



Office of  
the Schools  
Adjudicator

## **DETERMINATION**

**Case reference: VAR748**

**Admission Authority: Hampshire County Council for Trosnant Infant School, Havant**

**Date of decision: 20 March 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 the Hampshire County Council for Trosnant Infant School, Havant for September 2018.**

**I determine that the published admission number will be reduced to 60 from 90 for September 2018.**

### **The referral**

1. Hampshire County Council (the local authority) has referred a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements for Trosnant Infant School (the school), for September 2018 to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The school is a community school for children aged 4 to 7 in Havant.
2. The proposed variation is to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 90 to 60 for 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.
6. The documents I have considered in reaching my decision include:
  - the local authority's referral received on 16 February 2018, supporting documents and its responses to my subsequent enquiries;
  - the determined arrangements for 2018 and the proposed variation to those arrangements;
  - the record of the decision by the Executive Member for Education in the local authority determining the arrangements;
  - comments from the headteacher and of the school and minutes of the board of governors concerning the proposals;
  - a copy of communications with the appropriate bodies about the proposed variation; and
  - the net capacity assessment of the school.

### **Background to the proposed variation**

7. The school is situated in the centre of Havant in the south east of Hampshire. The Department for Education's database "Get Information about Schools" (GIAS) identifies 14 other schools providing places for infant pupils within 2 miles of the school's address. The arrangements were determined by the local authority on 18 January 2017.
8. The published admission number for the school is 90 and the oversubscription criteria can be summarised as:
  1. Looked after and previously looked after children
  2. Children with social or medical needs
  3. Children of staff
  4. Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  5. Other children living in the catchment area
  6. Other children with siblings at the school
  7. Other children
9. In September 2015 and September 2016 the number of children admitted to the school was in excess of the PAN which was at that time

60. A PAN of 90 was determined by the local authority for September 2018. There are currently 194 pupils on roll and the capacity of the school is 180. The table below shows details of recent admissions as provided by the local authority.

Year	PAN	Places allocated
2014	60	60
2015	60	84
2016	60	62
2017	60	48

10. The local authority had been planning to expand the school; however, it says that recent forecasts show that additional places are no longer needed in the Havant area. It says it would like to reduce the PAN to 60 *“allowing the school to adopt a two class structure”* which will *“enable the governing body to put firm financial plans in place on the basis that they will not be required to employ a third teacher for Year R intake.”*
11. The application form received on 16 February 2018 did not contain all the information requested on it. The OSA wrote to the local authority on 20 February requesting the missing information and for some other information. No response was received until 13 March and that response was incomplete. Following further requests, missing, revised and additional information was received on 15 March.

### **Consideration of Factors**

12. The local authority told me that it had received 48 first preference applications for the school for September 2018 and it expected that 57 places would eventually be needed. I am satisfied that the proposal would not affect the local authority’s ability to meet the current level of parental preferences for the school.
13. Information provided by the local authority shows that in the year group admitted in September 2017, there are 85 empty places from the 889 which were available within a two miles radius of the school. I am satisfied that this proposed variation will not compromise the local authority’s ability to ensure there are sufficient school places for the new reception year group in September 2018.
14. I have noted that the school is currently operating above its net capacity and that proposed building work to extend the school has been cancelled, although the school website indicates that some improvement works are still going ahead. The large year group admitted in 2015 will be transferring to junior school in September 2018 and the admission of no more than 60 new pupils will bring the number on roll in line with the capacity of the building.
15. The governing board supports the proposed reduction in PAN and the

local authority has not received any comments from the bodies it notified about the proposal. Taking these factors into consideration I approve the proposed variation in the admission arrangements which reduces the PAN from 90 to 60.

### **Determination**

16. In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by the Hampshire County Council for Trostant Infant School, Havant for September 2018.
17. I determine that the published admission number will be reduced to 60 from 90 for September 2018.

Dated: 20 March 2018

Signed: Phil Whiffing

Schools Adjudicator: