

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2026 AND SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS

Report of the Director of Education, Work and Skills

1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 All admission authorities are required to consult on changes to their coordinated admissions scheme and admission arrangements and where no changes are proposed to the coordinated admissions scheme or admission arrangements, there is no requirement to consult. Admission authorities must ensure that their determined admission arrangements comply with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021.
- 1.2 When changes to schools are proposed, the local authority must have regard to the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schols) (England) Regulations 2013 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013.
- 1.3 This report outlines the recent consultation on and makes recommendations for amendments to the admission arrangements and published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled infant, primary, junior and secondary schools in Stockport for which Stockport Council is the admission authority.
- 1.4 The report also outlines the consultation that has taken place on the proposal to amalgamate Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School and change the age range at Lark Hill Primary School following the announcement of the retirement of the Headteacher at Lark Hill Nursery School.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements once every seven years as a minimum. Stockport Council last consulted on amendments to the admission arrangements in 2022 for September 2024.
- 2.2 Admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements by 28 February annually and these must be published by 15 March. Following determination of the admission arrangements objections to those arrangements must be made to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May.
- 2.3 The proposed admission arrangements for entry in September 2026 for community and voluntary controlled infant, primary, junior and secondary schools are set out in Appendix 1.

2.4 Following the announcement that the Headteacher at Lark Hill Nursery School is retiring at the end of the 2024/25 school year, and after discussions with the Schools, Stockport Council consulted on the option to close Lark Hill Nursery School and expanding the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to enable the school to operate nursery provision at the school and given that both schools are on the same site.

2.5 Both consultations were conducted in line with timetables outlined in the School Admissions Code 2021 and the School Organisation regulations.

3 ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS IN STOCKPORT COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

3.1 In the summer of 2024, a referral was made to the Office of the School Adjudicator (OSA) by a parent relating to the admission arrangements in Stockport and in particular, the catchment area of Queensgate Primary School.

3.2 In considering these matters, the School Adjudicator also looked at the Council's admission arrangements for infant, primary and junior community and voluntary controlled schools. The Adjudicator directed some changes be made to the determined admission arrangements for September 2025 in order to comply with the School Admissions Code and these were made. The changes were:

- Removing the phrase 'admissions policy' and 'categories' when referring to oversubscription criteria
- Revising the definition of maintained schools
- Clarifying the wording of paragraphs relating to the operation of waiting lists
- Clarifying the wording relating to which local authority parents should apply to
- Clarifying the wording of how parents will be notified that the admissions round is open to them to make an application
- Removing a paragraph relating to places being withdrawn in the event of a change in circumstances
- Clarifying the schools that have catchment areas as part of their oversubscription criteria
- Clarifying the arrangements for parents to request deferred entry to primary school and the operation of the summer born policy
- Clarifying the year groups that a Published Admission Number applies to and how prejudice applies to other year groups when deciding if a place is available
- Clarifying the definition of looked after and previously looked children for the purpose of oversubscription criteria
- Clarifying the admission arrangements for junior schools

3.3 In light of this, the admission arrangements for September 2026 have been amended to reflect the directed changes for September 2025 and also the layout has been significantly changed to make them more easily accessible for parents and carers. There are no changes proposed to any of the oversubscription criteria or how places are allocated at Stockport community and voluntary controlled schools. The entirety of the admission arrangements have been consulted on.

4 PROPOSED REDUCTION IN PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 AND RATIONALE

- 4.1 Stockport Council is responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet demand in the area. It does this by reviewing numbers across the borough on a regular basis.
- 4.2 The birthrate in Stockport has fallen significantly over recent years which is leading to high levels of surplus capacity in Key Stage 1 and 2 pupil numbers in some areas and some primary schools.
- 4.3 A consultation was conducted on reducing the published admission number for September 2026 onwards at the following schools:

School	Current PAN	Proposed PAN
Abingdon Primary School	45	30
Arden Primary School	90	60
Lum Head Primary School	45	30
St Paul's C of E Primary School	60	45
Westmorland Primary School	75	60

Abingdon Primary School

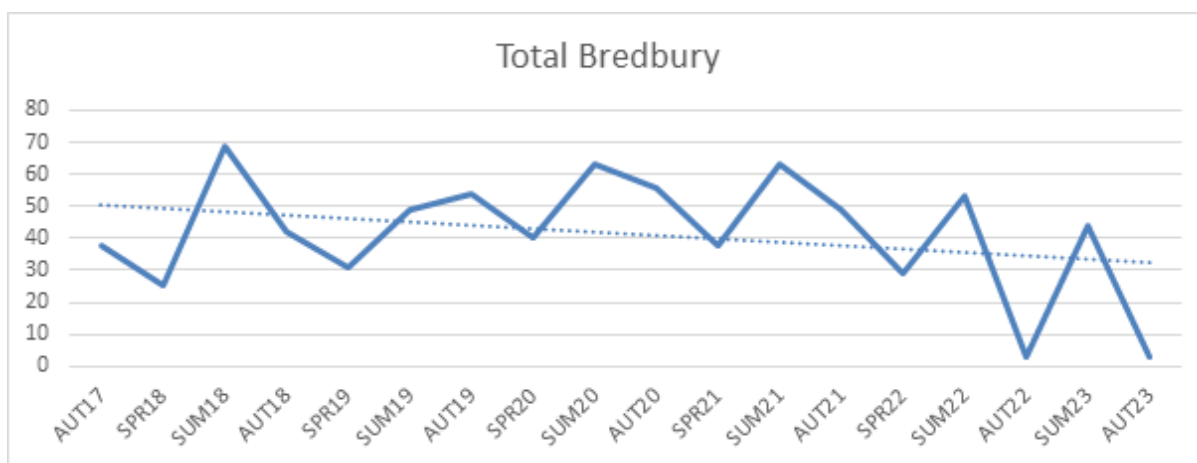
- 4.4 Abingdon Primary School sits in the Reddish cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools.
- 4.5 Data shows that Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at Abingdon are significant.

		Reception intake numbers							
	PAN	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Abingdon	45	35	38	34	40	46	37	37	23

- 4.6 Abingdon was rebuilt in 2016 as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme under a Private Finance Initiative. It was built as a two-form entry school and has a total capacity of 420 places. Due to falling numbers, the PAN was reduced to 45 at the school from September 2024. A further proposed reduction of PAN to 1FE would gradually free up to 7 classrooms with associated ancillary space which could be repurposed to provide other provision which aligns to the Council's current priorities.

Arden Primary School

- 4.7 Arden Primary School sits in the Werneth cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools. The nearest school is Bredbury Green Primary School which is significantly under capacity. The Bredbury birth rate has reduced significantly over the last six years.



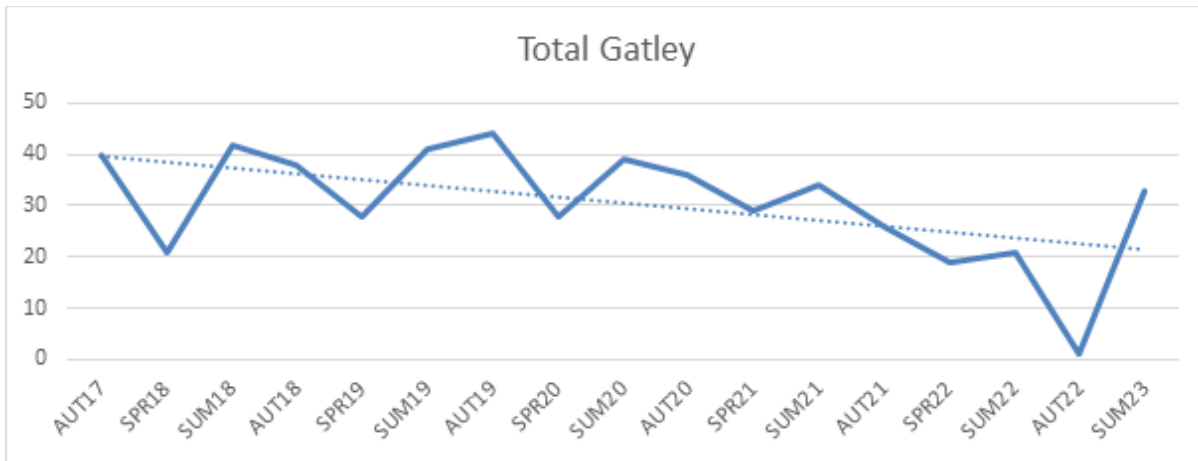
4.8 Data shows that Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at Arden Primary School is growing. Over the last three years, the number of children in Arden’s catchment area has fluctuated but parents are choosing to send their children to a wide range of schools, not just Arden Primary School.

