**Consultation on Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary, infant, junior and secondary schools for September 2026**

**1** **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 All local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet demand in the area. These may be school places available at provision maintained by the local authority, academies, or other non-maintained schools.

1.2 School place planning is a complex process, that takes account of a range of factors. With rapid shifts in economic conditions for families and changing patterns of migration, planning for school places needs to be proactive to respond to both short and medium-term demand for places.

1.3 Every admission authority must have admission arrangements that set out how school places are allocated and include oversubscription criteria that are applied when there are more applications than places available. Admission arrangements must also set out the Published Admission Number for the relevant schools.

1.4 Every admission authority is required to consult on their admission arrangements at least every seven years even if there are no changes proposed. There was a full consultation on the admission arrangements for Stockport community and voluntary controlled schools in 2020 for September 2022.

1.5 This consultation is for the full admission arrangements for 2026/27 school year for Stockport community and voluntary controlled primary, infant; junior and high schools for which Stockport Council is the admission authority. Other admission authorities in Stockport for example, voluntary aided religious schools or academy trusts may decide to consult on their admission arrangements but Stockport Council is not responsible for this.

**2 PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

2.1 The School Admissions Team have undertaken a review of all the admission arrangement documentation for the schools that it is responsible for and has made some changes to format but not content.

2.2 Given these changes, it has been decided that it would be prudent to consult on the admission arrangements for September 2026 given the new layout.

2.3 For clarity, there are no changes proposed to any of the oversubscription criteria or how places are allocated at Stockport community and voluntary controlled schools.

**3 PROPOSED ADMISSION NUMBERS**

3.1 Stockport Council is responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet demand in the area. It does this by reviewing numbers across the borough on a regular basis.

3.2 The birthrate in Stockport has fallen significantly over recent years which is leading to high levels of surplus capacity in Key Stage 1 and 2 pupil numbers in some areas and some primary schools.

3.3 It is proposed to consult on reducing the published admission number for September 2026 onwards at the following schools:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School**  | **Current PAN**  | **Proposed PAN**  |
| Abingdon Primary School  | 45  | 30  |
| Arden Primary School  | 90  | 60  |
| Lum Head Primary School  | 45  | 30  |
| St Paul’s C of E Primary School  | 60  | 45  |
| Westmorland Primary School | 75  | 60  |

3.4 The proposed reductions in the published admission number reduces the number of schools offering a mixed age curriculum by three. There is one proposal to implement mixed age classes at St Paul’s. Whilst this is not ideal, the predicted future numbers in the area do not justify reducing the published admission number to 30. It soes however, give the school some certainty for curriculum planning.

3.5 All other admission numbers will remain the same as for admission in September 2025 and are included at Appendix 1 of this report.

**4 RATIONALE FOR REDUCING THE PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS AT SOME SCHOOLS**

**Abingdon Primary School**

4.1 Abingdon Primary School sits in the Reddish cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools.

4.2 Data shows that Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at Abingdon are significant.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   |  | **Reception intake numbers** |
|    | **PAN** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Abingdon  | 45  | 35 | 38 | 34 | 40 | 46 | 37 | 37 | 23 |

|   | **PAN** | **Total PAN** | **NCA** | **R** | **Y1** | **Y2** | **Y3** | **Y4** | **Y5** | **Y6** | **Total** | **Surplus** | **% surplus** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Abingdon  | 45  | 315  | 420  | 34  | 38  | 45  | 44  | 28  | 40  | 49  | 278  | 37  | 12%  |
| Vale View  | 60  | 420  | 554  | 53  | 46  | 42  | 52  | 62  | 62  | 58  | 375  | 45  | 11%  |
| St Elisabeth's  | 30  | 285  | 315  | 21  | 23  | 37  | 36  | 47  | 31  | 34  | 229  | 56  | 20%  |
| St Mary's CE  | 30  | 210  | 210  | 27  | 29  | 26  | 29  | 22  | 29  | 28  | 190  | 20  | 10%  |
| Broadstone Hall  | 75  | 525  | 565  | 70  | 67  | 67  | 63  | 72  | 73  | 71  | 483  | 42  | 8%  |
| St Joseph's Reddish  | 70  | 490  | 490  | 56  | 55  | 70  | 67  | 72  | 64  | 61  | 445  | 45  | 9%  |
| Whitehill  | 30  | 210  | 250  | 18  | 25  | 30  | 26  | 28  | 26  | 30  | 183  | 27  | 13%  |

4.3 Abingdon was rebuilt in 2016 as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme under a Private Finance Initiative. It was built as a two-form entry school.  Due to falling numbers, the PAN was reduced to 45 at the school from September 2024.  A further proposed reduction of PAN to 1FE would gradually free up to 7 classrooms with associated ancillary space which could be repurposed to provide other provision which aligns to the Council’s current priorities.

