

The school will maintain all staffing ratios: resources for which are provided through the school funding formula, and which will be increased accordingly each year as numbers grow.

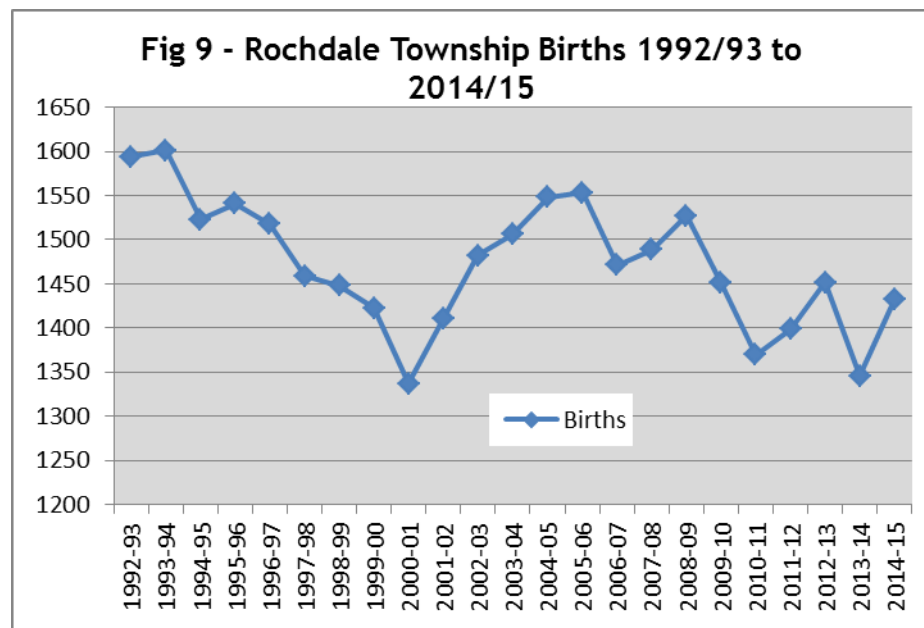
8. The need or demand for additional places- a statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils in the current schools:

8.1 New pupil projections for Rochdale Borough and Township were published, consulted upon and updated during August-October 2016. The consultation information can be found in the link below:

<https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/extra-reception-places/>

These highlighted the serious need for additional primary school places within the Rochdale Township, key factors being:

- 340 new houses pa from current schemes
- 33 places per year group needed to provide a 5% level of vacancies (needed for the natural fluctuations in population, immigration and sibling groups etc.)
- 6% increase in births between 2013-14 & 2014-15 which will impact on reception classes from 2017 onwards:



- There are significant place shortages in 2018-19 and 2019-20 which will be exacerbated by in years transfers and maintained by housing growth.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Births	370	392	389	363	398	382	377	385	417
Expected Reception Children (hsg under construction)	383	395	383	382	421	417	410	417	451
Reception Places Available	400	415	415	400	445	445	445	400	400
Extra Places Needed						28	35	-17	-51

- Overall there is a requirement for 1.5 forms of entry pa from 2018 onwards, with a minimum of 0.5 FE from 2017.

8.2 All of the neighbouring schools are full and the expansion of Whittaker Moss is required to meet the demands outlined in 8.1 above. No adverse impact on local schools is expected.

8.3 Whittaker Moss Primary and Nursery is a popular and successful school. There has been a high level of demand for places at the school in each year group.

8.4 Consultation was undertaken during Sep-Oct 2016 with schools (face to face meetings) and Townships (via committee meetings).

- 9. Interim arrangements - details of the schools or further education colleges, taking the following into consideration:**
- any temporary 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.

- 10. 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 alterations:**

Not applicable.

- 11. Impact on the community- a statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact, e.g during the build period:**

The Local Authority aims to plan well in advance to ensure that the school, other users on the site and the contractors can work together to minimise disruption on site. The building contractors will be familiar with working on school sites and will be audited on considerate construction.

- 12. 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):**

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

- 14. Quality and quantity measures of the proposed school-**

- a) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of the proposed alterations on the school, and;
- b) to ensure that the convenience for local children and parents is also considered.

- a) *Careful consideration has been given to the additional teaching spaces required to ensure that an increase of pupils on roll does not negatively impact on the teaching and learning of existing pupils or new admissions. The class sizes will not increase as a result of the additional primary school places to ensure that this increase in places complies with regulations regarding adult to pupil ratios.*
- b) *The increased place capacity will help to alleviate any concerns with regards to local children as well as acknowledging parental preference.*

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

A school travel plan will be produced to help reduce the impact of increased pupil numbers over the next few years by encouraging sustainable patterns of travel to school.

16. Capital

The capital cost of the proposals will be met by the Local Authority from capital grant resources already available. Approval for expenditure was given by Cabinet on 31st October 2016 and because contracts for the work have not been agreed the amount available is commercial in confidence. This will help secure value for money in procurement of the project. The site is in Council Ownership.

17. Implementation of the Proposals

Rochdale Borough Council as promoter has responsibility for implementing the proposals.

18. Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.