		Reception intake numbers							
	PAN	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arden	90	72	59	75	81	88	64	58	65

4.9 Arden was rebuilt in 2018. A proposed reduction to PAN of 1FE would gradually free up to 7 classrooms with associated ancillary space which could be repurposed to provide other provision which aligns to the Council’s current priorities.

Lum Head Primary School

4.10 Lum Head Primary School sits in the Kingsway cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools. The nearest school is Prospect Vale Primary School which is under capacity in Key Stage 1. The birthrate trend over the last six years is reducing.



4.11 Data shows that Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at Lum Head Primary School are growing. Over the last three years, the number of children in Arden’s catchment area has remained static but parents are choosing to send their children to a wide range of schools, not just Lum Head Primary School.

		Reception intake numbers							
	PAN	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lum Head	45	43	48	28	36	34	31	29	30

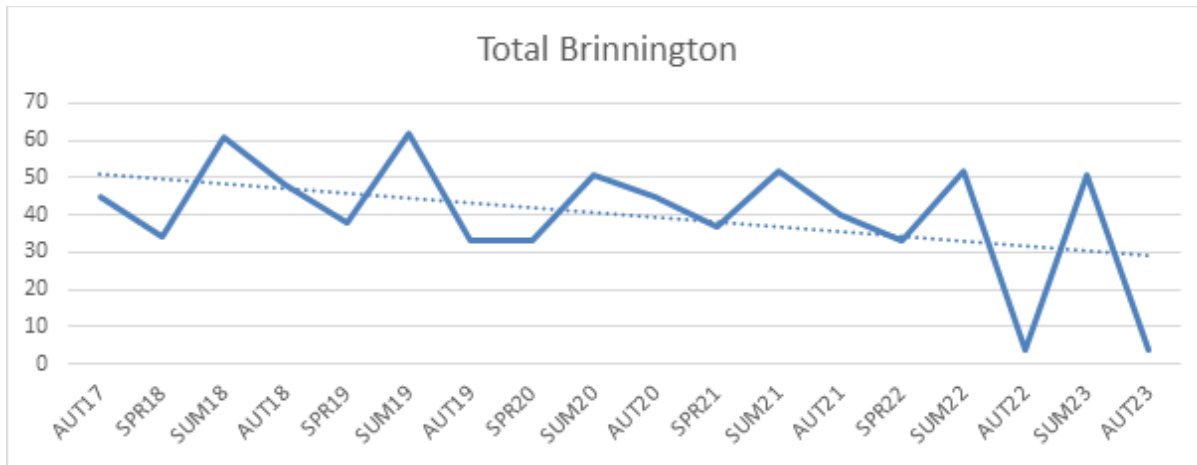
4.12 Lum Head was expanded in around 2016 from 1FE to 1.5FE using basic need funding. Shortly after its expansion a nearby school self-funded an expansion from 2FE to 3FE and created an oversupply of places in the area. Lum Head have sustained themselves despite fluctuating numbers for several years.

4.13 A proposed reduction to PAN from 1.5FE to 1FE would free up 3 classrooms. It is proposed alongside the PAN reduction that the school’s age range be expanded to accommodate an onsite nursery and the creation of an early years foundation stage unit.

4.14 A reduction to 1FE would also mean that the school no longer has to plan for mixed age teaching and learning which is always difficult.

St Paul’s CofE Primary School and Westmorland Primary School

4.15 St Paul’s CofE and Westmorland Primary Schools sit in the Brinnington cluster which has surpluses in excess of 10% across all primary schools. The birth rate in the area has decreased over the last six years.



4.16 Data shows Reception intake numbers are reducing and levels of surplus capacity at both schools is growing. Over the last three years, the number of children in the combined catchment area of the two schools has decreased but parents are choosing to send their children to a wide range of schools, not just St Paul's and Westmorland.

		Reception intake numbers							
	PAN	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
St Paul's CE	60	57	45	53	61	45	48	46	30
Westmorland	90	73	81	70	74	65	73	58	37

4.17 St Paul's was expanded around 2018 from 1.5FE to 2FE to accommodate the increases in demand in the area. Current projections would indicate that a reduction back to 1.5FE would reduce levels of surplus in the area. However, this would mean mixed age classes throughout the school. Whilst current numbers have necessitated that approach within the school for a couple of years, the school may be reluctant to permanently going back to that model.

4.18 A reduction in the PAN at Westmorland Primary School from 2.5FE to 2FE would mean that the school would no longer need to plan for mixed age classes.

4.19 Both St Paul's and Westmorland Primary Schools have significant levels of children with additional needs and feel that reductions in PANs may help to better meet these additional needs within the schools.

5. CONSULTATION AND RESPONSES TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 On 21 October 2024, Stockport Council circulated the proposed published admission numbers and admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for consultation. The closing date for the consultation was 2 December 2024.

5.2 The following organisations were consulted:

- The Headteacher and Governors of all Stockport maintained schools;
- Parents;
- Manchester Local Authority;
- Oldham Local Authority;
- Tameside Local Authority;
- Cheshire East Local Authority;
- Chester Diocese;
- Manchester Diocese;
- Nottingham Diocese
- Salford Diocese;
- Shrewsbury Diocese; and
- Local MPs

5.3 A consultation was opened on Stockport's Citizen Space (Appendix 2) which was scheduled to run from 21 October 2024 until 2 December 2024. Following a meeting with governors at Abingdon Primary School on 26 November 2024, the consultation was extended until 6 December 2024 to allow more time for staff and parents to respond.

5.4 In total, there were 52 responses to the consultation.

Responses to Admission Arrangements consultation

5.5 Out of 52 responses:

32 were supportive of the admission arrangements

Six were not in favour of maintaining the admission arrangements

14 Were unsure or had no view on if they were supportive of the admission arrangements

5.6 The following responses were received:

Proposal	Overall admission arrangements
Comment	Response
As an overall guide yes. It does concern me that some children who live in	Catchment areas are one of the ways that admission authorities use as their

catchment can not get a place at their local school, to which in many cases they could walk. Traffic around schools is a concern but if you are coming from out of area what are you to do? More stringent checks on home addresses needs to be put in place. It might only be a few, but is unfair on others. If you move house should more be done to encourage parents to move to a school nearer the new address?

Queensgate Primary School staff member

oversubscription criteria. In some cases, more children may live within the catchment area than there are places available at the school. However, there will also be schools in an area that do not have catchment areas, for example, Catholic or Church of England school that applicants will also be able to apply for.

The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team who administer the school admissions process have checks in place to identify where there may be a discrepancy between the address on the admissions database and the application. Where it is suspected that an address may be being used fraudulently, the Team follow a process with parents to ask them to prove that the address is their permanent residence.

Recommendation

5.7 The Cabinet is recommended to approve that the admission arrangements for Stockport community and voluntary controlled schools are determined for September 2026 as set out in Appendix 1.

