

## Marple Hall School Admissions consultation for admissions in 2027 to 2028

**Consultation dates:** 22-10-2025 to 7-12-2025

**Consultation information:** [School admission arrangements consultation 2027-28 - Stockport Metropolitan Borough Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

This document was initially created w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025. It was created in response to the feedback on the consultation received between 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

As the overwhelming majority of the responses to the consultation focus on the proposal to prioritise learners from Romiley Primary School, this document addresses that aspect of the consultation only.

This document is specifically related to the consultation for admissions to Marple Hall School, not the parallel live consultation for admissions to Romiley Primary School, which can also be seen via the link above.

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### **Rationale for the proposed prioritisation of Romiley Primary School children for admission to Marple Hall School**

As the Helix Academy Trust continues to grow and strengthen its commitment to providing a coherent, high-quality education for all learners, we believe that prioritising pupils from Romiley Primary School (RPS) for admission to Marple Hall School (MHS) is a natural and beneficial step. This proposal is rooted in our shared values and educational philosophy.

#### **A seamless educational journey**

RPS and MHS are already working in close partnership as founding members of the Helix Academy Trust. This collaboration will enable us to offer a joined-up, cross-phase curriculum that is ambitious, progressive, and designed to support learners from early years through to the end of Key Stage 4. By prioritising RPS pupils for MHS admissions, we can:

- Ensure continuity in curriculum design and delivery.
- Minimise disruption at the critical point of transition from Year 6 to Year 7.
- Build on the strong foundations laid at RPS, particularly in literacy, numeracy, and personal development.

#### **Shared values and ethos**

Both schools are united by the Trust's vision:

*"Nurturing learners to have the ability to influence, challenge and lead the culture of the communities in which they live."*

This vision is brought to life through the values promoted in each school:

- RPS: Resilient, Positive, Supportive.
- MHS: Determination, Honesty, Readiness, Respect, Spark.

These values are not only complementary but mutually reinforcing. They shape the character of our learners and underpin a consistent culture of high expectations, kindness, and respect across both schools.

## **High-quality teaching and learning**

Both RPS and MHS are recognised for their strong academic performance and commitment to continuous improvement. Staff across the two schools will increasingly collaborate on:

- Curriculum development.
- Pedagogical research and CPD.
- Transition planning and shared learning strategies.

This alignment will ensure that RPS pupils are well-prepared for the academic and social demands of secondary school, and that MHS staff understand and build upon their prior learning.

## **Enhanced opportunities and support**

As part of the same Trust, RPS pupils benefit from:

- Access to shared enrichment opportunities, such as science events, arts workshops, and sports programmes.
- A consistent approach to SEND support.
- A pastoral system that understands their journey and supports their wellbeing from primary through to secondary education.

## **Strengthening local ties**

Both schools are deeply rooted in the local community and committed to serving its families. Prioritising RPS pupils for MHS admissions:

- Supports families in planning for their children's education with greater certainty.
- Encourages long-term relationships between families and the Trust, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

This proposal is not about being exclusive. It is about continuity, coherence, and community. By prioritising RPS pupils for MHS admissions, we are honouring the shared journey of our learners, supporting their development through a consistent and values-led educational experience, and strengthening the bonds that make our Trust stronger.

## **Precedents**

It is not unusual for Trusts to prioritise admissions from member primary schools to member secondary schools. Such arrangements have been deemed not to be unfair when scrutinised by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

## **Trust ambitions, aims and growth**

The Helix Academies Trust was formed with the ambition of focusing on the local area and to serve the children and families of local people. We remain open to the prospect of other primary schools joining the trust in the future.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why are children from Romiley Primary School being prioritised over those living in Marple?**

*Romiley Primary School (RPS) is a part of the Helix Academies trust, alongside Marple Hall School (MHS). Please see the rationale above explaining the reasons for the proposed change.*

### **What is the rationale for feeder school status being given to Romiley Primary?**

*There are no official 'feeder schools' for Marple Hall school. The school operates within a catchment area, not a feeder school system. RPS is a school located within the catchment area of MHS, and has been for a considerable time. We are not aware of a time when RPS was **not** a school within the MHS catchment.*

