

APPENDIX 6F

Schools which disagreed with the proposed admission limit for the school

Aspin Park Community Primary School

The Governors would wish the MAL to increase to 60; they would prefer to have two classes of 30 at the start of a term rather than turn parents away and have appeals at a later date. Governors feel this policy is a financial handicap to the school.

Comment: Officer views are that the MAL of 56 is appropriate for the capacity of the school and meets the demand for places from pupils living within the normal area of the school. It would not be appropriate to increase the MAL in anticipation of children moving into the area at a later date. Proposed MAL's do take account of any forecast increase in pupil numbers within the normal area of the school.

Sherburn CE VC Primary School

The Governing Body feel "there is a need to keep limits up in case of large intakes. For the past two years we have had 10 and 9 respectively. We need to be able to accommodate unexpected numbers."

Comment: The proposed MAL is 8; Officer views are that this is appropriate to the net capacity of the school and the forecast demand for places from pupils living within the normal area of the school.

Appleton Roebuck Primary School

The Governing Body is not in agreement with the proposed MAL of 12, they state "we have found that 15 allows us more flexibility. Agreed MAL is 15 for 2007/08 and was 15 in 2006/07. However in previous years it has been 12. Next year we have only seven admissions. The opportunity to admit more the following year would prevent a serious falling roll situation whilst still in no way compromising the infant class size limit. It also means the largely future business of appeals can be avoided and we are certain to be able to cater for all our local children."

Comment: the proposed MAL of 12 is in line with the net capacity. The school anticipates that for 2007/08 there will be eight children in Reception. The LA forecast figure for 2008/09 is 12. There is no evidence to suggest that a MAL of 15 is required in order to meet demand for places within the normal area of the school. Unfortunately many schools are in a falling roll situation. It would be inappropriate to raise the MAL in order to seek to compensate for lower numbers elsewhere in the school.

Askwith CP School

The Governing Body state that 'our capacity calculation of recent years showed MAL 14. We are also having a group teaching area constructed now, that will be complete February 2007. For this reason our MAL should be raised from 13 to 14'.

Comment: Officer views are that on the basis of the current net capacity calculation the proposed MAL of 13 is appropriate. A MAL of 14 would potentially lead to numbers on roll rising above the current net capacity of the school. The forecast indicates that for the period up to 2011/12 numbers on roll may rise slightly up to 95. This is due to the predicted yield of additional primary age pupils from housing permissions in the normal area of the school. At present there is nothing to suggest that an increase in MAL is necessary in order to meet demand for places for in area pupils.

Arncliffe CE Primary School

The Governing Body would like the MAL to be raised to 6 or 7 per year group because the school now has more floor space.

Comment: Officer views are that the proposed MAL of 4 is in line with the current net capacity of the school. This figure is also sufficient to meet forecast demand for places from pupils within the normal area of the school. For 2008/09 the school expects to have two in-area applications.

Western Primary School – Harrogate

Governors would like to raise the MAL for Reception from 50 to 52.

Comment: In the first MAL consultation Governors stated that they were in agreement with the proposed MAL of 50. This is in line with the net capacity of the school which is 350. Currently the number of pupils on roll is 365. Officer views are that the proposed MAL of 50 is appropriate and meets the demand for places from pupils living within the normal area of the school. There are a number of other primary schools within the locale.

Ripon Grammar School

The Governing Body is not happy with the proposed MAL of 10 for external applicants into the sixth form. "Many of the students we admit into the sixth form are from independent schools. Although some come into boarding from local state schools. Ermysted's has 20, Easingwold 15. I would suggest our limit be raised to 20".

Comment: During the first MAL consultation Governors did not request a change to the sixth form limit. The Headteacher did ask for clarification of sixth form admission limits. Advice from DfES was that sixth form limits i.e. for pupils from other schools should be set with caution. The Draft Code of Practice states that parental preference must be met (where possible). Admission authorities should set admission numbers with regard to the capacity assessment for the school. The school's net capacity is 805. Currently there are 830 pupils on roll. Officer views are that as the school is already operating over capacity a sixth form limit of 10 is appropriate.

If the number of pupils transferring through to the sixth form from Year 11 is less than the MAL for that year group, the school can admit additional external pupils above the published limit.

Scalby School

The Governing Body of Scalby School would like to reduce the MAL to 190. The reasons for this proposal are set out below: -

Challenges Faced:

- Only 110 students live in our catchment area – our current number on roll is dependent upon significant numbers from outside our catchment area and yet...
- A significant number of second preferences make up our intake; our intake is therefore an insecure figure.
- Our intake is falling – current LA predictions for intake 2007/08 is 186.
- Student numbers will not rise for at least five years.
- The 14-19 curriculum strategy requires the school to increase the range of qualifications and courses on offer – creating a greater number of teaching groups and reducing the availability of rooms to deploy.
- As of September 2007, LA forecasts meant that two year groups will contain 190 students.

- 210 is the NOR in older year groups and the NOR on which income predictions and the school's business plan have been based.
- An annual fall of 20 in NOR will produce a reduction in income of £56,000 per annum, rising to £500,782 in total by 2010
- A continued MAL of 210 will not prevent a fall in income (because the likelihood is that student numbers will remain around 190) but it will reduce the Governing Body's room for manoeuvre because of the continued need to make provision for a possible 210 in each year group.

Proposal:

- Reduce the maximum admission limit to 190, reflecting the likely number on roll. This is unlikely to adversely affect the income going forward but will give the Governing Body 'certainty of demand'. It is also a number that best balances smallest reduction in income with greatest capacity to reduce staffing with minimal impact on group size or curriculum capacity.
- Drawing confidence from the certainty of demand, revise the qualified teaching staffing requirement and instigate a redundancy programme.
- Commence this programme now to instigate a gradual readjustment of staffing compliment – hence enabling the school to meet reductions required through natural wastage rather than instigating a compulsory redundancy for a larger group of teachers several years down the line.

Comments: The MAL of 212 is in line with capacity. There has been a long accepted principle nationally and in North Yorkshire that admissions should be in line with the capacity of the school (not below it) in order to meet parental preferences. In order to set a limit below MAL the Authority would be required to publish a notice in local newspapers and allow parents to comment. Officers believe it is likely that there would be significant objection. Whilst understanding the difficulties surrounding falling pupil numbers Officer views are that a reduction of MAL is not appropriate at this time. It could be argued that based upon current patterns of preferences the effect of such a reduction would unnecessarily limit parental preference within the town area of Scarborough.

South Craven School

South Craven School objected to the proposal for Skipton Girls' High School of 112 for admission into Year 7. South Craven School proposed that the limits for Skipton Girls' High School should be 87 for Year 7. Officer views are that the proposal for 112 for admission to Year 7 should stand. There is an issue of Equal Opportunities as Ermysted's, the boys' Grammar School, has a MAL of 112.