Responses to Admission Numbers consultation

5.8 Out of 52 responses:

33 were supportive of the proposed changes to the Published Admission Numbers
Seven were not in favour of the proposed changes to the Published Admission Numbers

12 were unsure or had no view on the proposed changes to the Published Admission Numbers

5.9 The following responses were received:

Proposal	Reducing PAN at Lum Head Primary School from 45 to 30 (19 responses)
Comment	Response
We would love for there to be a nursery or pre school for our little girl to attend at Lum Head. We feel this would strongly benefit the school and community. Parent	Plans for the accommodation that would be released by the proposals are at an early stage but one of the proposals is the creation of an early years foundation stage as well as additional SEND provision.
smaller entry groups will provide better cohesion for the community Parent	Agreed
I am happy for Lumhead Primary to reduce the PAN to 30 places in future if it will mean creating a nursery on site as proposed. Parent	Agreed
I support this at Lum Head only. Parent	Agreed
A nursery at Lum Head would be a massive success in the local area especially for parents who already have a child in the school as well as a nursery age child Parent	Plans for the accommodation that would be released by the proposals are at an early stage but one of the proposals is the creation of an early years foundation stage as well as additional SEND

Parent	provision.
This would be amazing at Lum Head as children have to go to other school nurseries which is very unsettling	Plans for the accommodation that would be released by the proposals are at an early stage but one of the proposals is the creation of an early years foundation stage as well as additional SEND provision.
Parent	
I would welcome the creation of a nursery at Lum Head primary	Plans for the accommodation that would be released by the proposals are at an early stage but one of the proposals is the creation of an early years foundation stage as well as additional SEND provision.
Parent	
Proposal	Reducing PAN at Arden Primary School from 90 to 60 (12 responses)
Comment	Response
We have 2 children currently in Arden and have one who attended Arden and is now in secondary school education. Arden has a population that is too big for its surroundings to facilitate safe pick ups and drop offs, the high volume of traffic also causes frustration and challenge for the local neighbours. Secondly, due to the number of classes in each year group there are limited spaces on the extracurricular activities meaning not all those who would like to, can attend. The proposals will reduce the traffic and also increase the chances for all who would like to attend the extracurricular activities to get a place.	Agreed
Parent	
My little girl didn't get into Arden Nursery early intake due to not enough spaces. I would love for my daughter to attend Arden in September 2025 and then my youngest to start in September 2027. I worry that the reduction would mean not enough spaces and my children have to go further afield after already starting our Arden journey.	For the last three years, numbers starting in reception at Arden Primary School have been around 60 and numbers are predicted to be around the same level for several years. As the respondent will have a sibling already in the school, they will be in a higher oversubscription criteria. Infant class size legislation says that no infant class should have more than 30 children. The PAN at the school is currently 60 and for the last few years has numbers in Key Stage 1 of between 58 and 65. Whilst Infant Class Size funding means that the school is able to fund one teacher for every 30 pupils in a
Parent	

	<p>class or part class in Key Stage 1, once these classes move into Key Stage 2 there will be no funding other than usual per pupil funding. This could mean that the school has classes in Key Stage 2 of significantly more than 30 with insufficient funding for more than one teacher. Reducing the PAN when there is significant spare capacity in the area would mean that the school has financial stability in the long term as they could manage classes with a maximum of 30 across the key stages.</p>
Proposal	Reducing PAN at Abingdon Primary School from 45 to 30 (13 responses)
Comment	Response
<p>I feel that there is a possibility for population growth to occur over the next few years and with the lack of schools in certain areas this proposed change will be detrimental in that timescale. I am also disappointed the school has not been given the opportunity to work with the LA to come to some understanding before this consultation</p> <p>School staff</p> <p>My response is in relation to the proposed change to the PAN at Abingdon Primary School.</p> <p>-This seems like a quick decision to change the PAN, given that we have only had one year where our intake numbers have dropped below 30. Each year prior to 2024, our intake numbers have been above 30, and therefore a PAN of 45 has been needed.</p> <p>-This will have an impact on staff and their job security, and I worry about the mental wellbeing of staff, during this uncertain time.</p> <p>-As a School with a significant percentage of children with additional need, a reduction in the PAN to 30, means we have less scope to evenly distribute the level of need across two classes. A PAN of 30, means that this will not be possible.</p> <p>-Due to having a significant number of children with additional need and significant number of children who are vulnerable (and require pastoral</p>	<p>The Council uses a range of data to predict future demand for places including birth rates, housing developments, Office for National Statistics all of which is pointing to a flat demand for places in the area for the next few years.</p> <p>Officers from the Council met with the Abingdon's Headteacher prior to the start of the consultation.</p> <p>- Infant class size legislation says that no infant class should have more than 30 children. The PAN at the school is currently 45 and for the last few years has numbers in Key Stage 1 of between 23 and 37. Whilst Infant Class Size funding means that the school is able to fund more than one teacher in Key Stage 1, once these classes move into Key Stage 2 there will be no funding other than usual per pupil funding. This could mean that the school has classes in Key Stage 2 of significantly more than 30 with insufficient funding for more than one teacher. Reducing the PAN when there is significant spare capacity in the area would mean that the school has financial stability in the long term as they could manage classes with a maximum of 30 across the key stages.</p> <p>- Schools needing to reduce staffing because of changes to Published Admission Numbers can be supported to do so by Human Resources at the Council through the policy and guidance</p>

<p>support) our current 'spare classrooms' have already been re-purposed to provide additional support to these children. This includes: a Rainbow Room (pastoral room), Zen Den (Sensory Room) and breakout spaces. Reducing the PAN and taking the available space off us, will mean we will not be able to provide this additional pastoral support to our vulnerable children.</p> <p>School staff</p>	<p>for managing employee reductions. The health and wellbeing of staff is a primary consideration in this process. Any reduction in admission numbers will be phased in over a number of years and so any implications for staffing will also be phased and can be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many Stockport schools have a PAN of 30 and are able to meet the needs of children with additional needs. It is understandable that school has repurposed spare classrooms to support their children. If the reduction in the published admission number is agreed, accommodation would be gradually released and smaller numbers going in to school overall may also reduce the need for additional space. - Additional accommodation could be used to meet the needs of more vulnerable children, for example, by establishing a resource base.
<p>I don't believe one low birth rate year should impact the school in this way. Our school is built for 1.5 form entry and it would be a complete waste of the already built classrooms, resources in the rooms, and the hours staff have spent putting the curriculum together in line with 1.5 entry. Also, what would happen to the school staff on permanent contracts? Would some then have to lose their jobs? How would it be decided in a fair way, which staff would stay and which would go? Our school also hugely benefits from slightly smaller class sizes. Even though the reception uptake may have been smaller this year, we have many children that move to the school throughout the year, increasing numbers.</p> <p>School staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant class size legislation says that no infant class should have more than 30 children. The PAN at the school is currently 45 and for the last few years has numbers in Key Stage 1 of between 23 and 37. Whilst Infant Class Size funding means that the school is able to fund more than one teacher in Key Stage 1, once these classes move into Key Stage 2 there will be no funding other than usual per pupil funding. This could mean that the school has classes in Key Stage 2 of significantly more than 30 with insufficient funding for more than one teacher. Reducing the PAN when there is significant spare capacity in the area would mean that the school has financial stability in the long term as they could manage classes with a maximum of 30 across the key stages. - Schools needing to reduce staffing because of changes to Published Admission Numbers can be supported to do so by Human Resources at the Council through the policy and guidance for managing employee reductions. The health and well being of staff is a primary consideration in this process. Any reduction in admission numbers will be phased in over a number of years