**Arden Primary School**

4.4 Arden Primary School sits in the Werneth cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools. The nearest school is Bredbury Green Primary School which is significantly under capacity. The Bredbury birth rate has reduced significantly over the last six years.



4.5 Data shows that Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at Arden Primary School are growing. Over the last three years, the number of children in Arden’s catchment area has fluctuated but parents are choosing to send their children to a wide range of schools, not just Arden Primary School.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | **Reception intake numbers** |
|    | **PAN** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Arden  | 90  | 72  | 59  | 75  | 81  | 88  | 64  | 58  | 65  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |  |  |  | **Jan 24 census** |  |  |  |
|    | **PAN** | **Total PAN** | **NCA** | **R** | **Y1** | **Y2** | **Y3** | **Y4** | **Y5** | **Y6** | **total** | **surplus** | **% surplus** |
| Arden  | 90  | 660  | 670  | 60  | 60  | 81  | 76  | 80  | 65  | 82  | 504  | 156  | 24%  |
| Bredbury Green  | 45  | 315  | 267  | 20  | 21  | 30  | 23  | 36  | 33  | 34  | 197  | 118  | 37%  |
| Bredbury St Mark's  | 30  | 255  | 335  | 20  | 21  | 30  | 23  | 36  | 33  | 34  | 197  | 58  | 23%  |

| **Preference schools**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2022**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2023**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2024**  | **Grand Total**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Arden Primary School**  | **34**  | **50**  | **54**  | **138**  |
| Bredbury Green Primary School  | 1  | 7  | 4  | 12  |
| Bredbury St Marks Cofe Primary School  | 2  | 9  | 7  | 18  |
| Cheadle Hulme Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Cheadle Village Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Greave Primary School  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 6  |
| Mauldeth Road Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Moorfield Primary School  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 4  |
| Norbury Hall Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Outwood Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| Romiley Primary School  |   | 2  |   | 2  |
| Rose Hill Primary School  |   | 1  | 1  | 2  |
| St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| St Christopher's Catholic Primary School  | 12  | 7  | 4  | 23  |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  |   | 1  | 3  | 4  |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Reddish, a Voluntary Academy  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| St Paul's Church of England Primary School   |   | 2  |   | 2  |
| St Thomas' Church of England Primary (H/C)  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Thorn Grove Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Vernon Park Primary School  | 1  | 1  | 4  | 6  |
| Willow Tree Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Woodford Primary School (Laurus Trust)  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Woodley Primary School  | 6  | 5  | 1  | 12  |
| **Total living in catchment**  | **61**  | **91**  | **88**  | **240**  |

4.6 Arden was rebuilt in 2018. A proposed reduction to PAN of 1FE would gradually free up to 7 classrooms with associated ancillary space which could be repurposed to provide other provision which aligns to the Council’s current priorities.

**Lum Head Primary School**

 4.7 Lum Head Primary School sits in the Kingsway cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools.  The nearest school is Prospect Vale Primary School which is under capacity in Key Stage 1.  The birthrate trend over the last six years is reducing.

 

4.8 Data shows that Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at Lum Head Primary School are growing. Over the last three years, the number of children in Arden’s catchment area has remained static but parents are choosing to send their children to a wide range of schools, not just Lum Head Primary School.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|     |    | **Reception intake numbers** |
|    | **PAN** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Lum Head  | 45  | 43  | 48  | 28  | 36  | 34  | 31  | 29  | 30  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | **Jan 24 census** |  |  |  |
|  | **PAN** | **Total PAN** | **NCA** | **R** | **Y1** | **Y2** | **Y3** | **Y4** | **Y5** | **Y6** | **Total** | **Surplus** |  |
| Lum Head  | 45  | 315  | 291  | 30  | 30  | 28  | 34  | 31  | 46  | 46  | 245  | 70  | 22%  |
| Prospect Vale  | 30  | 210  | 210  | 30  | 29  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 31  | 30  | 201  | 9  | 4%  |
| Gatley  | 90  | 570  | 610  | 90  | 87  | 89  | 89  | 91  | 60  | 60  | 566  | 4  | 1%  |
| Etchells  | 60  | 420  | 470  | 33  | 51  | 42  | 55  | 50  | 61  | 63  | 355  | 65  | 15%  |

