



Proposal to decrease the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Broad Oak Community Primary School from Academic Year 2025/26

This proposal provides relevant information in accordance with the *School Admissions Code 2021*¹, the *School Admissions Regulations 2012*², & the *Education Act 1996 Section 14(1)*³.

School Details:

Broad Oak Community Primary School
Brunswick Street
Parr
St Helens
WA9 2JE

Local Authority Details:

St Helens Council
People Services
Education & Learning
School Place Planning
PO Box 512
WA10 9JX

Description of the proposal:

To meet the demand for school places, St Helens Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available within their area, and may need to make changes to existing schools. Proposals are subject to a range of statutory processes and consultations, including changes to school admission arrangements. Although the Regulations relating to School Admissions no longer require an admission authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's Published Admission Number (PAN) there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to decrease.

We are consulting on a proposal to reduce the PAN in Broad Oak Community Primary School for the 2025/26 academic year. The current PAN at Broad Oak is 90. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in Reception each year is a maximum of 90. Broad Oak's Governing Body and St Helens Council are proposing to reduce the PAN to 75. This proposal would mean that the maximum number of pupils that can be admitted in Reception in the 2025/26 academic year, and all subsequent

¹ Paragraphs 1.3 and 1.45 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

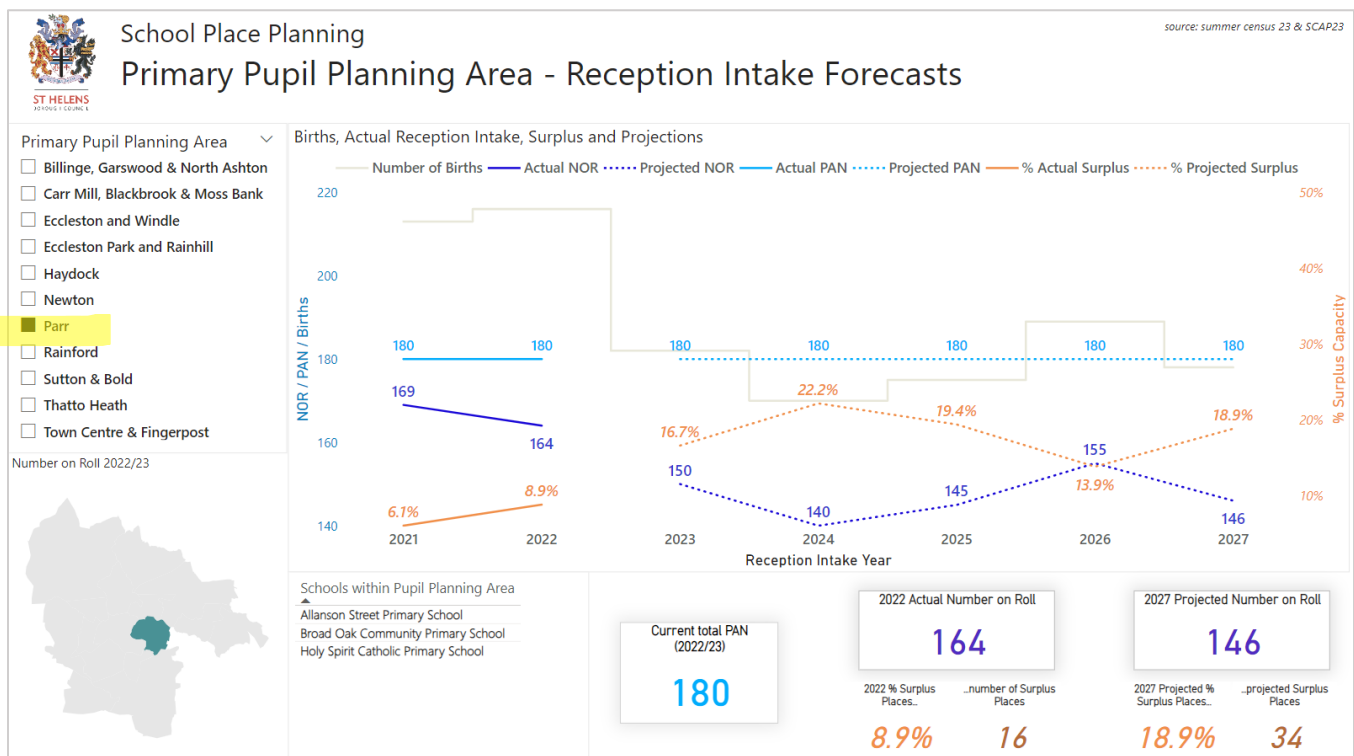
² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/8/made>

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/14>

Reception cohorts will be 75. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change. No other changes to the school’s admission arrangements are proposed.