	<p>and so any implications for staffing will also be phased and can be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many Stockport schools have a PAN of 30 and are able to meet the needs of children with additional needs. It is understandable that school has repurposed spare classrooms to support their children. If the reduction in the published admission number is agreed, accommodation would be gradually released and smaller numbers going in to school overall may also reduce the need for additional space. - Additional accommodation could be used to meet the needs of more vulnerable children, for example, by establishing a resource base.
<p>I believe that more thought needs to be given to the impact of reducing PAN at Abingdon. There has been a lot of change recently and this seems to be more change regardless of impact on staff. It will also affect the class sizes - and as we have a high need across the school in terms of SEND and SEMH needs this is not a positive change. At the moment classes are small, because of the needs within each cohort, the reduction of PAN means we would lose that flexibility. The financial changes will also be challenge.</p> <p>Governor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant class size legislation says that no infant class should have more than 30 children. The PAN at the school is currently 45 and for the last few years has numbers in Key Stage 1 of between 23 and 37. Whilst Infant Class Size funding means that the school is able to fund more than one teacher in Key Stage 1, once these classes move into Key Stage 2 there will be no funding other than usual per pupil funding. This could mean that the school has classes in Key Stage 2 of significantly more than 30 with insufficient funding for more than one teacher. Reducing the PAN when there is significant spare capacity in the area would mean that the school has financial stability in the long term as they could manage classes with a maximum of 30 across the key stages. - Schools needing to reduce staffing because of changes to Published Admission Numbers can be supported to do so by Human Resources at the Council through the policy and guidance for managing employee reductions. The health and well being of staff is a primary consideration in this process. Any reduction in admission numbers will be phased in over a number of years and so any implications for staffing will also be phased and can be managed. - many Stockport schools have a PAN of 30 and are able to meet the needs of children with additional needs. It is

	<p>understandable that school has repurposed spare classrooms to support their children. If the reduction in the published admission number is agreed, accommodation would be gradually released and smaller numbers going in to school overall may also reduce the need for additional space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional accommodation could be used to meet the needs of more vulnerable children, for example, by establishing a resource base.
<p>I think this is the best way forward for the school in order to reach financial sustainability and to stabilise workforce planning. I am however concerned about the large class sizes given the specialist needs of a lot of pupils at the school - this will be a challenge and could potentially impinge on delivery.</p> <p>Governor</p>	
<p>At Abingdon, we have a significant number of children with high levels of need both SEND and emotional/pastoral needs. By reducing the school to a single form entry school, the number of children in some classes will increase which will negatively impact the support available for these children. The corresponding decrease in the number of staff in school will also reduce the quality of support that we are able to provide for these children.</p> <p>This is the first year that pupil numbers in Reception have dropped below 30. To make the change now seems to be very reactive when we do not yet know if that trend will continue or if there will be an increased interest in places again in the next few years.</p> <p>The consultation process is already having a negative impact on staff wellbeing as it has created a high level of anxiety amongst staff who are fearful for their jobs. Reducing the school to a single form entry school will presumably mean job losses occurring every year for a number of years. This will have an even greater effect on the mental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant class size legislation says that no infant class should have more than 30 children. The PAN at the school is currently 45 and for the last few years has numbers in Key Stage 1 of between 23 and 37. Whilst Infant Class Size funding means that the school is able to fund more than one teacher in Key Stage 1, once these classes move into Key Stage 2 there will be no funding other than usual per pupil funding. This could mean that the school has classes in Key Stage 2 of significantly more than 30 with insufficient funding for more than one teacher. Reducing the PAN when there is significant spare capacity in the area would mean that the school has financial stability in the long term as they could manage classes with a maximum of 30 across the key stages. - Schools needing to reduce staffing because of changes to Published Admission Numbers can be supported to do so by Human Resources at the Council through the policy and guidance for managing employee reductions. The health and well being of staff is a primary consideration in this process. Any reduction in admission numbers will be phased in over a number of years

<p>and wellbeing off staff at the school who need and deserve job security.</p> <p>School staff</p>	<p>and so any implications for staffing will also be phased and can be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many Stockport schools have a PAN of 30 and are able to meet the needs of children with additional needs. It is understandable that school has repurposed spare classrooms to support their children. If the reduction in the published admission number is agreed, accommodation would be gradually released and smaller numbers going in to school overall may also reduce the need for additional space. - Additional accommodation could be used to meet the needs of more vulnerable children, for example, by establishing a resource base.
<p>Abingdon has a large proportion of children with SEND. These children are often not given the correct support due to the large number of pupils in the school and lack of empty classroom space for interventions. Having a smaller PAN would hopefully enable all children to receive the correct support and hopefully children with additional needs will be identified quicker. My two children have been failed in the current environment.</p> <p>Parent</p>	<p>Stockport Council apologises if a parent has had a poor experience in a school and hopes that parents have brought this to the attention of the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional accommodation could be used to meet the needs of more vulnerable children, for example, by establishing a resource base.
<p>The proposal lack a strategic perspective. It is a rehash of predicted admissions demand. There is a lack of information regarding the age of premises and the predicted maintenance burden of each school. From my perspective there is a missed opportunity to direct resources towards school that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Need support following OFSTED visit b. Schools that have a higher than average number of SEN students. A lower teacher to student ratio would benefit SEN students c. Redirection of demand towards schools that have been recently rebuilt in order to get the best use of resources (ie money spent) <p>Governor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant class size legislation says that no infant class should have more than 30 children. The PAN at the school is currently 45 and for the last few years has numbers in Key Stage 1 of between 23 and 37. Whilst Infant Class Size funding means that the school is able to fund more than one teacher in Key Stage 1, once these classes move into Key Stage 2 there will be no funding other than usual per pupil funding. This could mean that the school has classes in Key Stage 2 of significantly more than 30 with insufficient funding for more than one teacher. Reducing the PAN when there is significant spare capacity in the area would mean that the school has financial stability in the long term as they could manage classes with a maximum of 30 across the key stages. - Schools needing to reduce staffing

	<p>because of changes to Published Admission Numbers can be supported to do so by Human Resources at the Council through the policy and guidance for managing employee reductions. The health and well being of staff is a primary consideration in this process. Any reduction in admission numbers will be phased in over a number of years and so any implications for staffing will also be phased and can be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many Stockport schools have a PAN of 30 and are able to meet the needs of children with additional needs. It is understandable that school has repurposed spare classrooms to support their children. If the reduction in the published admission number is agreed, accommodation would be gradually released and smaller numbers going in to school overall may also reduce the need for additional space. - Additional accommodation could be used to meet the needs of more vulnerable children, for example, by establishing a resource base.
Proposal	Reducing PAN at Westmorland Primary School from 75 to 60 (1 response)
Comment	Response
<p>We have discussed this at the full board meeting last month. Governors agreed that this proposal was in the best interest of the school (Westmorland) and that they would work with the LA to achieve this. There was some discussion/difference of opinion about how this could be achieved with least disruption BUT all in all the Governors AGREED with the proposal.</p> <p>Headteacher</p>	
Proposal	Reducing PAN at St Paul's Primary School from 60 to 45
Comment	Response
No comments received in respect of this proposal	

Recommendations

5.10 The Cabinet is recommended to approve that, from September 2026:

The published admission number at Abingdon Primary School is reduced to 30
 The published admission number at Arden Primary School is reduced to 60
 The published admission number at Lum Head Primary School is reduced to 30
 The published admission number at St Paul's C of E Primary School is reduced to 45
 The published admission number at Westmorland Primary School is reduced to 60

6. CHANGES TO AGE RANGES

6.1 The consultation proposed expanding the age range at:

- Lum Head Primary School from 5 – 11 to 3 to 11 to create nursery age provision
- Highfields College Pupil Referral Service from 11 – 16 to 11 – 19 to support a pilot project of specialist post 16 provision for cared for children that are referred by Stockport's Virtual School.

