

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agenda Item No.

6

**SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN STANDARD NUMBER OF SOUTH HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

Author: Paul Wray

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Executive Member:- Robert Gordon

Local Member:- David Lloyd

1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to the publication of a statutory notice seeking a reduction in the standard number of South Hill Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, as set out in paragraph 5.

2. Summary

Consultation has supported the school governing body's proposal to reduce the standard number of this community primary school to 30.

Implementation required the publication of a statutory notice and reference to the Hertfordshire School Organisation Committee.

3. Background

Following a request from the governing body, the Director of Children, Schools and Families in consultation with the Executive Member authorised consultation on a proposal to reduce (from 33) to 30 the standard number of South Hill Primary School.

Consultation was agreed on the basis that there are sound educational reasons to avoid mixed-age classes and there were sufficient primary school places available in the area to respond to forecast future demand.

A consultation letter (Appendix A) was circulated to parents and to local primary schools. It sets out the background to the proposal and the governors' reasons for seeking the change.

4. Consultation outcomes

The closing date for responses was 21 October 2002.

Two letters of support for the proposal were received, and no objections.

5. Next steps

In order to implement this proposal the next step is to authorise the Director of Children, Schools and Families to publish a statutory notice seeking the standard number reduction.

The statutory notice would run for a two month period. As all standard number changes require the approval of the Hertfordshire School Organisation Committee (SOC), the Director will also need to be authorised to submit the proposal to the SOC with comments on objections that might be received.

APPENDIX A

To: Parents of Pupils, Staff and Governors at
South Hill School, Hemel Hempstead

**CSF Planning
County Hall
Hertford
SG13 8DF**

cc Headteachers of the following schools: St Cuthbert Mayne RC Junior 843
Barncroft Primary 870 George Street Primary 825
Aycliffe Drive 867 Hobletts Manor Junior 834
Hammond JMI & Nursery 862 Hobletts Manor Infant & Nursery 835
Bellgate Primary 852 Micklem Primary 844
Jupiter Drive 871 Gade Valley JMI & Nursery 855
Rossgate Primary 847 Broadfield Infants' 842
Martindale Primary & Nursery 845 Broadfield Junior 841
Chaulden Junior 839 Pixies Hill JMI 857
Chaulden Infants' & Nursery 840 Boxmoor Primary 826
St Rose's RC Infant 860 Tudor JMI & Nursery 829
St Albert the Great RC Primary 854 Reddings Primary 846
Lime Walk Primary 861 Chambersbury Primary 838
Hobbs Hill Wood Primary 836 Two Waters Primary 828
Belswains Primary 832 Nash Mills C of E Primary 824

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Contact Paul Wray
My ref PW/jlh
Date 19 September 2002

Dear Governor

PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO SOUTH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

We are writing to you to consult you about a proposal to reduce the number of children admitted to the Reception Year at South Hill Primary School from 33 to 30 from September 2003. This would mean that in that year, and in every subsequent year, the number of children admitted to Reception would be no more than 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.

Please make your comments in writing to FREEPOST, Sheila White, CSF Planning, Room 134, Business Reply Service HJ71, Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, HERTFORD SG13 8YD or by email to sheila.white-CSF@hertscc.gov.uk. Please let us know your views by 21 October 2002.

The proposal is being made for the following reasons

- the Government's Key Stage 1 pledge requires schools to keep Key Stage 1 classes to a maximum of 30 pupils. More than 30 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 school currently receives Key Stage 1 funding for one extra teacher because it has to take in more than 30 pupils, but this is not expected to continue beyond April 2003. When that happens the school will not be in a position to fund the extra teacher required.

- the use of one classroom as a library, ICT and special needs resource room makes it difficult to accommodate the maximum capacity implied by the physical capacity of the school (8 classrooms of 30, ie 240). The Governing Body and Headteacher wish to avoid the overcrowding brought about by more than 30 pupils to a classroom.
- analysis of the number of children in the area served by the school suggests that there will be sufficient places for all those predicted as needing a school place in the foreseeable future. Please see the table below which sets out actual pupil numbers and the pupil number forecasts for the area.

Extract from Hertfordshire (Draft) School Organisation Plan July 2002

Hemel Hempstead Area Primary Schools

Actual pupil number and forecasts

Hemel Hempstead Primary Schools	Current Admission Limit	Actual pupil numbers 2000	Actual pupil numbers2 001	Actual pupil numbers2 002	Forecast 2003	Forecast 2004	Forecast 2005	Forecast 2006	Forecast 2007
Reception	1320	1214	1153	1224	1176	1193	1198	1187	1178

Hemel Hempstead Primary Schools	Schools' Capacity	Actual pupil numbers 2000	Actual pupil numbers2 001	Actual pupil numbers2 002	Forecast 2003	Forecast 2004	Forecast 2005	Forecast 2006	Forecast 2007
Total School	9278	8661	8558	8465	8375	8382	8343	8234	8176

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

Please write with your views by 21 October 2002 if there are any points you wish to make. All comments will be reported to the Cabinet on 28 October. At that meeting Members will decide whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice to reduce the Standard Number at South Hill Primary School from 33 to 30 from September 2003 onwards.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wray
Area Planning Manager