### **How is the catchment area defined, and has it changed recently?**

*The catchment area can be seen via the interactive map on the link here: [Find a school catchment area - Stockport Council](#)*

*The catchment area has not altered in over a decade, with the last change made when Offerton secondary school closed in 2012. RPS is a school located within the catchment area of MHS, and has been for a considerable time. The majority of children attending RPS live in the MHS catchment already.*

### **Why are children from Romiley being offered places at MHS, which is not their local secondary school**

*MHS is the local secondary school for RPS, as defined by the long standing catchment area maps. We are not making any changes to this.*

### **Is the catchment area being changed by this proposal?**

*No, the catchment area is not being changed. The catchment area was the subject of a recent review by the Office of the School Adjudicator and was found to be reasonable.*

### **Will children with siblings already at Marple Hall still be prioritised?**

*Yes, children in catchment with a sibling at MHS will be prioritised above children in catchment without a sibling. Both these criteria will sit below the proposed new criteria for children attending RPS.*

### **What happens if a child lives in Marple but attends a non-feeder primary school?**

*There are no official 'feeder schools' for Marple Hall school. The school operates within a catchment area, not a feeder school system. Aside from the top four criteria, admission to MHS is based on living in the catchment area and, if the school is full, distance from MHS. Aside from the proposal to prioritise learners attending RPS, when MHS is full admission is not based on whether the child attended a specific primary school.*

### **What is the Published Admission Number for Marple Hall School, and is this likely to change?**

*The Published Admission Number for MHS is 300 students per year. There are no plans to change the PAN. However, for the past four years MHS has offered 'bulge' places to help the local community to access MHS at a time of higher student numbers. The admission number in these years has been 330.*

*The school intends to carry on offering the additional 30 places for September 2026 and September 2027. Depending on need and negotiation with the local authority, this offer may be extended to September 2028.*

### **What material difference will the proposed changes make to admissions?**

*As the majority of learners from RPS already live in the MHS catchment area, and as they live nearer to MHS in a straight line than other children in the wider catchment area, **the large majority of RPS learners who want to attend MHS are already able to do so.** For them, this change will make no difference.*

*In the past three years, 76% of Year 6 children at RPS have joined MHS in year 7. Of the remaining 24% a significant proportion did not request MHS, opting instead for other secondary schools.*

*As the majority of RPS learners who want to are already able to access MHS within the existing admissions arrangements, the proposed changes will not make a big difference to overall patterns of entry to MHS.*

### **If 60 children from RPS take up places at MHS, will that mean that 60 children from Marple cannot attend MHS?**

*The proposed changes will not reduce the places open to other children by 60 places. As the majority of RPS learners who want to are already able to access MHS within the existing admissions arrangements, the proposed changes will not make a big difference to overall patterns of entry to MHS.*

### **Will children from Marple Bridge, Mellor, and Compstall still have a fair chance of admission?**

*The school and local authority is aware of families living at the edges of the catchment area who, based on the distance criteria, are unlikely to be offered a place at MHS and are instead offered the next nearest secondary school in Stockport, which could be well over 3 miles away. The proposed changes to the admissions policy recognises this under the definition of criteria B.*

### **Has the environmental impact of increased travel been considered? How will traffic and congestion in Marple be affected by these changes?**

*We are not anticipating noticeable changes in travel patterns, given that the number of children attending MHS from Romiley is unlikely to change significantly.*

### **What consultation has taken place with local families and stakeholders?**

*The consultation is taking place now, between 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

### **Why did RPS join the Helix trust and not other schools?**

*The Helix Academies Trust was formed by MHS and RPS jointly in March 2025. Leaders at MHS began planning a Trust in 2016, and made offers to all local primary schools to consider joining the Trust. As it stands, only RPS chose to join the Trust with MHS.*

*The long term vision of the Trust is to work collaboratively with all local cluster schools, and we remain open to conversations with interested school leaders who may wish to join with us.*

### **Is Helix Academies Trust a profit making organisation?**

*Not at all. The Helix Academies Trust encompasses two comprehensive schools, both directly funded by the government. Every penny of funding is spent on providing education to our students, with staff paid as per national and local pay scales. The view held by some people that Academies are private businesses, set up for the purpose of making money, is pure fiction.*