



CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES
SUPPORT FOR LEARNING SERVICE
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Smith Street, Rochdale
Date: 19th April 2013

St. ANDREWS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, DEARNLEY,
PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT AND ADDITION OF A NURSERY CLASS.
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
16th April 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. The Proposals are to increase the capacity of the school to admit 45 children in each new successive year group from September 2014 and to change the age range of the school to 3-11 to include a Nursery Class.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT AGE RANGE AND SIZE OF THE SCHOOL?

2. The current age range of the school is 4-11, and the Admission Number is 30, with a capacity of 210 places. The school currently has 208 children on roll.

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

3. The proposed age range of the school will be 3-11, and the proposed admission number for each new successive year group will be 45, with a capacity of 315 places. The Nursery Class would have a capacity of 26 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) places.
4. The proposals are put forward by Rochdale Local Authority and if approved would be implemented from 1st September 2014. All relevant information and documentation can be found on the Council website at <http://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/standrews/>

HOW WILL THE NURSERY CLASS BE ORGANISED?

5. The Nursery class would have 26 FTE places, and would be a separate unit within the Foundation Stage. The main features would be:
 - Staffing- 1 Teacher/ 1 Teaching Assistant
 - Daily sessions: 8:45 - 11:45 am; 12:30 - 3:30 pm.
 - Children would be entitled to 15 hours provision, which would be either morning or afternoon sessions.
 - The Curriculum will be the Early Years Foundation Stage which is currently followed in Reception. Nursery children would work alongside Reception children with opportunities for joint work wherever possible.
 - Admission Criteria are the standard local authority admission criteria for admission to a nursery class, a copy of which is on the consultation website. Please note that admission to the Nursery Class does not give priority for admission to the school.
 - Only children aged 3 who will become four in that academic year will be

admitted.

- Children will be a full part of the school and would therefore wear school uniform.
- There will be no before or after school care offered.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A NURSERY CLASS?

6. The benefits to the school and children of the Nursery Class will be:

- To facilitate better transition for the children. The school currently takes from a number of different settings which does not allow for efficient transfer of information and can lead to social and emotional difficulties when settling in to their new school. This year's cohort came from 13 different nurseries/childcare providers.
- Early identification of vulnerable groups. This will mean that the needs of new children can be identified as early as possible.
- Consistent baseline data. This will improve standards and outcomes for children because time saved on transition logistics will be spent on providing for their needs.
- There will be continuity of provision which will reflect the ethos and culture of the school.
- Current parents have expressed as desire for a nursery on the premises (ref. parent surveys 2010 and 2011).
- Developing strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity.
- Standards throughout school will be raised because older children will have opportunities to interact with younger children.
- Provision for Reception pupils would be enhanced, e.g. outdoor provision.
- Creation of links with other providers that are facilitating the new two year old entitlement.
- Ease of access for families who already know and trust the school.
- Opportunities for existing staff to enhance CPD.

ARE MORE NURSERY PLACES JUSTIFIED?

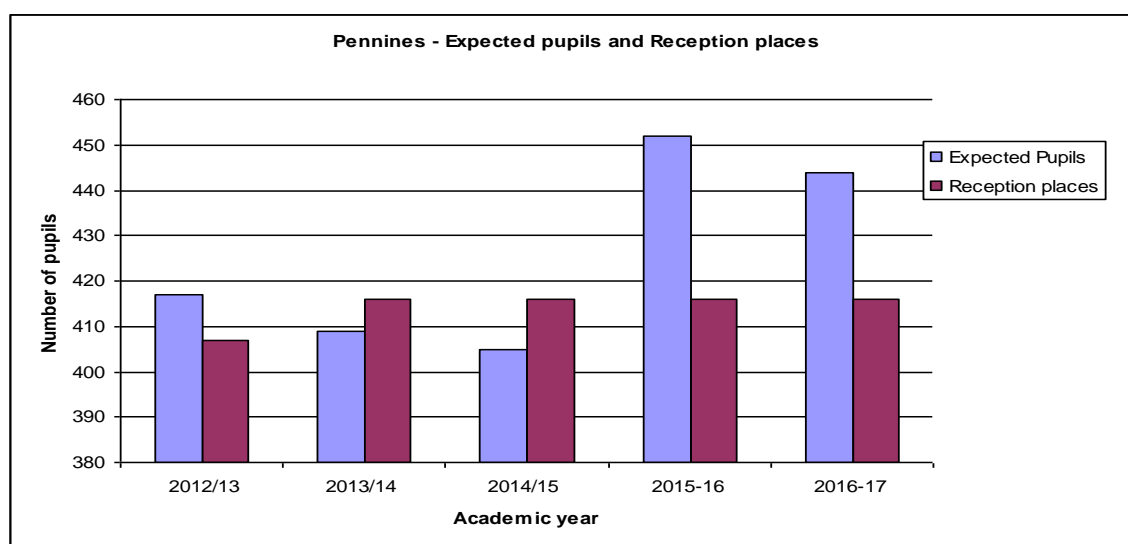
7. The Local Authority's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicates that, overall, in Wardle and West Littleborough Ward there are currently just enough places to meet the free entitlement for 3-4 year olds, and the take up of entitlement places is high. It should be noted that the adjacent Smallbridge and Firgrove Ward has a shortage of places for 3-4 year olds, and a low take up rate.

