

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2004 AT 2 PM

**NEW NURSERY CLASS AT FLAMSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL,
ST ALBANS**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Tel: 01992 555860

Executive Member:- Robert Gordon

Local Member:- Julian Taunton

1. Purpose of report

To consider the publication of a statutory notice proposing the official opening of a nursery class at Flamstead School, St Albans.

2. Summary

2.1 Consultation has supported the proposal to formalise the arrangements for taking children of nursery age into the school.

2.2 It is now necessary to decide whether or not to publish a statutory notice to put this into effect. If there are objections to the notice, the matter would need to be decided by the School Organisation Committee.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet is asked to decide whether or not to publish a statutory notice to allow Flamstead Primary School to take nursery age children.

4. Background

- 4.1 Following a request from Flamstead School governing body, the Director of CSF in consultation with the Executive Member for CSF authorised consultation on a proposal to open a nursery class at Flamstead Primary School.
- 4.2 Consultation was agreed on the basis that the school was already operating a foundation class with both reception and nursery age children and this would formalise the arrangement which has been commended by Ofsted.
- 4.3 A consultation letter (Appendix A) was circulated to parents, local primary schools and nursery providers, and to the Early Years Unit within CSF. It sets out the background to the proposal and the reasons for seeking to formalise the existing arrangement.
- 4.4 This letter also contained a proposal to reduce the standard number from 20 to 15. Following recent legislation, however, such proposals no longer require the publication of a statutory notice. However, it was decided to undertake the local consultation which is required for a change in the planned admission number (PAN) in conjunction with the nursery proposal. The proposal is to set both the nursery and the admission numbers at 15.

5. Financial Implications

There are no additional costs either in terms of capital or revenue with this proposal. The nursery children will be taught with the reception pupils in the existing classroom, and the school is already funded for all the nursery age children.

6. Consultation outcomes

The closing date for responses was 22 January 2004.

We received two letters seeking clarification of the nursery proposal, and two of support. One letter of support for the nursery expressed concern that Flamstead village children may be disadvantaged by the reduction to the admission number. The forecast shows that this would not be the case. Copies of the responses are available in the members' room.

7. Next steps

- 7.1 In order to implement this proposal the next step would be to authorise the Director of Children, Schools and Families to publish a statutory notice seeking the formal opening of a nursery class.

7.2 The statutory notice would run for a six-week period. If any objections are received, the proposal will be submitted to the School Organisation Committee with comments on behalf of the LEA.

APPENDIX A

Planning Division
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DF

27 November 2003

FLAMSTEAD JMI SCHOOL NEW NURSERY CLASS PROPOSAL AND PROPOSAL TO REDUCE ADMISSION LIMIT

To: Parents of pupils, staff and governors at Flamstead JMI School
cc: All primary schools, nursery schools and playgroups within a three-mile radius of Flamstead School

Dear Parent/Guardian

There are two proposals in this letter for you to consider.

1. PROPOSAL TO OPEN A NURSERY CLASS AT FLAMSTEAD JMI SCHOOL

We are writing to consult you about a proposal to formally open a nursery class with an intake of 15 pupils from September 2004. Nursery children would be accommodated in the reception class, some in the morning session, some in the afternoon session, as at present. It should be noted that there is no automatic right to pass from nursery into reception. Parents of children in the nursery would need to apply in the normal way for admission to primary school.

This proposal has the full support of the school's Headteacher and Governing Body and the Local Education Authority.

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

Details of this proposal and any comments about it will be reported to the County Council's Cabinet on 9 February 2004 when a decision will be taken as to whether to publish a statutory notice. Objections to the statutory proposal, if published, will be considered by the School Organisation Committee in April 2004 and a decision will then be taken as to whether to ratify the proposal.

If you wish to comment on this proposal, please write to the address given at

the end of this letter.

2. PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO FLAMSTEAD JMI SCHOOL

We are also writing to consult you about a proposal to reduce the number of children admitted to the Reception Year at Flamstead JMI School from 20 to 15 from September 2004. This would mean that in that year, and in every subsequent year, the number of children admitted to Reception would be no more than 15.

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

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. With only five classrooms, the school has to be organised in mixed aged classes, most classes being made up of children from two year groups, as shown in the table below. More than 15 per year group could lead to Key Stage 1 classes of over 30, but as this is not allowed, the result would be Key Stage 1 children being taught in the same class as Key Stage 2 children.
- the current admission limit is based on the school's old assessed capacity of 140, 5 classes of 28 (on average) pupils. (The new Department of Education and Skills formula now gives a capacity of 105). Admitting 20 pupils per year could eventually lead to 140 pupils on roll. In order to keep Key Stage 1 classes below 30, this could result in very large classes at Key Stage 2.
- analysis of the numbers in the area suggests that there will be sufficient places for all of the children predicted as needing a school place in the foreseeable future. Please see the table below which sets out actual pupil numbers and the LEA's pupil number forecasts for the area comprising Flamstead, Markyate and Redbourn.

Flamstead School: class organisation Academic Year 2002/03

KS2

KS1

| Year Group | Year 6 | Year 5 | Year 4 | Year 3 | Year 2 | Year 1 | Reception | Foundation |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | 13 | 9 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 15 | 10 |
| Class Organisation | 22 | | 28 | | 19 | 14 | 25 | |

Numbers on roll 2002/03 and forecasts for
Flamstead, Markyate and Redbourn combined

| Flamstead Markyate and Redbourn | Current Admission Limit / Capacity | Actual Pupil Number s 2001/02 | Actual Pupil Number s 2002/03 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2003/04 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2004/05 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2005/06 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2006/07 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2007/08 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2008/09 | Forecast Pupil Number s 2009/10 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reception | Admission Limit | | | | | | | | | |
| Flamstead | 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| Markyate | 35 | | | | | | | | | |
| Redbourn | 60 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 115 | 97 | 92 | 107 | 104 | 108 | 84 | 92 | 92 | 92 |
| Total School | <u>Capacity</u> 805 | 672 | 652 | 657 | 672 | 682 | 662 | 652 | 647 | 644 |

The proposal will be considered by the School Organisation Committee in April 2004 when a decision will be taken.

If you wish to comment on either or both proposals contained in this letter, please write to

Sheila White
CSF Planning
Freepost HJ71
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Herts
SG13 8YD

or email sheila.white-CSF@hertsc.gov.uk. Please let us know your views by 22 January 2004.

Yours sincerely

Paul A Wray

Paul Wray
Planning Manager