CONSULTATION ON PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS AT NEVILL ROAD INFANT SCHOOL AND NEVILL ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

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 published admission numbers for 2027/28 school year for Nevill Road Infant School and Nevill Road Junior School 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 NUMBERS

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 It is proposed to consult on reducing the published admission number for September 2027 onwards at the following schools:

School	Current PAN	Proposed PAN
Nevill Road Infant School	90	60
Nevill Road Junior School	90	60

2.4 All other admission numbers will remain the same as were determined for admission in September 2026.

3 RATIONALE FOR REDUCING THE PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS AT NEVILL ROAD INFANT SCHOOL AND NEVILL ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

- 3.1 Both schools sit in the Cheadle Hulme cluster. There are 11 schools including three infant, three junior schools and five primary schools. There are rising levels of surplus capacity across the area.
- 3.2 Data shows that overall reception intake numbers in the area are reducing and levels of surplus capacity in some schools in the area are significant.

School Name	PANs	Total capacity	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Capacity
Bradshaw Hall Primary School	60	420	60	57	66	63	61	62	61	430	102.4%
Cheadle Catholic Infant School	90	270	72	64	80					216	80.0%
Cheadle Catholic Junior School	90	360				91	91	90	90	362	100.6%
Cheadle Hulme Primary School	60	420	60	60	60	60	60	60	62	422	100.5%
Hursthead Infant School	90	270	77	85	85					247	91.5%
Hursthead Junior School	90	360				90	90	90	91	361	100.3%
Lane End Primary School	30	210	30	26	30	29	30	30	31	206	98.1%
Nevill Road Infant School	90	270	65	61	67					193	71.5%
Nevill Road Junior School	90	360				66	86	82	87	321	89.2%
Oak Tree Primary School	90	630	81	81	88	79	93	91	88	601	95.4%
Thorn Grove Primary School	30	210	20	16	28	30	29	30	30	183	87.1%
Total	540	3780	465	450	504	508	540	535	540	3542	93.7%
% surplus in the area by year group			86%	83%	93%	94%	100%	99%	100%		
data as at January 2025 school census											

3.3 Forecasting of pupil numbers for the next four years show reducing numbers coming into primary schools in Stockport and in the Cheadle Hulme area. Data from the Office for National Statistics indicates that birth rates are unlikely to rise for at least another eight years.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
Stockport borough forecast	3,067	3,028	2,987	2,889	2,786	2,852	
Cheadle Hulme area forecast	465	447	426	406	381	398	
Cheadle Hulme current PANS	540	540	540	540	540	540	
Forecast area surplus capacity	75	93	114	134	159	142	
forecasts based on school census data including new housing and in borough movement							

- 3.4 Nevill Road Infant School has the highest levels of surplus capacity in the area and whilst Nevill Road Junior School's surplus capacity is not as high, the numbers in the Nevill Road Infant School will inevitably flow through to Nevill Road Junior School leading to rising levels of surplus.
- 3.5 Nevill Road Infant School has temporary accommodation on site in the form of two mobile classrooms. These have been on site for a significant amount of time. The school only has six classrooms in the main school building and needs the temporary accommodation to operate at 90 per year group.
- 3.6 The Council were made aware of condition issues with the temporary classrooms and these have been investigated and unfortunately, the classrooms have almost reached the end of their useful life with one having only one year's useful life left.
- 3.7 The replacement cost of the temporary classrooms exceeds available funding especially as declining numbers in the area mean that the Council has already considered consulting on reducing the published admission number at the school to 60 in previous years. The governing body at Nevill Road Infant School were not supportive of a reduction in the published admission number at that time and the consultation did not take place.
- 3.8 The Council increased the published admission of the school over 10 years ago to 90 to ensure sufficient places in the area due to the increase in population across the borough. At that time, the school did not support an increase and wanted to reduce their published admission number to 60. However, due to the need for sufficient places in the area, the Council had to increase the published admission number. The school had the additional demountable accommodation moved on site to support the increase.
- 3.9 The school have not been allocated 90 pupils at initial allocation into Reception for several years. The proposed reduction in the published admission number at Nevill Road Infant School from 90 to 60 will ensure that the school has sufficient accommodation for the pupils that will be allocated at the school. There is sufficient surplus capacity in other schools in the area to absorb any additional demand above 60. Demand in the area is projected to be static for a number of years.
- 3.10 Nevill Road Infant School currently operate a three class model per year group in Years 1 and 2 and two classes in Reception. They are enabled to do this through infant class size funding which is additional to the per pupil funding which would not be sufficient for three classes given the numbers they currently have on roll. Nevill Road Junior School do not have access to this funding and so may be unable to maintain a three class model as the lower numbers currently in Nevill Road Infant School move through into Nevill Road Primary School. The per pupil level of funding means that a two class model will be financially viable.

- 3.11 Reducing the published admission number at Nevill Road Junior School from 90 to 60 in September 2027 will enable the school to have certainty over numbers coming into the school and allow better financial, class and curriculum planning.
- 3.12 If approved, the Published Admission Number at Nevill Road Infant School and Nevill Road Junior School will apply to Reception or Year 3 for September 2027; all other year groups already in the school will be unaffected; the Published Admission Number will move through for Reception and Year 3 in September 2028 and so on until it is phased in across all your year groups.

4 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 The consultation on admission arrangements for September 2027 will run from 22 October 2025 until 7 December 2025.
- 4.2 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/.
- 4.3 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 2026.