| **Preference schools**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2022**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2023**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2024**  | **Grand Total**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Beaver Road Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Bolshaw Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Bradshaw Hall Primary School  |   |   | 2  | 2  |
| Brookside Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Cheadle Catholic Infant School  | 2  | 4  | 3  | 9  |
| Cheadle Hulme Primary School  | 4  | 2  | 2  | 8  |
| Cheadle Village Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Crossacres Primary Academy  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Etchells Primary School  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 5  |
| Gatley Primary School  | 9  | 12  | 6  | 27  |
| Hursthead Infant School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| Independent Primary  | 1  | 1  |   | 2  |
| **Lum Head Primary School**  | **7**  | **9**  | **13**  | **29**  |
| North Cheshire Jewish Primary School  | 2  |   |   | 2  |
| Prospect Vale Primary School  | 6  | 7  | 2  | 15  |
| **Total living in catchment**  | **33**  | **39**  | **33**  | **105**  |

4.9 Lum Head was expanded in around 2016 from 1FE to 1.5FE using basic need funding. Shortly after its expansion a nearby school self-funded an expansion from 2FE to 3FE and created an oversupply of places in the area. Lum Head have sustained themselves despite fluctuating numbers for several years.

4.10 A proposed reduction to PAN from 1.5FE to 1FE would free up 3 classrooms. It is proposed alongside the PAN reduction that the school’s age range be extended to accommodate an onsite nursery and the creation of an early years foundation stage unit.

4.11 A reduction to 1FE would also mean that the school no longer has to plan for mixed age teaching and learning which is always difficult.

**St Paul’s CofE Primary School and Westmorland Primary School**

4.12 St Paul’s CofE and Westmorland Primary Schools sit in the Brinnington cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools.  The birth rate in the area has decreased over the last six years.



4.13 Data shows Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at both schools is growing.  Over the last three years, the number of children in the combined catchment area of the two schools has decreased but parents are choosing to send their children to a wide range of schools, not just St Paul’s and Westmorland.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Reception intake numbers |
|   | PAN | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| St Paul's CE | 60 | 57 | 45 | 53 | 61 | 45 | 48 | 46 | 30 |
| Westmorland | 90 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 58 | 37 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   |   |   | Jan 24 census |   |   |   |
|   | PAN | Total PAN | NCA | R | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | total | surplus | % surplus |
| St Paul's CE | 60 | 420 | 420 | 44 | 46 | 54 | 59 | 62 | 53 | 60 | 378 | 42 | 10% |
| Westmorland | 90 | 660 | 550 | 58 | 66 | 63 | 65 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 444 | 216 | 33% |
| St Bernadette's | 30 | 210 | 238 | 24 | 29 | 23 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 32 | 196 | 14 | 7% |

| **Preference schools**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2022**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2023**  | **Alloc Reception Intake 2024**  | **Grand Total**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Abingdon Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Adswood Primary School  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 3  |
| Arden Primary School  | 3  | 6  | 3  | 12  |
| Banks Lane Infant School  |   | 2  | 1  | 3  |
| Bredbury St Marks Cofe Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Cheadle Hulme Primary School  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 4  |
| Corrie Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Denton West End Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| Dial Park Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Didsbury Road Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Fairway Primary School  | 1  |   | 1  | 2  |
| Gatley Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Lark Hill Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Lisburne School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Ludworth Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| Moorfield Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Norbury Hall Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Norris Bank Primary School  |   | 2  |   | 2  |
| Our Lady's Catholic Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Rose Hill Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| St Ambrose Catholic Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School  | 26  | 24  | 23  | 73  |
| St Elisabeth's C of E Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| St George's Church of England Primary  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| St John Fisher RC Primary School, Denton  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Reddish, a Voluntary Academy  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy  | 1  |   | 1  | 2  |
| St Matthew's Church of England Primary  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| **St Paul's Church of England Primary School**  | **23**  | **34**  | **28**  | **85**  |
| St Paul's CofE Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| St Peter's Catholic Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| St Simon's Catholic Primary School  |   | 1  | 1  | 2  |
| St Thomas' Church of England Primary (H/C)  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| St Thomas' Church of England Primary (Stk)  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| St Winifred's Roman Catholic Primary  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| The Wilmslow Academy  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Tithe Barn Primary School  | 1  |   |   | 1  |
| Torkington Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Vale View Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| Vernon Park Primary School  | 11  | 7  | 6  | 24  |
| **Westmorland Primary School**  | **55**  | **51**  | **40**  | **146**  |
| Whitehill Primary School  |   | 1  |   | 1  |
| Wilbraham Primary School  |   |   | 1  | 1  |
| **Total living in catchment**  | **132**  | **138**  | **119**  | **389**  |

4.14 St Paul’s was expanded around 2018 from 1.5FE to 2FE to accommodate the increases in demand in the area.  Current projections would indicate that a reduction back to 1FE would reduce levels of surplus in the area.  However, this would mean mixed age classes throughout the school.  Whilst current numbers have necessitated that approach within the school for a couple of years, the school may be reluctant to permanently going back to that model.

