

To: Parents of pupils at Watchlytes School,  
Welwyn Garden City

Cc: All Welwyn Garden City primary schools

**Education Planning Unit  
County Hall  
Hertford  
SG13 8DF**

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My Ref: SRF/db

05 March 2001

Dear Parent,

**PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO  
WATCHLYTES SCHOOL, WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

We are writing to you to consult you about a proposal to reduce the number of children admitted to the Reception Year at Watchlytes School from 38 to 30 in September, 2002. This would mean that in that year, and in every subsequent year, the number of children admitted to Year R would be 30. The number of part-time places in the nursery class would also be adjusted to 30.

**No decision has been taken and the County Council and the Governing Body would like to consider any views you may have before doing so.**

There will be an informal meeting to discuss the proposals in the School Hall on 19 March, 2001 at 7.30pm. Please come along and take the opportunity of having your questions answered and let us have your views. You are also welcome to make your comments in writing to Benjamin Wright, Education Planning Unit, County Hall, Hertford SG13 8DF. Please let us know your views by Friday 6 April, 2001.

The proposal is being made for the following reasons:

- 38 children in each year group leads to the school being organised in mixed-age classes, which the Governors and Headteacher would like to avoid in future years
- the design and internal layout of the school makes it difficult to accommodate the maximum capacity implied by 38 x 7 year groups (i.e. 266). The Governing Body and Headteacher wish to avoid compromising the quality of education provided for all of the children.

- analysis of the numbers in the area served by the school suggests that there will be sufficient places for all of the children predicted as needing a school place for the next few years (even taking into account the housebuilding that is likely to take place locally). At the end of the letter is a chart setting out the LEA's pupil number forecast for the area, which backs up this assessment.

There are no current staffing implications related to this proposal and the school would continue to be funded on the basis of the actual number of pupils on roll.

The proposal has the full support of the school's Headteacher and Governing Body.

Please come along to the meeting on 19 March or write with your views by 6 April if there are any points you wish to make.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Freel  
Senior Education Planning Manager

Margaret Beauchamp, JP  
Chairman of Governors

#### **EXTRACT FROM HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN**

#### **WELWYN GARDEN CITY SOUTH AND EAST – PRIMARY FORECAST (SUMMER 2000 BASE YEAR)**

#### **COMBINED AREA TOTALS + EFFECT OF REMOVING 8 PLACES PER YEAR FROM WATCHLYTES SCHOOL**

	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>1999 Actual</b>	<b>2000 Actual</b>	<b>2001 Forecast</b>	<b>2002 Forecast</b>	<b>2003 Forecast</b>	<b>2004 Forecast</b>	<b>2005 Forecast</b>	<b>2006 Forecast</b>	<b>2011 Forecast</b>
WGC East	188	182	172	163	174	192	188	190	180	190
WGC South	244	241	221	197	214	219	214	210	210	190
Totals	432	423	393	360	388	411	402	400	390	380
Surplus (+) or deficit (-) after removal of 8 places/ year from Watchlytes	424	- 1	+ 31	+72	+36	+13	+22	+24	+34	+44

**Letter sent to the following Schools – plus to parents of pupils at Watchlytes School, 543:**

521	Applecroft
525	Blackthorn Junior
529	Commonswood
531	Creswick JMI & Nursery
532	Harwood Hill JMI & Nursery
520	Holwell Primary
539	Holy Family RC Primary
535	Homerswood PrimaryLady RC Primary
527	Our Lady RC Primary
540	Panshanger Primary
523	Peartree Primary
536	Rowans Primary
541	Springmead JMI
561	St John's (VA) C of E Primary
524	Templewood Primary

5 March 2001