6.2 During the consultation, four responses were received that directly mentioned the creation of nursery provision at Lum Head Primary School and all 19 responses associated with Lum Head Primary School were in favour of the reduction of PAN and the creation of nursery provision

Proposal	Comment	Respondent
Expand the age range at Lum Head to create nursery age provision	We would love for there to be a nursery or pre school for our little girl to attend at Lum Head.	Parent
	A nursery at Lum Head would be a massive success in the local area especially for parents who already have a child in the school as well as a nursery age child	Parent
	This would be amazing at Lum Head as children have to go to other school nurseries which is very unsettling	Parent
	I would welcome the creation of a nursery at Lum Head primary	Parent
Expand the age range of Highfields College Pupil Referral Service from 11 – 16 to 11 - 19	No responses were received for this proposal	

Recommendations

6.3 The Cabinet is recommended to approve that:

The age range of Lum Head Primary School is expanded to 3 - 11

The age range of Highfields College Pupil Referral Service is expanded to 11 - 19

7. CLOSURE OF LARK HILL NURSERY SCHOOL AND EXPANDING THE AGE RANGE AT LARK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

7.1 Each time a nursery school Headteacher announces their intention to retire, consideration is given to whether the school should unite with a local school to become a single primary school. The Headteacher at Lark Hill Nursery School will retire at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. As such, a proposal was put forward to amalgamate Lark Hill Nursery and Lark Hill Primary schools to become a single primary school (with nursery provision continuing within the new school) from 1st September 2025.

7.2 Following a series of meetings with both schools, a pre consultation took place from 16 September to 18 October 2024. The consultation was sent to:

- Parent/Carers
- Staff
- Governing Bodies and academy trusts
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Trade union representatives and professional associations
- Elected members and MPs

7.3 A drop in session for parents was held at the Nursery School on 14 October 2024 and colleagues from Human Resources also offered a meeting with staff.

7.4 A consultation was opened on Stockport's Citizen Space which also ran from 16 September to 18 October 2024 (Appendix 3). The consultation outlined the rationale for the proposals including:

- Leadership and visions
- Transition and supporting pupils' progress
- Sharing resources / expertise and efficiency gains
- Staffing
- Role models / social development of pupils

7.5 A total of 22 responses were received to the pre consultation (Appendix 4).

7.6 Of the 22 responses received, three were in favour of the proposals; 16 were not in favour and three offered no opinion.

Proposal	Close Lark Hill Nursery School and expand the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to offer nursery provision
Comment	Response

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Comment	Response
<p>Personal grievances submitted to the consultation that are not relevant to the proposals and have been omitted as they could be seen as slanderous</p> <p>Past parent</p>	
<p>Nursery Schools are unique and precious. Evidence clearly demonstrates the amazing impact that they have on children's early learning and development. This is a short sighted win in economic terms but a huge loss to your community and it's longer term educational gains.</p> <p>Nursery Headteacher</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school</p>
<p>I think given the circumstances this option would best suit the nursery in order to maintain the current ethos and supporting the staff in the best possible way.</p> <p>I love that it was a stand alone nursery school as my children attend a different primary school. My children have loved being a part of Larkhill nursery and they have been brilliant especially with my autistic son. But this proposal will surely</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

Proposal	Close Lark Hill Nursery School and expand the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to offer nursery provision
Comment	Response
<p>be the best possible option</p> <p>Parent governor</p>	
<p>I want to believe its a good decision, But going off other primary school run nursery, I don't think the same care and attention will be kept to the high standard it is now. Larkhill have always been excellent because of the amount of amazing staff and hopefully they will all be kept in the nursery. My little girl is due to go larkhill next September and I wouldn't be confident if it didn't have the same staff/number of staff as it does now. I couldn't thank the team there enough for everything they did for my little boy, they went above and beyond for him. Little trips to the park/postbox, nursery trips for the family, water days when it's hot, and thats not all! But I think if it changed to a primary run nursery, these amazing things wouldn't happen. If I had a choice, I would go with the option to keep the nursery as it was, but get a new headteacher. Although jo will be missed greatly.</p> <p>Past parent</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school</p>
<p>I believe having the staff only focusing on the nursery age children has given my daughter the best start to her education. My daughter came from a private nursery and i moved her here after larkhill nursery being part of my family for the last 16 years. Their priority is the children in the nursery , their only focus is the children in the nursery. My daughter has SEND needs and she was 100% treated and cared for amazingly as a smaller setting they are able to focus and cater to children's needs. Most of the practitioners are the same</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring</p>

Proposal	Close Lark Hill Nursery School and expand the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to offer nursery provision
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<p>practitioners my 16 year old sister was cared for by and she still talks fondly of them. I will be very saddened if the community of this nursery was to change, I would think twice about sending any future children here as i do not agree with the school and have chosen not to send my daughter to the primary school.</p> <p>Past parent</p>	<p>consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school Both Schools are proudly inclusive and the extended age Primary School will be able to benefit from expertise across 2-11 age range.</p> <p>Lark Hill Nursery School staff have joined the Primary School in staff training and have had extensive training on Autism, Communication, ELSA, ELKLAN and the current Nursery Teacher has completed the NASENCO training as of July 2024.</p> <p>All schools have the same duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014 to identify and provide for children with SEN. Unless there are specific provisions named in a statutory plan which would make admission incompatible with the requirement for reasonable adjustments, it is a legal requirement for all schools to comply. As the barriers to learning that a child with SEN might experience change over time, Stockport Council would expect provision to adapt and change alongside these developments. In some cases, children may cease to be identified as having SEN if appropriate adjustments are put in place to enable them to overcome</p>

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<p>I think children benefit from being in a smaller group with peers of a similar age. I think unstructured free play is important, rather than a focus on responsibilities. We have received exceptional support from the nursery staff to help our daughter settle, including a home visit, providing flexibility and showing a genuine interest in what she enjoys, helping to build rapport.</p> <p>If it is a concern about lacks of funds due to a shortage of children attending, perhaps looking at advertising places? Investing in a sensory room to make the provision inclusive of a wider range of children e.g. SEN children. Or focusing on what lark hill can offer that is different from other provisions in the local area, ie, the wonderful natural outdoor space particularly stood out to us (compared to cramped astroturf)</p>	<p>barriers and to make progress in line with their peers.</p> <p>There are reducing numbers of children in Stockport in early years and primary education which is having an impact across the borough. There are proposals to reduce admission numbers in some primary schools because of this. Lark Hill Nursery School has seen their numbers reduce over recent years and in January 2024 had 29.5 full time equivalent children.</p> <p>Recent expansion of the entitlement to free childcare for 2 year olds has had an impact on local provision but there is sufficient provision in the local area to meet demand. Using population data analysis, there is no predicted increases in local population for the next 8 years.</p>
<p>Parent</p> <p>I feel that the Nursery operates outstanding early years provision and is able to support their children and families using their bespoke expertise on everything early years. I worry if they were to be absorbed into the school for the purpose of consistency, they would lose their ability to serve the needs of their children and families. They would have to alter practice to suit the whole school's ideals. Many of my colleagues working within a whole school nursery have to follow ways of working that does not follow the early years ethos.</p> <p>Nursery Teacher at another school</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p>

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	Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school
Nursery education is entirely different to that of school Not stated	The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.
Keep it as a separate nursery school which can specialise in 2-4 year old education rather than being swallowed up in a school where the headteacher will be more focused on ks2 as that is what Ofsted + league tables focus on. Stockport Nursery educator	The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities. The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school
Continue as a separate nursery. Lark Hill is always outstanding and the	The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make

