

Norton Juxta Kempsey CE First School
Wadborough Road
Littleworth
Worcester
WR5 2QJ

1st November 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and all stakeholders,

Consultation: Pupil Admissions Number

The Governing Body's priority is to enable the school to continue to provide an excellent education for our children while protecting the school's role at the heart of our community and retaining its unique qualities and strengths. We have a duty to monitor and react to the changes that take place within the education system and in both our local community and those that impact on us. Having reviewed at great length the schools pupil admissions number over many years, the Governing Body now believes the time is right for us to propose:

Proposal:

To reduce the schools Pupil Admission Number from 40 to 30.

In brief, the school has had a PAN of 40 for many years, primarily to accommodate a spike in pupil numbers as a result of the initial housing development at Norton Barracks/Brockhill. This is inconsistent with the legal requirement to keep class sizes in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 below a maximum of 30 and frequently requires expensive adjustments to the class teaching structures to accommodate intakes slightly above 30. A review of forecast pupil numbers for the foreseeable future suggests intake from our catchment will be consistently below 30 and therefore the Governing Body believes reducing the PAN would shield the school from unaffordable expense as a result of having to take significant numbers of children from out of catchment. For more background to this proposal please see the attached documents.

The Governing Body has therefore decided to begin a consultation process for this proposal. There is also a proposal to change the age range of the school to include Years 5 and 6 (see separate communication) and these clearly have a bearing on each other, with regards to the schools overall size, classroom numbers, running costs etc, but should be regarded as independent in that one or other may be adopted without the other necessarily being adopted.

This consultation is open to all, including parents, pupils, staff, pre-school, Pershore pyramid schools and the wider community. We want to hear your views and establish if there is any significant issues that we have not already identified for the Governing Body to take into account when making the final decision.

The consultation period opens on 2nd November 2017 and will run for 6 weeks, closing on 15th December 2017. There will then be a period of review by the Governing Body of all raised issues before reaching a decision on the proposal and forwarding our request (if the decision is taken to proceed) to the Department for Education/Regional Schools Commissioner.

We have prepared the attached document which includes answers to 'Frequently Asked Questions'. An area of our website will be created shortly to post newly raised questions and responses. Additionally Governors and Headteachers will be available to discuss any questions on:

Tuesday 7th November, 2.30 pm and 6.00 pm.

At those meetings, and via book bags for those that cannot attend, we will distribute a feedback/comments sheet to allow stakeholders to formally register their views on the proposal and to document any further questions or concerns and we would be grateful for as many responses as possible, either in support or in objection, in order that the Governing Body can be as fully informed as possible prior to reaching their decision.

Many thanks in anticipation of your involvement in the consultation process and we look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely,



(Chair of Governors)



(Headteacher)

Circulate to:

All parents/carers
All Staff
Union representatives
Diocese of Worcester Education Department
Local Authority/Babcock Prime admissions teams
All Pershore pyramid schools
Parish Council
Avonreach Members & Trustees