

# UPDATE ON SCHOOL ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

## REPORT BY HEAD OF POLICY & RESOURCES

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE**

**22ND NOVEMBER 2005**

### PURPOSE

To inform the committee on pupil and student numbers in Hereford in September 2005, and projected numbers in the short and medium term.

#### Falling Rolls

In September 2005 the numbers on roll in Primary Schools fell from 12,803 in 2004 to 12,373. This reflected 1,485 joining the schools in Year R but 1,966 leaving to Year 7 in High Schools.

A similar decline is seen in High Schools with 1,994 leaving Year 11 being replaced by 1,906 in Year 7. Numbers of students in Sixth Forms also fell from 501 to 487 between 2004 and 2005.

In light of the trend in both Primary and High School sectors, all schools have been advised to work together to find solutions to falling rolls. The sharing of staff between schools is being encouraged. In addition some schools have received individual letters identifying a need to reduce staffing levels. The unions representing the teaching unions have been advised of the general situation and will be kept closely informed of particular circumstances where redundancy is required.

#### Review of Small Schools

There is no formal review of any schools taking place, but a number of situations are being closely monitored, and, if necessary, a verbal report will be made to the committee on this. The ten smallest Primary Schools are as follows:

DfES No	School Name	Known Children 2005					Autumn Return 2005										Total NOR (inc N/C)	Autumn Return 2004
		Age as at 31 August 2005					Age as at 31 August 2005											
		0	1	2	3	4	5	N/C	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
2011	Bredenbury Primary	4	7	3	7	6	7	0	8	5	11	6	8	7	4	0	49	59
2077	Holme Lacy Primary	6	9	10	8	8	5	0	7	6	11	7	15	8	8	0	62	61
2094	King's Cagle Primary	5	3	7	2	7	8	0	6	2	5	7	6	6	5	0	37	35
2101	Longtown Primary	3	10	7	14	7	7	0	0	9	5	9	7	8	4	0	42	47

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
George Salmon, Head of Policy & Resources on (01432) 260802

Michaelchurch																		
2116	Esley Primary	1	2	1	4	1	1	0	10	3	10	9	6	2	7	0	47	55
2146	Shobdon Primary	9	11	16	11	8	8	0	6	4	7	7	8	10	9	0	51	58
3007	Brilley Ce Primary	4	4	3	5	4	3	0	5	1	5	6	3	1	11	0	32	29
3030	Dilwyn C.E Primary	4	6	4	6	3	4	0	3	7	3	4	6	7	4	0	34	41
Little Dewchurch																		
3071	C.E. Primary	5	8	5	5	6	4	0	2	9	9	4	10	8	7	0	49	52
Whitbourne																		
3109	C.E. Primary	5	3	6	4	2	8	0	7	10	6	15	9	8	9	0	64	64
Pencombe																		
3367	C.E. Primary	4	3	1	3	0	3	0	3	8	7	7	7	7	10	0	49	57
Staunton-On-Wye																		
3378	Endowed Primary	10	9	6	10	8	9	0	5	11	12	7	6	13	8	0	62	60

### Steiner Academy

The Local Authority is represented on the Working Group established by the DfES to assess the feasibility of the Steiner School at Much Dewchurch becoming an Academy. The impact of this one form of entry 3-16 all age maintained school on surrounding schools, admissions, and transport issues are matters, which are of particular interest to the local authority. It is anticipated the feasibility study will be concluded in June 06 with a decision being made then whether the Academy should be created from September 07 onwards. The local authority has been asked if it has a view on whether the Steiner School should serve its locality or serve parents from all areas of the County who seek a 'Steiner' education. At present the majority of the students in the existing school came from the area of Herefordshire to the South and West of the River Wye. (see attached map). The establishment of the school serving a local area would immediately set this school up in competition with local schools such as Much Birch and St Weonards at primary level, and Kingstone High School at secondary level. In terms of the organisation of schools across the County, it would appear far more logical to suggest that Steiner offers a service to the wider county, just as St Mary's R.C. High School offers Roman Catholic provision for those seeking denominational education from all parts of the County, rather than serve just part of the County.

Although this second approach is preferred, it may have greater cost implications if transport has to be provided. If concerns on the latter point could be satisfied, a countywide role for the Academy is recommended.

It is to be noted that the creation of the Academy does not require statutory notice, consultation and reference to the School Organisation Committee as these requirements apply only to local authority maintained schools as apposed to other maintained schools.

### Hunderton Junior & Infant School Amalgamation

The Council is implementing the proposal to amalgamate Hunderton Junior and Infant Schools to create a three form entry school in September 06. The failure of a bid under the Targeted Capital Fund will place extreme pressure on the Council to finance this. It is

unlikely that any new works, other than these already approved, can be considered for at least 2 years, to enable the new accommodation to be provided at Hunderton.

### Phase II Children's Centres

The one exception to this is the programme to create 6 additional Children's Centres. Four of these could be on or adjacent to Primary School sites. The capital is derived from a separate funding stream, and therefore can be considered outside the main funding stream to schools. Children's Centres in Hereford City, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross, Peterchurch and Kington are proposed.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee is invited to comment on the various items in this update.