

## Appendix 2

### **Proposed change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Rose Hill Primary School**

Following an approach to Stockport Council by the governing body of the school, the Council requested a variation to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Rose Hill Primary School from 75 to 60 for September 2027. This was approved the School Adjudicator in July 2026 [Rose Hill Primary School: 3 July 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

This agreed variation only applies to the school year 2027/28 and so this consultation looks to reduce the Published Admission Number at Rose Hill Primary School from 75 to 60 for September 2028 onwards.

The request to vary the PAN for Rose Hill Primary School is driven by a significant surplus of Reception places across the Marple planning area and the resulting financial impact this has.

A lower than expected intake in Reception has significant implications for both the school's budget and the quality of teaching and learning. With an admission number of 75 but only, for example, 64 pupils enrolling, the school experiences a reduction in pupil-led funding, creating financial pressures that affect staffing, resources, intervention programmes, and wider educational provision. Technically, a temporary class teacher is having to be appointed for 4 pupils, which is not cost-effective nor sustainable - this funding could be more effectively spent on resources, support and interventions for pupils. As staffing costs represent the largest proportion of school expenditure, reduced income limits the school's capacity to maintain optimal staffing structures and specialist support, despite the need to continue delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and quality-first teaching. Smaller cohorts also impact long-term financial sustainability, as reduced numbers progress through the school and continue to affect funding in subsequent years. Consequently, the school must carefully manage resources to minimise any adverse effects on educational outcomes while ensuring that high-quality teaching, targeted support, and enrichment opportunities remain available to all pupils.

Reducing the PAN to 60 from September 2028 will enable the school to operate with two classes in each year group, reducing reliance on mixed-age provision and avoiding the need to maintain underfilled classes. This would support a more balanced class structure and reduce the number of classes from 5 across two year groups to 2 initially in each year group.

Without this variation, if there were an unexpected increase in applications, leading to more than 60 pupils but well below 75, it could force the school into a position where they need to organise the year group into three small classes to comply with infant class

size legislation. By proactively reducing the PAN to 60, this risk is minimised, ensuring a more stable staffing and class structure whilst protecting the school's ability to deliver high-quality education.

In addition to this, with a PAN of 75, this results in mixed-aged classes across school. While mixed-age classes can offer benefits in certain contexts, they can also present challenges that can negatively impact teaching and learning when they arise primarily as a consequence of low pupil numbers rather than educational design (for example, where a mixed age class contains the majority of one year group and a small minority of pupils from another year group due to low numbers). Mixed-age classes increase the complexity of curriculum planning, assessment, and teaching, as staff are required to deliver learning objectives from two different year groups simultaneously. This reduces the time available for focused instruction and make it more challenging to ensure that all pupils receive age-appropriate challenge and support - as well as assessment of academic, social and personal progress and development. Teachers must balance differing curriculum expectations, which can place additional demands on workload and limit opportunities to provide targeted interventions for pupils. Furthermore, pupils may experience interruptions to curriculum continuity, particularly where programmes of study need to be adapted to avoid repetition or gaps in learning across a two-year cycle. As a result, while effective teaching can mitigate many of these issues, mixed-age classes often require significant additional planning and resources to ensure that educational standards and pupil outcomes are maintained.

The governing body of Rose Hill Primary School has approved the consultation to reduce the Published Admission Number at the school from 75 to 60 for September 2028 onwards.