Proposal	Close Lark Hill Nursery School and expand the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to offer nursery provision
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<p>quality of provision remains high. Schools tend to have a top down approach and it sounds like a cost cutting exercise.</p> <p>Nursery Teacher at another school</p>	<p>but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school</p>
<p>Maintained Nursery schools are declining sadly across England and yet research shows they are the best setting to ensure a good start for young children.</p> <p>To close the nursery and create an Add on at the primary school shows the little knowledge and understanding of early years by the council!</p> <p>In countries across Europe the early years are a separate school and are either kindergartens or forskolen or barnhages or pre schools and focus entirely on the youngest years. There is no top down approach and everything about the schools ensure the children have their early years protected!</p> <p>Maintained Nursery schools are the closest to this and they are an essential</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people</p>

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<p>part of the community. It would be shortsighted to close it and shows a complete disregard to vulnerable families!</p> <p>Head of a maintained nursery</p>	<p>of Edgeley Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older. One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school</p>
<p>Short sightedness to close maintained nursery school. Federating of schools. Expanding the nursery to include under 2's.</p> <p>Anonymous respondent</p>	<p>There are reducing numbers of children in Stockport in early years and primary education which is having an impact across the borough. There are proposals to reduce admission numbers in some primary schools because of this. Lark Hill Nursery School has seen their numbers reduce over recent years and in January 2024 had 29.5 full time equivalent children.</p> <p>Recent expansion of the entitlement to free childcare for 2 year olds has had an impact on local provision but there is sufficient provision in the local area to meet demand. Using population data analysis, there is no predicted increases in local population for the next 8 years.</p>
<p>I am proud to have been the Headteacher of Lark Hill Nursery School for what will have been 20 years by the time I retire and a Teacher for 31 years.</p> <p>I believe Nursery Schools serve a unique purpose. They were originally mainly set up in areas of deprivation to make a difference to the children and families. It was recognised that leadership which focused solely on the Early Years and a very well qualified and expert staff made the difference to the quality of what the children and families were offered and the outcomes for the children.</p> <p>I cannot say yes to this proposal as I</p>	

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<p>believe that Nursery Schools are different and because their Headteacher and Staff focus on the age range of the youngest children offer something special which is inclusive, innovative and effective for their children. I cannot, however say no to this proposal either as I recognise we are no longer financially viable in our current form. I know Stuart Kelly, the Headteacher of Lark Hill Primary School and his team are committed to building on the amazing expertise that Lark Hill Nursery School has to offer an amazing Nursery Class.</p> <p>This was however, not the only option. As a Nursery School reflecting on our journey and choices in development it is possible that opportunities may have been missed to have offered families all year round provision and provision for under 2 year olds as I know they need. We are, however proud to have offered families flexibility of high quality places and responded to what they have told us they have needed. We have also been creative and adventurous in the curriculum which our children have been offered. I know we have set them up well for their future education.</p> <p>I also think though there is learning for the Local Authority when it has approved new Nursery provision in the area. Has it really considered the impact on existing provision? Could other models have been considered further such as a Federation with an Executive Head from the existing Nursery Heads? This can be an expensive model but it could have been explored in more depth to see if it was viable as other Local Authorities have. I also wonder if they could have thought differently about what the Nursery could become and considered this further. We have</p>	

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Comment	Response
<p>witnessed a significant growth in Special Educational Needs in our children. I believe we operate as a Resourced Nursery (without the benefit of additional funding) and maybe what our local children need is a new Resourced provision?</p> <p>As the future of other Nursery Schools will eventually be considered I urge the Local Authority to consider what they are losing by closing a Nursery School and not always to default to closure when a Headteacher leaves. The proposal only describes what will be gained and does not describe what will be lost.</p> <p>Lark Hill Nursery School Headteacher</p>	
<p>My concern is that at present there is a specialist Early Years department. There is a Headteacher and Teacher whose initial training was in Early Years and between them have lots of experience in early years.</p> <p>The children who attend the nursery are the Headteacher and staff's main priority where as in a school I fear that they are not priority given the other pressures put on a Headteacher for a school.</p> <p>Former staff member</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older.</p>

Proposal	Close Lark Hill Nursery School and expand the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to offer nursery provision
Comment	Response
	One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school
<p>Research consistently shows that maintained nursery schools (MNS) provide higher quality provision with better outcomes than nursery classes in primary schools or other forms of group-based provision. This is because of the specialist expertise and pedagogical leadership of the headteacher and leadership team, and the high level of staff expertise, qualifications and experience. There is a presumption against closure of MNS because of this expertise and quality provision, which over time is eroded and lost when MNS are merged with primaries to become nursery classes.</p> <p>MNS also provide higher levels of support for vulnerable children, taking in higher numbers of children with SEND than any other form of provider as well as providing support for children looked after and those with complex needs. Either the primary school will have to take on this additional workload, without the MNS supplementary funding, or the need will have to be met elsewhere, or the needs of the most vulnerable children will be less well met or not met at all.</p> <p>The retirement of a headteacher is not a good rationale for closing a nursery school.</p> <p>National early years sector body supporting all early years provision</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older.</p> <p>One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school. Both Schools are proudly inclusive and the extended age Primary School will be able to benefit from expertise across 2-11 age range.</p> <p>Lark Hill Nursery School staff have joined the Primary School in staff training and have had extensive training on Autism, Communication, ELSA, ELKLAN and the current Nursery Teacher has completed the NASENCO training as of July 2024.</p> <p>All schools have the same duties under</p>

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	<p>the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014 to identify and provide for children with SEN. Unless there are specific provisions named in a statutory plan which would make admission incompatible with the requirement for reasonable adjustments, it is a legal requirement for all schools to comply. As the barriers to learning that a child with SEN might experience change over time, Stockport Council would expect provision to adapt and change alongside these developments. In some cases, children may cease to be identified as having SEN if appropriate adjustments are put in place to enable them to overcome barriers and to make progress in line with their peers.</p>
<p>The federation of Nursery schools could be considered as this would retain the current expertise of the EYFS within Stockport.</p> <p>Part of nursery school cluster</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the contribution that nursery schools make but also has to balance that with its financial responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area. The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children. A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life. The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley</p> <p>Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older.</p> <p>One school would allow for high levels</p>

Proposal	Close Lark Hill Nursery School and expand the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to offer nursery provision
Comment	Response
	of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school

7.7 Following the outcome of the pre consultation, statutory proposals were published (Appendix 5) from 29 October to 2 December 2024. A public notice was published in the Stockport Express on 30 October 2024 (Appendix 6). The statutory proposals were sent to:

- Parent/Carers
- Staff
- Governing Bodies and academy trusts
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Trade union representatives and professional associations
- Elected members and MPs

7.8 The statutory proposals were also published on Stockport's Citizen Space and followed guidance from the Department for Education and covered the following statutory requirements:

- Implementation
- Reasons for the proposals
- Objectives
- Pupil numbers and admissions
- Displaced pupils
- Impact on the community
- Balance of denominational provision
- Maintained nursery schools
- Special educational needs provision
- Travel
- The effect on other educational institutions within the area
- Project costs

7.9 There were three responses to the statutory proposals, all of which were in favour of the proposals. One response was from the governing body of Lark Hill Primary School (Appendix 7).

Responses received to statutory proposals
This now feels like the only option, I do feel the LA have not considered other options fully, and haven't protected the nursery in the past from it's current situation (ie restricting letting so many private nurseries open in the area, considering impact of

opening of a new maintained school nursery) and financial support for nurseries has been reduced to a point where this school is not sustainable in its current model

Governor Lark Hill Nursery School

The proposal to close Lark Hill Nursery and extend the age range at Lark Hill Primary will bring positive changes - streamline resources, improve continuity of education for children and provide an integrated learning environment. This will create a stronger sense of community within the local area.

