ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REDUCTION IN PUPIL ADMISSION NUMBER FOR

HARWOOD PARK 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 Harwood Park Primary School.**

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

Proposals:

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| 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: *6 weeks from date to be agreed on approval* |

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

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| Address: Harwood Park Primary School, Hardfield Street, Heywood, OL10 1DG  Category of school: Community 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 2025.* |

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 at: https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research\*\*\* or by sending them by \*date to be confirmed on approval\* to: Fay Davies, by e-mail at* [*fay.davies@rochdale.gov.uk*](mailto:fay.davies@rochdale.gov.uk) *, Gemma Coggin, by e-mail at* [*gemma.coggin@rochdale.gov.uk*](mailto:gemma.coggin@rochdale.gov.uk) *or in writing to this address: School Admissions, School Organisation & Development Team, Early Help and Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU.* |

1. What is proposed?

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| *The proposal is to permanently reduce Pupil Admission Number at Harwood Park Primary School, Heywood from 60 places to 30 places with effect from 1st September 2025.* |

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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| Harwood Park is a mainstream Primary school and has 333 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 6 based on the May 2023 school census. The current age range of the children is 3-11 and does include a nursery.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **ROCHDALE**  **MAY 2023**  **CENSUS** | Places 2022 | Rec NOR | Places 2021 | Year 1 NOR | Places 2020 | Year 2 NOR | Places 2019 | Year 3 NOR | Places 2018 | Year 4 NOR | Places 2017 | Year 5 NOR | Places 2016 | Year 6 NOR | Total NOR | | Harwood Park | 60 | 36 | 60 | 30 | 60 | 56 | 60 | 53 | 60 | 55 | 60 | 47 | 60 | 56 | 333 |   The local authority 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 Rochdale Borough Council 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 local authority 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 Birth rates in the area peaked in 2023 at 427 births, and are predicted to drop to 373 for 2024 and 380 for 2025.  7.4 Primary school intakes in Heywood have dropped since 2019 by about 40 pupils. For the 2023 year the intake was anticipated to rise by about 30 pupils before dropping again for 2024 onwards.  7.5 Until 2019 Heywood had a net increase in children starting school, of up to 10% above birth rates. Since then the increase has stopped. Behind the lack of recent inflow into the area is the fact that the new housing completions which were approximately 200 per year between 2017 and 2019, have now dropped to only 30 per year since 2020. In 2022, 340 new homes were given planning permission as part of the South Heywood/Junction 19 development. An estimate of 100 new homes per year for the next 4 years is included in the forecasts. The building and sale rate of the new homes could be impacted by wider market conditions.  7.6 Too much spare capacity is currently available in the forecasted time line.  Quality of Provision  7.7 The current OfSTED report for Harwood Park Primary School was published in January 2020 and the school was judged as ‘Requires Improvement’ for Overall Effectiveness, but ‘Good’ in Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Early Years Provision.  7.8 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   7.9 The Governing Body of Harwood Park 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 New 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>  This highlighted the need for reduction in primary school places going forward within the Heywood planning area, 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.   8.2 The forecast for places in Heywood is shown above and suggests there will be 102 spare places in 2024 and 90 spare places in 2025.  8.3 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.  8.4 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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| *Rochdale Borough Council as promoter has responsibility for implementing the proposals which must conform to the School Admissions Code.* |