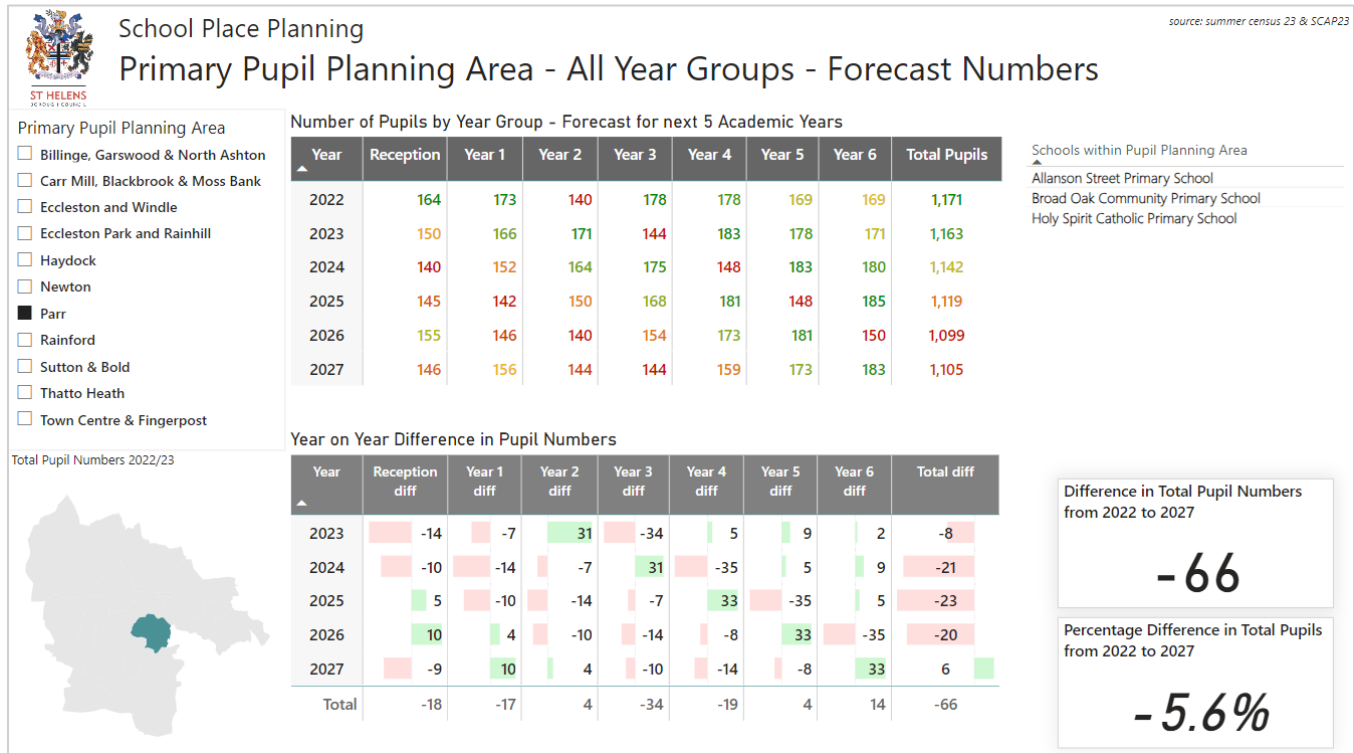
Background & Rationale

Births in St Helens have a seen a consistent decrease year-on-year since 2016, which has an influence on Reception intakes. Birth data is utilised by the Council to formulate projections of future Reception intake numbers. The chart below shows the Reception intake forecast for the Parr Primary Pupil Planning Area (includes Broad Oak and two other schools) which shows an increase in surplus capacity in the area up to 2027. At summer census 2022/23 there was 8.9% surplus capacity (16 places), which is forecast to be 22.2% (40 places) in 2024/25, and 18.9% (34 places) in 2027/28....



Reducing the PAN will assist the School and Local Authority in providing stability in its long-term planning and allow the school to secure good educational outcomes for the youngest pupils currently on roll, while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers in line with demand in Parr and the surrounding area.

Across all curriculum years (Reception to Year 6) in the Planning Area there is forecast to be a further reduction of 5.6% (66 places) from 2022 to 2027....



Provisional School Census data for Autumn 2023/24 indicates that the current number of roll at Broad Oak is 66 – which is 24 places below the current PAN of 90.

We constantly track the number of school applications received, and the supply and demand for pupil places in our planning areas. If there is a projected increase in demand in the area in future, and more places are required, the school has the scope to return to a higher PAN.

Broad Oak Primary School

- Broad Oak Primary School provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 2 to 11.
- The school currently has space (Net Capacity) for a total of 630 pupils, including Nursery Classes.
- The school was rated “Good” by Ofsted in its last inspection.
- The percentage of children eligible for free school meals is 60.9%.
- The school has had consistent first choice preferences over the last few years of between 60 and 70+, mainly from Parr Ward, whose resident pupils make up over 90% of the school’s cohort.
- The school is popular, hence the expansions of up to 3 Forms in the recent past; the current proposed reduction is linked to population and birth rates.



Effect on other schools in the area:

The change will not jeopardise the viability of any other mainstream school.

Site Arrangements:

None.

Projects Costs and Funding:

No costs are directly linked to the proposal.

Implementation:

In February 2024, the Council’s senior leaders and members will consider the results of the consultation and make a final executive decision on the proposed admission arrangements for 2025/26. If approved, the arrangements would be implemented for the September 2025 intake.

Details of how to respond to the proposal:

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by Friday 8th December 2023) any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to the proposal may do so by sending them to:

Roger Litherland
St Helens Council
People Services
Education & Learning
School Place Planning
PO Box 512
WA10 9JX

Email : rogerlitherland@sthelens.gov.uk

All comments will receive an acknowledgement and will be incorporated into the final summary report on this decision. If you would like a copy of this proposal, please notify the Officer above.

Responses required by Friday 8th December 2023