Local headteacher

As governors of Lark Hill Primary School we support the proposed closure of Lark Hill Nursery School and expansion of the age range of Lark Hill Primary School to include nursery provision. Our reasons for supporting the proposal are as follows:

- It is vital that the community continues to have high quality nursery provision for two-year-olds, three-year-olds and four-year-olds. The precarious financial position of Lark Hill Nursery School makes this continued provision highly vulnerable. The efficiency savings that could be made by incorporating the nursery provision into the primary school can safeguard the continuance of high-quality provision for nursery-age children in this community.
- There is a strong commitment from Lark Hill Primary School's Governing Body, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to maintain and enhance the existing outstanding provision of Lark Hill Nursery School. The two schools' leadership teams and wider staff are working together to more closely align practice and make the transition from nursery to reception ever more coherent. To this end, the Early Years external consultant who works with Lark Hill Nursery School is booked in to also audit provision in the reception class of Lark Hill Primary School this half term. We will receive reports at the next Full Governing Body meeting as to how aligned provision currently is and what recommendations are made in respect of smoothing the transition, developing levels of school-readiness and ensuring that all of the very best child-development work that takes place in the nursery is, at a developmentally appropriate level, continued into reception.
- By 2026 the plan is to have an integrated Foundation Stage ensuring smoother transition and sharing of best practice between nursery and reception classes with both classes and their respective teachers working together on the same site.
- There are no plans to lose any of the expertise of the nursery school's teaching staff. We look forward to welcoming them into the staff of the primary school and utilising all of their considerable expertise and skills.
- The opportunities for the school to forge relationships with families from a much earlier stage has great potential for earlier identification of needs and attendant referrals and support to be put in place. It also removes the need for families to have to learn to trust new people all over again when their child transitions into reception.

The Governing Body- Lark Hill Primary School

Implications for staff

7.10 Colleagues from Human Resources have been involved with meeting staff at both schools. Should a decision be made to close Lark Hill Nursery School, Stockport Council has a Managing Employee Reductions policy which will be implemented.

7.11 Due to the delegated arrangements for employment of staff by schools, the formal closure of the Nursery School would mean the Nursery School staff posts would be placed 'at risk'. The Nursery School would become a class of the Primary School. Consultation will take place with the Governing Body of the Primary School to secure ring fenced recruitment for staff affected by proposals in the first instance. The Council and employee representatives will work together with the Headteachers, and Governing Boards, to seek to ensure that all employees affected by the school closure are treated fairly. It is recognised that school closures can have a detrimental impact on the jobs of staff working in affected schools. However, the Council will seek to minimise the impact of the review on individual staff by endeavouring to maintain continuity of employment with Stockport Council.

Recommendations

7.12 The Cabinet is recommended to approve that:

Lark Hill Nursery School is discontinued with effect from 25 July 2025 and the age range of Lark Hill Primary School is changed from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to create a primary school with nursery provision with effect from 1 September 2025

8. LEGAL COMMENTS

8.1 The Admissions Code of Practice 2021 specifies the process, timelines and governance arrangements required to make a change to a school's Published admissions number for whom the LA is the admissions authority.

8.2 Making Significant Changes (Prescribed Alterations) to Maintained Schools 2024 specifies the process, timelines and governance arrangements required to make a change to a school such as age range and closure.

9. FINANCE COMMENTS

9.1 There are no direct financial implications in relation to the proposed adjusted to school PAN levels (i.e. all dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding for schools is based on actual pupil number levels.

9.2 There are potential financial implications via the managing employee reductions (MER) process to be applied to the closure of Larkhill Nursery School (i.e. potential redundancy costs). All such costs will be managed/financed by the LA as part of the closure process and any associated costs financed from DSG centrally held resources.

10. HR COMMENTS

10.1 SMBC HR service directly involved. Staff have been consulted as part of proposals and no written feedback or concerns were raised that required response or action.

11. EQUALIITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An equality impact assessment has been reviewed as part of the school organisation service's programme of work over the next year. The assessment is attached to the service's School Investment Plan. There are no areas or characteristics that are negatively impacted upon by these proposals or the service's wider body of work.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve that:

- The admission arrangements for Stockport community and voluntary controlled schools are determined for September 2026 as set out in Appendix 1.
- The published admission number at Abingdon Primary School is reduced to 30 from September 2026
- The published admission number at Arden Primary School is reduced to 60 from September 2026
- The published admission number at Lum Head Primary School is reduced to 30 from September 2026
- The published admission number at St Paul's C of E Primary School is reduced to 45 from September 2026
- The published admission number at Westmorland Primary School is reduced to 60 from September 2026
- The age range of Lum Head Primary School is expanded to 3 - 11
- The age range of Highfields College Pupil Referral Service is expanded to 11 – 19
- Lark Hill Nursery School is discontinued with effect from 25 July 2025 and the age range of Lark Hill Primary School is changed from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to create a primary school with nursery provision with effect from 1 September 2025

Stockport Council
Proposed Coordinated admissions scheme for all maintained schools
in the Stockport area 2026/ 27

1 Scope

- 1.1 This scheme fulfils the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 and the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 for the area of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 1.2 The scheme applies to arrangements in Stockport whereby children are to be admitted to:
- a) Infant and Primary schools during the normal admissions round for the academic year 2026/27 (i.e. children who will be commencing primary education in Reception in September 2026)
 - b) Junior schools during the normal admissions round for the academic year 2026/27 (ie children who will be leaving an infant school and commencing Year 3 at a junior school in September 2026)
 - c) Secondary schools during the normal admissions round for the academic year 2026/27 (i.e. children who will be commencing secondary education in Year 7 in September 2026)
 - d) Maintained schools in-year i.e. outside the normal admission rounds (Reception and Year 7) in the academic year 2026/27

Processes for (a) & (b) are detailed in points 2 – 10 below. Processes for (c) are detailed in points 11 – 15 below.

- 1.3 Parents of children in the relevant age groups in (a) & (b) above will be identified from the following sources:

Infant, Primary and Junior

- In-house pupil database and maintained nursery schools and classes within Stockport
- Registered independent and voluntary nursery providers within Stockport
- Information from neighbouring Local Authorities

Secondary

- In-house pupil database and maintained primary and junior schools within Stockport
- Maintained primary schools outside Stockport where children resident in Stockport are likely to attend
- Independent schools where children resident in Stockport are likely to attend
- Information from neighbouring Local Authorities

- 1.4 The following Admission Authorities are covered by this scheme:

Admissions Authority	Type of Schools
Stockport Council	Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary Schools Community Infant, Junior, Primary and High Schools
The Governing Body of	Voluntary Aided Catholic Infant, Junior, Primary and High Schools
The Governing Body of	Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary Schools
The Governing Body of	Voluntary Aided Jewish Primary School
The Trust of	Primary and Secondary Academies

2 Application – Normal Admission Rounds (Reception, Year 3 for Junior schools & Year 7 intakes)

2.1 All applications from parents/ carers resident in Stockport for a maintained school place must be made on the online application form provided online at <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. If a parent cannot access the online system from home, the facility is available from some of the many Information Centres across the Borough including:

2.2 The online application system provides an opportunity for the parent to:

- State the name, address and date of birth of the child
- State parents' name and address
- Apply for up to 6 schools
- Give reasons for the application and the stated preferences
- Rank the schools applied for in order of preference

2.3 The online application service and Stockport Council's composite prospectus will be available to parents no later than 12 September via Stockport Council's website. Parents resident in Stockport will be clearly informed that they must use the online application form via the online system to apply for maintained schools outside Stockport.

2.4 Parents resident in the area of another Council must use the Online Application Form supplied by their own home Council to apply for schools inside or outside of their own home Council area.

2.5 Stockport will raise awareness as follows:

Infant and Primary

- Stockport Council website and other Council social media channels

Junior and Secondary

- Stockport Council website and other Council social media channels

- For children attending maintained infant and primary schools in Stockport, letters will be provided to parents by Stockport Council's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team at the beginning of the Year 2 for infant schools and Year 6 for secondary schools

2.6 Parents applying for a school place in the area of another Council may be required to complete supplementary application details upon request from another Council.