WARD	No. of Eligible 3-4 Year Olds	Places	Coverage %	No. taking free entitlement	% taking free entitlement
Wardle & West Littleborough	168	172	102%	185	110%
Smallbridge & Firgrove	389	244	62.7%	304	78.1%

8. Factors that support an increase in the number of places are that the child population is growing, and the extension of the free 15 hours entitlement to 2 year olds will mean that more places will be needed in the future. The recommendation in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for both wards is to increase the number of providers offering free entitlement. The expansion of the school provides a cost-effective and timely opportunity to make more places available in the Township.

WHY ARE MORE MAINSTREAM SCHOOL PLACES NEEDED?

9. The demographic trend for Pennines Township suggests that there are enough places in the Township as a whole for both 2013 and 2014, but more places will be needed in 2015 and 2016. The geography of the Township is such that the pattern of demand varies across the different localities. A more detailed analysis of birth distribution and current pattern of preferences suggests a need for extra places to address both demographic and an element of preference demand. The graph below shows how many Reception Class places there are now and how many children are expected across the Township as a whole.



School Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Expected pupils	417	409	405	452	444
Reception places	407	416	416	416	416
Extra Places Needed	n/a	-7	-11	36	28

10. The table below sets out the birth, place availability and preference situation across the Township in September 2012, together with the position for 2013. For 2014 and 2015 it shows the birth and place availability. That level of detail will not be available until September 2013 but birth data at **Ward level** indicates an increase in demand for 2016 compared to 2015 in Littleborough Lakeside (up by 21 births) and Smallbridge and Firgrove (up by 12 births). However births in Wardle and West Littleborough are down by 8 births and Smallbridge and Milnrow and Newhey by 16 births). The overall position remains that across the township an extra form of entry will be needed to match demographic demand in 2016.

Area	September 2012 Admission				September 2013 Admission				September 2014 Admission			September 2015 Admission		
	Births	Places	First Preferences	Places Offered	Births	Places	Shortfall/surplus	First Preferences	Births	Places	Shortfall/surplus	Births	Places	Shortfall/surplus
Littleborough	123	140	124	130	125	140	+15	121	114	140	+26	123	140	+17
Wardle	40	30	40	30	36	30	-6	32	37	30	-7	41	30	-11
Smithy Bridge	103	90	84	102	88	90	+2	93	98	90	-8	98	90	-8
Milnrow	100	105	86	104	108	105	-3	92	94	105	+11	110	105	-5
Newhey	52	51	68	51	48	51	+3	57	59	51	-8	59	51	-7

11. Cabinet has agreed that, subject to feasibility, 15 additional places should be provided at St. Andrew's to meet the increased local demographic demand for additional school places.

HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE FUNDED?

12. The expansion of the school would be through new build, in addition to the additional accommodation already provided this year. The capital funding for the expansion would be met by the Local Authority through Basic Need Capital Grant. Revenue funding for the Nursery Class would be through the Early Years Single Funding Formula, and revenue funding for additional reception pupils in the school will be through the Fair Funding Formula.

WHAT CONSULTATION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN?

13. Consultation on these proposals will be in accordance with statutory guidance. The consultation documents are available on the School Website. The following groups of people and individuals will be consulted:

- * Parents and Carers of children at St. Andrew's CE School, Dearnley
- * Staff at the school
- * St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council
- * Headteachers & Governing Bodies of all Pennines Primary and Secondary Schools
- * Early Years Providers in Pennines Township
- * Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions
- * Pennines Township Councillors
- * MP for Rochdale
- * Manchester Church of England Diocese
- * Salford Roman Catholic Diocese
- * neighbouring Local Authorities

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GOVERNING BODY?

14. An open drop-in session has been arranged for interested parties, to be held on 3.00-5.00 on Thursday 2nd May, at the school. The consultation will take place between 19th April 2013 and midnight on 17th June 2013. Responses to the consultation should be sent to Dawn Jennings, by e-mail at dawn.jennings@rochdale.gov.uk or by post to Dawn Jennings, School Support Officer, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Schools Service, Number One Riverside, Smith Street ROCHDALE OL16 1XU.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT?

15. After the close of the consultation period, the Local Authority will consider all responses received, and decide whether or not to publish statutory proposals. If the decision is taken to publish statutory proposals, there would be a further statutory representation period of 6 weeks, after which Rochdale Local Authority would consider the proposals and any responses received. The Local Authority would then decide whether or not to approve the published proposals.

Chris Swift
School Organisation & Development Manager
19th April 2013

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