

Full statutory proposal information to reduce the Published Admission Number at Cape Primary School, Smethwick from 90 to 60 places

In accordance with Statutory Guidance for School Organisation:

- a) “Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained Schools”
- b) “School Admissions Code 2021”

and

Statutory Regulations:

- a) “The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations’ to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013”; and
- b) “School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 84)”

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council proposes to:-

- i) reduce the Published Admission Number for Cape Primary School by one form of entry (30 places) with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023; and
- ii) apply a revised Published Admission Number for Cape Primary School of 60 places with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

Local Authority details:

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Council House,

Freeth Street,

Oldbury,

West Midlands, B69 9EX

### School details:

Cape Primary School, Cape Hill, Durban Road, Smethwick B66 4SH.

Cape Primary School is a community maintained primary school providing education for pupils from age five to eleven.

There were 523 full time pupils on roll at the October 2022 census.

The school's current Published Admission Number is 90.

### Description of the Proposed Alterations

It is proposed to cease to maintain the current Published Admission Number (PAN) of 90 places for the Reception year at the school, and reduce the PAN to 60 places with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

The alteration is proposed following two successive years where the school has not received a sufficient number of applications to take up all available Reception places (90).

The School currently provides capacity to admit 90 children to its Reception year each academic year. Subject to the outcome of the Statutory Proposal, and the council making a decision to reduce the PAN to 60, the school will only admit up to 60 children into Reception each year from September 2023 onward.

The reduction in PAN will be gradual, with each new intake to Reception being admitted up to a total of 60 pupils. All existing year groups, i.e., Years 1 to 6 will retain a PAN of 90 until that year group enters Year 7. Table A provides further explanation of the planned pupil capacity:

Table A: Pupil Places Per Year Group

Academic Year							
Year Group	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
PAN							
2023/24	60	90	90	90	90	90	90
2024/25	60	60	90	90	90	90	90
2025/26	60	60	60	90	90	90	90
2026/27	60	60	60	60	90	90	90
2027/28	60	60	60	60	60	90	90
2028/29	60	60	60	60	60	60	90
2029/30	60	60	60	60	60	60	60

*\*PAN = Published Admission Number (the number of children the school can take in)*

The total capacity of pupil places that will be available at the school will reduce from 630 to 420.

A reduction in the available pupil places is proposed as the school has experienced 2 years of consistently low uptake of Reception places. The lower pupil roll will continue to impact upon the schools resources and effective management of curriculum delivery.

Current pupil projections for the Smethwick area indicate that less school places will be required in future years. Should however the Local Authority experience an increase in demand for places in subsequent years, above those currently projected, it will re-consider the reduction in PAN to 60, and discuss an increase above that limit with the school's Governing Board, in order to ensure a sufficient number of school places are provided in the local area.

### Standards

The most recent Ofsted inspection report for the school is available on the Ofsted website:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/103937>

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School performance data is available on the school's website.

Reducing the PAN at the school will bring a number of potential benefits to pupils which can impact on standards:

- With the reduction of the PAN the Head Teacher and staff will have spare classrooms that could be used to provide a greater range of educational facilities and activities for the pupils. Internal spaces can be utilised for additional teaching spaces, nurture to support pastoral provision, or break out spaces to support intervention and targeted group support

### Objectives

A number of benefits will be achieved with the proposal:

- Budget and staffing flexibility

The Governing Body will be responsible for both the budget and staffing. If the PAN is breached by a very small number of children then this can have a significant impact on staffing and budgets. By reducing the PAN to 60, with the predicted surplus places across Smethwick, this would mean that Cape Primary School would not carry undue surplus places which impacts heavily on the budget and staffing. This will give the governors and the school greater financial stability and ensure that vacancies are not having to be filled by temporary staff because of uncertainty with numbers.

- Management and support structure

In ensuring greater stability around pupil numbers it allows governors and leaders to ensure that there is an appropriate and sustainable leadership structure in place to support the continued effective running of the school.

- Continuity of Learning

Continuity of learning will remain the same.

- Increased opportunities for staff development

This will remain the same

- Improving the environment for learning

With the reduction of the PAN the Head Teacher and staff will have spare classrooms that could be used to provide a greater range of educational facilities and activities for the pupils. Internal spaces can be utilised for additional teaching spaces, nurture to support pastoral provision, or break out spaces to support intervention and targeted group support.

## Finance

Ultimately funding will be reduced to reflect the reduced rates and premises costs but it is not currently possible to accurately quantify the size and timing of these savings.

Figures shown in the following table are therefore purely for indicative purposes. Based upon a pan of 630 – if the proposal is agreed then there will be an in year adjustment to account for the 30 place reduction

<b>Financial Year</b>		<b>Base budget (£m)</b>	<b>Early Years/High Needs Funding (£m)</b>	<b>Total (£m)</b>
2023/24	1st year	2,812,041	238,328	3,050,369

## Project costs

There are no capital costs associated to the proposal.

## The effect on other schools in the area

Other schools in the area are not expected to experience an effect by the Local Authority's proposal.

The proposal is to reduce the school's PAN by a form of entry as demand generally for Reception places in the Smethwick area has continued to decline over the past two years.

## Consultation responses

An initial consultation process took place from 5 December 2022 to 20 February 2023. The following stakeholders were consulted:

The Governing Board of Cape Primary School, parents and carers of children at the school, members of staff, all Sandwell schools, local Ward Councillors, Member of Parliament, Joint Union Panel, local Dioceses and neighboring Local Authorities.

Responses were received as follows:

Category	Number Responding	Yes (to the proposal)	No (to the proposal)	Don't know
Parents	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Staff	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Governors	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
More than one category	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Community member	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	0	n/a	n/a	n/a

## Implementation date

A decision on this proposal will be made by the Director – Children and Education in consultation with Sandwell's Cabinet Member for Children and Education within 2 months of the end of this representation period. If agreed, a final decision will be required by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator and it is proposed to implement this proposal with effect from 1 September 2023.

### How to make representations or comments on the proposal

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 5 May 2023), any person may object or make a representation or comment on the proposal. Representation or comment can be made by writing to Sharon Hammick, School Organisation team, Children and Education, Education Support Services, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 16230, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 9EX ([school\\_organisationunit@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:school_organisationunit@sandwell.gov.uk)) or by accessing the council's website: [www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation).

Any personal information you provide will only be used to communicate with you on this issue and your details will be deleted at the end of the process.