



Early Help & Schools,
Number One Riverside,
Smith Street ROCHDALE
OL16 1XU



**TOGETHER WE CAN
ACHIEVE**

Date: 6th July 2013

To: Parents, Pupils, Staff of St Andrew's CE School, Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Pennines Township Schools, Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions, neighbouring Local Authorities, Diocesan Authorities, MP for Rochdale, Pennines Township Councillors, Private and Voluntary Early Years Providers, St.Andrew's PCC.

Dear Sir/Madam,

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A NURSERY CLASS and SIGNIFICANT ENLARGEMENT AT St. ANDREW'S CE SCHOOL, DEARNLEY.

The reason for this letter is to tell you that:

- 1. The Local Authority has today published statutory proposals to increase the intake of the school to 45 children in each new year group from September 2014, and*
- 2. The Governing Body of St.Andrew's CE has today published statutory proposals to set up a Nursery Class for 26 full-time equivalent children from September 2014.*

What is being proposed?

The proposals are: to set up a new nursery class for 26 full-time equivalent (fte) children; and to increase the intake at the school to 45 children in each new Reception Year from September 2014. This is a change in the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11, and also a significant enlargement of the school.

Why do the Local Authority and Governing Body want to do this?

The Governing Body wants to **establish a 26 fte place nursery class** at the school to improve outcomes for children in the school, by having better transition from Nursery provision to Reception and on to Key Stage 1, enable early identification of the needs of vulnerable children, provide continuity of provision from age 3 through to age 11. The Local Authority wants to **expand the school** to provide a total of 45 school places for each new Reception year group from September 2014 because there has been an increase in the number of children in the area.

What would happen and when?

The new nursery class would have 26 places available for each of the morning and afternoon sessions. Admissions criteria would be based on proximity, siblings and only children aged 3 who become 4 in that academic year will be admitted. The nursery would be staffed by a Teacher and a Teaching Assistant. The 15 extra places for Reception children would be allocated in accordance with the admission policy of the school. This will mean that the school will have 45 children in each year group and eventually there will be up to 315 children aged 4-11. To provide the extra school places and a Nursery class, additional teaching and other accommodation will be needed at the school.

Further information

The full proposal and the report to Cabinet about these proposals are available on the Rochdale Council Website at <http://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/standrews-1> There is a 6 week statutory representation period starting on 6th July 2013. This ends at midnight on 16th August 2013.

Who takes the decision?

All views must be sent to the Local Authority. After the close of this statutory representation period the Local Authority will consider all responses received, and decide whether or not to approve the proposals in accordance with statutory guidance and Regulations.

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How can I make my views known?

If you want to ask the school questions about the proposals, an open drop-in meeting has been arranged as follows-

Open Drop-in for Parents & carers & interested parties	Starts 3.30pm until 5.30pm on Tuesday 16th July	St.Andrew's CE School Hall,
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You can make your views known by writing to Rochdale Local Authority at the address below- by e-mail to dawn.jennings@rochdale.gov.uk , or in writing to Dawn Jennings, School Support Officer, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Early Help and Schools, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, ROCHDALE, OL16 1XU.

The closing date for responses is **midnight on 16th August 2013.**

Yours Faithfully,

G.Walczak
Chair of Governors

Gladys Rhodes-White OBE
Director of Children's Services

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Frequently Asked Questions:

Will class sizes increase?

No, Infant class sizes must not be more than 30 children with 1 qualified teacher.

What about traffic and parking?

The school recognises that traffic and parking are always an issue near schools. The school will produce a School Travel Plan to try to encourage different and healthier ways of children getting to school.

Will the school be too large?

There are many schools with an intake of 45 and a nursery class. Overall a larger school has more resources that can be used to the benefit of children's learning and well-being. Because there are planned to be up to 30 children to a class, teachers and classroom assistants can still be able to get to know their children.

Will the school lose its' Christian ethos?

The Church and family ethos of the school is very important. Expanding the school and bringing in a nursery class will allow more children and families to benefit from that ethos.

Will there be enough playground?

Plans for extra classrooms will make sure there is enough playground for the school.

Will standards drop because of the increased numbers?

No. A larger school will give the school extra resources to support children and their learning. The new nursery, working with Reception will provide a strong educational base for children and will contribute towards improved Key Stage 1 results in the school.

Will there be enough space in the school?

To make sure there is enough space extra classrooms will be built on at the school, so there will be enough space for both the new nursery and the extra children.

What about mixed age teaching groups- won't they hold some children back?

There are lots of schools across the borough and the country with mixed age classes that work very well. There are different views about whether they are a good thing. One of the most important things to affect your child's progress is the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom. Having 3 classes for 2 year groups can mean that summer born children are not always the youngest in the class, that the school has a bit more flexibility in placing children in classes and also the age span in a class group is not as wide as a single age class, so teachers can differentiate more in their teaching.

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