



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

DETERMINATION

Case reference: VAR763

Admission Authority: Hampshire County Council for Holbrook Primary School, Gosport

Date of decision: 10 September 2018

Determination

In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by Hampshire County Council for Holbrook Primary School, Gosport, Hampshire.

I determine that for admission in September 2018 the Published Admission Number will be 30.

The referral

1. Hampshire County Council (the local authority) has referred a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements for Holbrook Primary School, for September 2018 to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The school is a community school for children aged 4 to 11 in Gosport and is a member of The Bedenham and Holbrook Federation of Primary Schools.
2. The proposed variation is to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 30 for admissions in September 2018.

Jurisdiction

3. The referral was made to me in accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) which states that:

“where an admission authority (a) have in accordance with section 88C determined the admission arrangements which are to apply for a particular school year, but (b) at any time before the end of that year consider that the arrangements should be varied in view of a major change in circumstances occurring since they were so determined, the authority must [except in a case where the authority’s proposed variations fall within any description of variations prescribed for the purposes of this section] (a) refer their proposed variations to the

adjudicator, and (b) notify the appropriate bodies of the proposed variations”.

4. I am satisfied that the proposed variation is within my jurisdiction.

Procedure

5. In considering this matter I have had regard to all relevant legislation, and the School Admissions Code (the Code).
6. The documents I have considered in reaching my decision include:
 - the local authority’s letter of referral submitted on 15 June 2018, supporting documents and further information;
 - the determined arrangements for 2018 and the proposed variation to those arrangements;
 - a map showing all primary schools within a two-mile radius of Holbrook;
 - a copy of the email from the chair of governors of the Federation of Bedenham and Holbrook schools confirming that the governors are aware of this proposal and agree the request to the Adjudicator; and
 - a copy of the email notifying the appropriate bodies about the proposed variation.

The proposed variation

7. The proposed variation was received on 15 June 2018. The effect of the variation would be to reduce the PAN for September 2018 from 45 to 30. The local authority determined the arrangements for community schools in the county on 18 January 2017 and the PAN for the school was set at 45. The local authority has now submitted a request to reduce the PAN because of undersubscription at the school and the consequent impact on the management of class sizes.

Consideration of the case

8. The local authority reports that the school is undersubscribed. With a PAN of 45, the school received 45 applications for admission in September 2018, of which 26 were first preference applications. On National Offer Day on 16 April, 27 offers of places were made – other applicants having been able to be offered a place at a higher preference school. At the time the request to reduce the PAN was made, 28 pupils had been allocated places in Reception for September 2018.
9. The school would like to organise children in the Reception Year (YR) into one class with one qualified teacher. The local authority says that, *“if the school admits over 30 children it will cause financial issues for the school to manage as they will have to employ another teacher.”*

Given the requirements of the infant class size regulations, admitting more than 30 children, which it would have to do with a PAN of 45, would have required the school to organise itself to ensure that no more than 30 key stage one children were taught by a single teacher (unless one or more of the limited exceptions in the infant class size regulations applied).

10. The local authority has submitted details of past pupil numbers and projected applicant numbers.

Past pupil numbers

	Admission number	Number admitted	Number of applications	Number of appeals
2017/2018	45	38	60 (27 first preference)	0
2016/2017	45	35	64 (27 first preferences)	0
2015/2016	45	26	68 (24 first preferences)	0
2014/2015	45	42	66 (22 first preference)	0

Projected Applicant Numbers

	Numbers projected
2018/2019	30
2019/2020	27
2020/2021	32

11. The local authority notified the appropriate bodies, as specified in the Code, on 8 June 2018 and no comments have been received. It also sent, on 14 August 2018, details of primary schools within a three-mile radius of the school, which show that some schools have not admitted to their PAN and therefore have places available if the number of applicants to the school increase over the year.

School	PAN	On-time Applications received for 18/19	Current number of acceptances for 18/19
HOLBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL	45	45 (26 first preferences)	26
BEDENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	45	39 (24 first preferences)	32

School	PAN	On-time Applications received for 18/19	Current number of acceptances for 18/19
PEEL COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL	60	72 (55 first preferences)	60
WOODCOT PRIMARY SCHOOL	30 (this includes 1 statemented pupil admitted to specialist SEN provision.)	49 (30 first preferences)	29
PEEL COMMON INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT	60	77 (34 first preferences)	38
ROWNER JUNIOR SCHOOL	64	77 (57 first preferences)	56
ROWNER INFANT SCHOOL	60	88 (50 first preferences)	57
GRANGE INFANT SCHOOL	90	107 (72 first preferences)	79
GRANGE JUNIOR SCHOOL	90	93 (66 first preferences)	72
REDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL	45	85 (44 first preferences)	45
ELSON INFANT SCHOOL	90	111 (72 first preferences)	76
ALVER VALLEY INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL	60	73 (45 first preferences)	54
ALVER VALLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL	60	51 (39 first preferences)	48
ELSON JUNIOR SCHOOL	90	90 (86 first preferences)	80
BROCKHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL	60	99 (56 first preferences)	57
WALLISDEAN JUNIOR SCHOOL	60 (this includes 3 statemented pupils admitted to specialist SEN provision)	62 (56 first preferences)	57
CROFTON ANNE DALE JUNIOR SCHOOL	96	135 (92 first preferences)	96
CROFTON HAMMOND JUNIOR SCHOOL	62	108 (67 first preferences)	62

School	PAN	On-time Applications received for 18/19	Current number of acceptances for 18/19
CROFTON ANNE DALE INFANT SCHOOL	90	149 (63 first preferences)	66
CROFTON HAMMOND INFANT SCHOOL	60	122 (66 first preferences)	60
WALLISDEAN INFANT SCHOOL	60	47 (77 first preferences)	60

12. The chair of governors to the Federation of Bedenham and Holbrook schools confirmed on 6 June 2018 that the governors gave their complete support to the proposal to reduce the PAN to 30.

Summary

13. The local authority has made the decision to apply for this reduction in the light of reduced demand for places at the school. The current number of places on offer support this proposal and ensures that the school will not be in the position of needing to add a second class, which is not likely to be full, and could create some funding difficulties.

Determination

14. In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by Hampshire County Council for Holbrook Primary School, Gosport, Hampshire.

15. I determine that for admission in September 2018 the Published Admission Number will be 30.

Dated: 10 September 2018

Signed:

Schools Adjudicator: Lorraine Chapman