

AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

19 JUNE 2008

Wards Affected

Potentially countywide.

Purpose

To consider changes to the Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) at Aylestone High School, Kingstone High School, Leominster Junior School and St Martin's Primary.

Financial Implications

None.

Background

1. Aylestone High School

Aylestone High School has requested a reduction in its PAN from 210 to 180. For information the makeup of the categories of places offered for its new year 7 starting in September 2008 is:

Category	Number
Stated child	2
Catchment Sibling	37
Catchment	49
Sibling Out of Area	12
Out of Area	15
System Allocated	14
Total	129

The reasons given by the school for their request are:

“ The new staffing structure for the school will be constructed to serve the needs of 900 students, the equivalent of 180 per year group. This will take effect as of 1st September 2008.

In this way the school will be seen to deal sensibly with the demographic information available, staff the school prudently, and be able to plan for the future needs of the students without the risk of suffering the extremes of market forces.

Currently only 129 students have been allocated a place in Year 7 for September 2008, after the appeals have been heard at more popular schools.

The PAN will require to be reset for 180 for the new Year 7 group from September 2008 and for the foreseeable future. This will give the Governors and the Head Teacher the opportunity to plan for and deliver, appropriate curriculum provision within the budgetary means of the school in its present context and the likely context over the next three to five year period.”

2. Kingstone High School

Kingstone High School has requested a reduction in its PAN from 136 to 120. For information the makeup of the categories of places offered for its new year 7 starting in September 2008 is:

Category	Number
Stamented child	3
Catchment Sibling	33
Catchment	27
Sibling Out of Area	13
Out of Area	43
Total	119

3. Leominster Junior School

Leominster Junior School has requested a decrease in its PAN from 110 to 90. The full Governing Body met on Monday 19th May 2008 and unanimously agreed that to continue at a PAN of 110 was unrealistic and the opportunity to operate as a four-form entry school was no longer practical (due to conversion of teaching spaces to libraries, music rooms, ICT suites etc).

In addition the predicted numbers transferring from Leominster Infant School for the next three years are between 70 and 75.

4. St Martin's Primary

St Martin's Primary has requested a decrease in its PAN from 70 to 60. For information the makeup of the categories of places offered for its new Reception Class starting in September 2008 is:

Category	Number
Catchment Sibling	13
Catchment	14
Sibling Out of Area	5
Out of Area	8
System Allocated	2
Total	42

The reasons given by the school behind their request are:

"The existing PAN of 70 has caused significant organisational problems in recent years (particularly in 2007), when last minute additions to pupil numbers resulted in a complete restructure of KS1/Foundation to accommodate 5 'extra' Reception children in the last week of the Summer Term, taking us to a notional 64 pupils in Reception. These children then did not arrive in September, resulting in significant unnecessary disruption to the children and families. The situation required the creation of a mixed Reception/Year 1 class in the last week of term.

A PAN of 70 has no logical link to class size; having no relation to either a 'single-class' or a 'half-class' number in KS1.

The disruption for families and staff if alterations have to be made to class structures at the last minute is unreasonable (i.e. after they have been shared with children and parents and 'transition days' have been held).

The move to a PAN of 60 would give clear organisational logic to future planning for years to come.

The school has current excess surplus places. Current notional capacity (PAN of 70): 490. Future notional capacity (PAN 60): 420. Actual current NOR: 381."

It is noted that in all four cases the revised PAN's meet the needs of children from the catchment areas. With falling rolls a decrease in PAN is likely to be to a sensible organisational request.

Recommendation

THAT: the requests be considered and the requests for the changes in PAN be agreed.

Considerations

None.

Risk Management

None

Background papers

None

Appendices

None