4.15 A reduction in the PAN at Westmorland Primary School from 2.5FE to 2FE would mean that the school would no longer need to plan for mixed age classes.

4.16 Both St Paul’s and Westmorland Primary Schools have significant levels of children with additional needs and feel that reductions in PANs may help to better meet these additional needs within the schools.

**5 CHANGES TO AGE RANGE**

5.1 The process to follow to change the age range at a school is set out by the Department for Education in the Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools (publishing.service.gov.uk). These regulations apply to all categories of maintained schools unless explicitly stated. A maintained school means a community, foundation or voluntary school; a community or foundation special school; or a maintained nursery school. The guidance is not relevant to pupil referral units as they are considered to be an educational setting providing alternative provision rather than a school where statutory proposals must be followed. The DfE define alternative provision as education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education.

**Lum Head Primary School**

5.2 As set out in paragraphs 4.7 – 4.11 of this document, it is proposed to expand the age range at Lum Head Primary School from 5 - 11 to 4 – 11 to enable the school to provide an early years foundation stage unit.  The proposed reduction in Published Admission Number at the school would enable the school to release accommodation to create an onsite nursery.

**Highfields College**

5.3 Highfields College forms part of the pupil referral provision in Stockport. Currently, the College provides for secondary age pupils. Stockport Virtual School and College and Careers have developed a package of short to medium term tuition, SEMH intervention and careers advice for post-16 NEET young people currently under the remit of Virtual School. This will be delivered by Highfields staff and is currently being piloted. It is therefore proposed to change the age range of Highfields College to 11 - 19 to enable include Key Stage 5 specialist and targeted provision for a defined cohort.

**6 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

6.1 The consultation on admission arrangements for September 2026 will run from 21 October 2024 until 2 December 2024.

6.2 Responses to the consultation should be submitted to Stockport Council using the online consultation <https://consultation.stockport.gov.uk/>. You can also submit your response to our email address admissions.consult@stockport.gov.uk.

6.3 All responses to the consultation will be taken into account when the Council determines the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary, infant; junior and high schools for which Stockport Council is the admission authority at a meeting in February 2025.

**APPENDIX ONE**

**Proposed published admission numbers for Stockport community and voluntary controlled Infant, Primary and Junior schools for September 2026**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Type** | **Phase** | **2026** |
| Abingdon Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Adswood Primary School | Community | Primary | 45 |
| Alexandra Park Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| All Saints CofE Primary (Marple) | VC | Primary | 30 |
| All Saints CofE Primary (Stockport) | VC | Primary | 30 |
| Arden Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Banks Lane Infant School | Community | Infant | 90 |
| Banks Lane Junior School | Community | Junior | 90 |
| Bolshaw Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Bradshaw Hall Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Bridge Hall Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Broadstone Hall Primary School | Community | Primary | 75 |
| Brookside Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Cale Green Primary School | Community | Primary | 45 |
| Cheadle Heath Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Cheadle Village Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Dial Park Primary School | Community | Primary | 45 |
| Didsbury Road Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Etchells Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Fairway Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Great Moor Infant School | Community | Infant | 78 |
| Great Moor JuniorSchool | Community | Junior | 78 |
| Greave Primary School | Community | Primary | 45 |
| Hazel Grove Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| High Lane Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Hursthead Infant School | Community | Infant | 90 |
| Ladybridge Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Ladybrook Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Lane End Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Lark Hill Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Ludworth Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Lum Head Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Mersey Vale Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Moorfield Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Moss Hey Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Nevill Road Infant School | Community | Infant | 90 |
| Nevill Road Junior School | Community | Junior | 90 |
| Norbury Hall Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Norris Bank Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Oak Tree Primary School | Community | Primary | 90 |
| Outwood Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Pownall Green Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Prospect Vale Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Queensgate Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Romiley Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Rose Hill Primary School | Community | Primary | 75 |
| St John's Church of England Primary School | VC | Primary | 30 |
| St Mary's C of E Primary School | VC | Primary | 30 |
| St Paul's Church of England Primary School | VC | Primary | 45 |
| St Thomas' Church of England Primary (Stk) | VC | Primary | 30 |
| Thorn Grove Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Tithe Barn Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Torkington Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Vale View Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Vernon Park Primary School | Community | Primary | 45 |
| Warren Wood Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Westmorland Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |
| Whitehill Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 |
| Woodley Primary School | Community | Primary | 60 |