

Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools 2011-12:

The policy of Rochdale LA is to admit pupils, on demand, up to a school's Published Admission Number. Where there are more applications for a school than there are places available, places will be allocated giving priority to pupils in the following order:

- i) Looked After Pupils
- ii) Pupils with a medical/psychological condition that warrants placement at that school[#]
- iii) Pupils with an older sibling* attending the school at the time of admission
- iv) Any remaining places will be decided on the basis of proximity and ease of access to the school and other schools in the area

In the case of Voluntary Controlled C of E Primary schools, priority can be claimed on religious grounds if a letter of support from the Minister of the parents' church is submitted at the time of application. This should indicate that parents regularly attend church and/or are involved in church activities.

Should the number of pupils falling into the first three categories above exceed the Published Admission Number, category iv will be used as a tie-breaker. The measure will be taken from the centre point of the pupils house to the main gate of the school applied to and to the next nearest school. Proximity is not deemed to be a simple measurement radiating out from the school either as the crow flies or as a walking route. It is moderated by the principle of ease of access which takes account of relative distance to schools as a whole and means those living further away from an alternative school will have priority. The Local Authority utilises a computer application called SCANA to measure distances utilising ordnance survey maps.

Where pupils have a statement of special educational needs, that names a specific school, the LA has a statutory duty to admit those pupils.

*- A sibling is defined as a brother or a sister, or step-brother or step-sister living at the same address as the child for whom application is being made and are in attendance at the school at the start of the academic year for which admission is sought. Sibling priority will not be given where the brother/sister or step-brother/step-sister lives at a different address to the child for whom the application is being made. No sibling priority is given to cousins, regardless of their address.

- If you consider that there are strong medical / psychological reasons for your child to attend a particular school you must attach a medical certificate /

Appendix A

letter from your child's own doctor to the Common Application Form at the time of application.

On receipt of the medical certificate / letter, the case will be referred to either the Consultant Community Paediatrician or the Principal Educational Psychologist for their professional advice. This is because evidence is required to show that admission to the particular school is essential.

Following receipt of advice, a place will only be allocated under this criterion if there is firm evidence that the child's needs can only be met at the school to which the parent is applying.

You should note that providing evidence does not automatically mean that a place will be allocated under this criterion.

Admission Numbers proposed for 2011

Community Primary Schools

School	Proposed Admission Number
Alkrington	60
Ashfield Valley	30
Belfield	40
Boarshaw	30
Bowlee	90
Brimrod	30
Broadfield	60
Caldershaw	30
Castleton	30
Deeplish	60
Elm Wood	58
Greenbank	60
Hamer	38
Harwood Park	45
Heap Bridge	25
Heybrook	90
Hollin	60
Hopwood	45
Kentmere	45
Littleborough	60
Lowerplace	90
Marland Hill	60
Meanwood	60
Moorhouse	30
Newhey	30
Norden	60
Parkfield	30
Sandbrook	60
Shawclough	60
Spotland	60
Whittaker Moss	35
Woodland	60

Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools

School	Proposed Admission Number
All Souls' CE	30
Little Heaton CE	30
St Andrew's CE, Dearnley	30
St Edward's CE	50
St Gabriel's CE	30
St Luke's CE	30
St Mary's CE, Balderstone	30
St Peter's CE	60
Stansfield Hall	20

Community Secondary Schools

School	Proposed Admission Number
Falings Park	240
Matthew Moss	180
Middleton Technology	210
Oulder Hill	300
Siddal Moor	210

The Local Authority is proposing to increase the Planned Admission for those schools highlighted in yellow.

Parkfield Community Primary School, Middleton:

What is proposed?

The Local Authority proposes to reduce the Planned Admission Number for Parkfield CP School from 35 to 30 from September 2011.

Why does the Local Authority want to do this?

In the past, the school has requested that the Admission Number* is reduced to 30 to help raise standards. School has 8 class bases, which allows it to comply with infant class size limits. Other than the Reception Class base of 63m², all other class bases are between 47m² and 51m² in area. There are three classes for the Year 1 and 2 children, so that no infant class has more than 30 children to 1 teacher. However, when the children reach Key Stage 2 (KS2), they are then in classrooms which should only have up to 30 children based on the capacity assessment and so are too small for 35 children in each year group. These large classes in KS2 are not conducive to good teaching and learning, and put real pressure on staff especially as more children enter the school with additional needs.

The assessed capacity** for the school is currently 238 places. The effect of the reduction in admission number is that eventually there would be 210 places available at Parkfield CP. The Local Authority can set a Planned Admission Number lower than the assessed capacity, and parents may object to this. If agreed, the school would make changes to the space so that the capacity assessment will be consistent with an admission number of 30.

What are the advantages of reducing the admission number?

Progressively, as class sizes become 30 throughout the school, there will be an increase in the amount of space in classrooms, especially in Key Stage 2. Teachers and support staff will be able to give more individual attention to children's learning and improvements can be made to the teaching and learning environment.

What are the disadvantages to this proposal-

Parkfield is a school that often has more first preferences than the school can accommodate. By reducing the Planned Admission Number some parents will not get their first choice of school. Parents who already have children in the school will continue to have a priority for a place after Children in Care and children with specific medical/psychological needs. Another disadvantage is that the school budget will reduce as the number of children reduces, and the school will be able to manage this effectively without detriment to their learning.

How can I support or object to this proposal?

If you want to comment on any of the proposed increases or the reduction in Planned Admission Numbers or any other aspect of the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements please put it in writing by 1st March 2010 to:

Martin Clough
Team Leader – Pupil Services
Rochdale MBC
PO Box 70
Municipal Offices
Smith Street
Rochdale
OL16 1YD

Martin.Clough@rochdale.gov.uk

Notes-

** Planned Admission Number is the number of children to be admitted to each year group.*

*** The assessed capacity is a standard calculation of the physical space available in a school taking account of the number and size of classrooms together with resource areas in use. It is referred to as the Net Capacity. From this assessment a calculation is made of the Indicated Admission Number (net capacity/number of year groups= 34 in the case of Parkfield). The Planned Admission Number should not normally be less than the Indicated Admission Number.*