

Summary of Consultation Responses.

In total there were 25 responses to the consultation to reduce the PAN of Barrowby Primary School from 34 to 30.

Cohort of respondents.

20% of respondents were not parents.

One teacher, one member of school support staff, an admissions authority from within Lincolnshire and an admissions authority from outside Lincolnshire and one other responded to the consultation

80% of these responses were from parents of children under the age of 18. three of these respondents were from parents of children under the age of two.

Positive Responses

92% of respondents provided a neutral or positive response (76% agree or strongly agree, 16% no opinion). Support is generally in favour of reducing the PAN suggesting that it is in the best interest of the children to provide a smaller staff to child ratio in the junior years and make best use of available funding. Barrowby school operates mixed age teaching classes (four classes of 24-26 pupils in mixed R/Y1 and Y1/Y2 classes for infants and classes of 34 for Junior classes (except the authorised Bulge year which will work its way through the school). If agreed, once the new proposed cohort of 30 students move through the school, each class will contain 30 pupils (or lawful excepted pupils as permitted by the infant class size regulations) within three infant classes rather than four. This will also reduce the size of the large infant classes.

As an additional comment through the survey one parent has noted issues with mixed age teaching which could be abolished if the PAN were reduced to 30 however this would be a decision for the governing body of the school as there is no requirement to end this practice with a PAN of 30.

Negative

Two parents provided a negative view of the proposed changes both of whom live in Barrowby Village.

Parent 1 who disagreed stated;

"every school should be required to have the same admission number per class. It is unfair that some schools will have smaller class sizes by choice while others will try and take as many as they can to get more funding without considering how a larger class size will impact the children's opportunities to learn. Smaller class sizes are good - but all schools should be required to have the same level of admission per class." This respondent suggested as an alternative that the LA should control the policy of other local schools.

As the LA can only control the PAN and admissions policy of the schools for which it is the Admissions Authority, it is not able to dictate Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN's) or oversubscription criteria for other schools. It is not possible to bring the policy in line across Lincolnshire as these are

administered by various other admissions authorities. It is inappropriate to suggest that all schools should have the same PAN or policy due to size restrictions, financial viability and a need to serve the local area in which the school operates.

As discussed, if the proposal were agreed, classes would be uniform across the school and the proposals would make classes broadly similar to those across the country. Therefore to adopt the changes is in line with parental suggestion in this case.

Parent 2 who strongly disagreed stated.

There are currently plans for thousands more homes in the Grantham area, spread across a number of different sites, and only one new primary school. If the existing schools begin to reduce their intake numbers, that will reduce the impact of the new primary school on the availability of places in the Grantham area.

LCC has conducted sufficiency assessments to determine that these PAN reductions can be supported and LCC is confident that there are sufficient places despite the proposed reduction in PAN of Barrowby Primary School. These take account of the concerns raised by the consultee (e.g. new housing developments and new schools).

Other parents in agreement to the consultation noted the popularity of Barrowby school, but noted the impact of Poplar farm school on their intake and the impact that Poplar farm's availability of wrap around care (which Barrowby does not offer) may have on parental preferences for Barrowby School in the future. Following consideration of these responses, the Governing Body share these concerns and would like to delay any change to the PAN to give more time to consider the potential impact of Poplar Farm on parental preference for Barrowby school, so do not support the reduction in PAN at this time.

Another parent, whilst agreeing to the change in PAN, noted that they would not see a place in Grantham as a reasonable offer and would like their child to attend school in a village setting. LCC is confident that there are sufficient spaces that meet a child's age, ability and aptitude in the area, in line with the statutory duty. Places at particular schools, or types of school cannot be guaranteed. Those for whom Barrowby school is the closest school are still given priority over those living further away so the school should serve local children. The school transport policy will continue to operate should places be refused and parents are able to list 3 schools on their application to attempt to secure a preferred place.

Considering these responses it is recommended that the reduction in PAN at Barrowby School is reduced from 34 to 30.