2.7 In the case of an application for a school designated as having a religious character (denominational school), parents/carers will be asked to state the religious denomination of their child on the application form. Parents/carers will be required to show evidence at the relevant school, this may be via a supplementary information form, available on the Stockport Council website or direct from the school.

2.8 In all cases, application must be made by the parent by the following closing dates:

- **Infant and Primary – 15 January 2026**
- **Junior and Secondary – 31 October 2025**

2.9 The online application system will automatically send an electronic receipt when an application is successfully submitted.

3 Change of Preference / Address

3.1 If a parent/ carer wishes to change their preferences before the closing dates for applications to be received (see 2.8 above), they can log into the system using their password and make their amendments. NB the application must be resubmitted to ensure the changes are recorded.

3.2 Applications to change a preference after the published closing dates will not be accepted by the Council unless it is determined by the Director of Education or other appropriate Admissions Authority that there are exceptional and genuine reasons for the lateness e.g. a house move.

3.3 Full details must be provided to the Council for consideration. In the case of a recent house move confirmation of disposal of previous property, exchange of contracts/tenancy agreement and utility bills will be required.

3.4 Changes of address must be notified to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team by no later than 24 January 2026 for Junior and Year 7 applications and 8 March 2026 for Reception applications. All notifications must include proof of house move for example, confirmation of disposal of previous property, exchange of contracts/tenancy agreement and utility bills. Changes of address notified to Stockport Council after these dates will not be considered when allocating places before the relevant national offer day.

4 Co-ordination of Applications – Parents Resident In Stockport's Area

4.1 Applications for Voluntary Aided schools and Academies will be made available to the Admission Authority for each school. In practice the School Places,

Admissions and Transport Team, on behalf of the Governing Body / Trust, will apply the determined admissions criteria for each application for the school. Preference ranking will not be shared with school admission authority prior to consideration of applications as this cannot lawfully be used when applying oversubscription criteria.

- 4.2 The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will rank, by application of Stockport Council's determined admissions criteria, the order of priority for admission to Community schools and Voluntary Controlled schools.
- 4.3 Where the application includes a school maintained by another Council (the maintaining authority) the full details of that application (including any necessary supplementary information and any supporting reasons relevant to the application for that school) will be exchanged with that Council.
- 4.4 The maintaining Authority will determine (as provided for in the maintaining Authority's scheme) whether a place can potentially be offered at that school.

5 Co-ordination of Applications – Parents Resident in the Area of Another Authority

- 5.1 Applications for places in Stockport maintained schools from parents/ carers resident outside Stockport will be forwarded by the home authority to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team
- 5.2 The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will rank the order of priority for any application received, in accordance with the relevant oversubscription criteria as outlined above.
- 5.3 Stockport Council will inform other Councils whether a place can be offered or not at a Stockport school to pupils resident in their area.

6 Determination and Notification of Applications

- 6.1 Where the application concerns a child for whom an Education, Health and Care Plan has been issued which names the school, this will have priority over other applications.
- 6.2 Applications for all schools will be determined by application of each schools' published oversubscription criteria.
- 6.3 All preferences for maintained schools in Stockport will be treated equally as if they were all first preferences.
- 6.4 Where a parent resident in Stockport has expressed a preference for a school in another Council area, that Authority will advise Stockport's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team of the outcome of that application.
- 6.5 Where Stockport has received a preference from a parent resident in another Council, Stockport's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will inform the Council where the parent is resident of the outcome of that application.

- 6.6 If, as a result of this process, more than one school place can potentially be offered, the single offer will be for the school the parent has ranked the highest.
- 6.7 Where it is not possible to allocate a place at any of the schools applied for, a parent resident in Stockport will be allocated a place at the nearest available maintained school in the Authority area with a place available, taking account of any reasons submitted for their preferences.
- 6.8 The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will notify each of the maintained schools in Stockport of the children to be offered places at that school.

7 Offers to Parents

- 7.1 The online system will generate an e-mail notification of the school place offered to their child on:
- **Infant, Primary and Junior – 16 April 2026**
 - **Secondary – 2 March 2026**
- 7.2 Parents can also log into their online account to view their allocation. If the application was late, parents will receive an offer at a later date. Parents will only receive an offer of one school place. If parents live in another Council area, they will receive their offer directly from them. Schools will not contact parents about the outcome of their application until after the offers have been received. Only the Council can make an official offer.

8 Acceptance of Offers

- 8.1 Parents / carers will be required to sign into the online system and accept the offer of the school place. The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team would appreciate parental responses within 14 days of the school place being offered. Failure to respond may result in a child on the waiting list being disadvantaged.
- 8.2 The acceptance response provides the parent the opportunity to:
- Accept the place offered
 - Accept the place offered and for their child's name to remain on the waiting list for a higher ranked school until 31 December
 - Refuse the school place offered, however parents must state where alternative education has been secured. Any attempt to refuse the school place offered without alternative education in place will be discarded. Examples of alternative education include:
 - Elective Home Education
 - A place at an Independent School
- 8.3 The Council reserves the right to withdraw places not accepted by the date specified.

9 Waiting Lists

- 9.1 Waiting lists will be kept in respect of applications for all oversubscribed schools ordered by the published admissions criteria. Where a place becomes available at a school, it will be offered to the parent of the child at the top of the waiting list for that school.
- 9.2 Waiting lists for oversubscribed schools will be maintained by the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team until the 31 December 2026 for Nursery, Reception and Year 7 or the full academic year for all other year groups. Where appropriate, offers to parents will be made in conjunction with the relevant Admission Authority.
- 9.3 After the 31 December the normal in-year admissions process will take over and any parents wishing to have their child's name included on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year will need to re-apply.
- 9.4 Parents wishing to have their child's name included in the waiting list the following academic year must complete a new application.

10 Applications received after the closing date

- 10.1 Applications received after the published closing dates will be dealt with:
- in accordance with published admission criteria and in most cases placed in the last category of the oversubscription criteria i.e. received after the closing date and ranked by the preceding oversubscription criteria.
 - as if it were not late, where it is determined by the Director of Education or other appropriate Admissions Authority that there are genuine reasons for the lateness, i.e. exceptional medical or social reasons preventing an earlier application being made or a recent house move.
- 10.2 Applicants moving into the Stockport area after the published closing date will be able to apply online 2 days after the closing date when the online system will re-open.
- 10.3 Applications received after the closing date are considered as such until 14 days after offer day, at which point, all applications received after the closing date will be considered as being 'on-time' applications.

11 **Summaries of Timetables**

11.1	Infant and Primary Intake Timetable	
	15 January 2026	Closing Date for applications to be received

	22 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockport Council sends applications for schools outside Stockport to the appropriate Council Other Local Authorities send applications for schools in Stockport to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team
	8 March 2026	Last date that changes of address can be submitted
	11 March 2026	Exchange of offer status with other Local Authorities begins
	25 March 2026	Resolution of offer status exchanged with other local authorities
	9 April 2026	Stockport maintained schools informed by Admissions Team of the results, which may include offers to pupils living in other Local Authorities
	16 April 2026	Offers made by Stockport Council to parents/carers resident in the area. Offers made to parents in other Council areas by their home authority
	16 May 2026	Deadline for appeals to be submitted to be guaranteed to be heard before the summer holidays
	Where a vacancy arises, places continue to be offered from the waiting list	
	June – July 2026	Appeals heard
	1 September 2026	Academic Year commences
11.2	Junior Intake Timetable	
	31 October 2025	Closing Date for applications to be received
	24 January 2026	Last date that changes of address can be submitted
	16 April 2026	Offers made by Stockport Council to parents/carers resident in the area. Offers made to parents in other Council areas by their home authority
	16 May 2026	Deadline for appeals to be submitted to be guaranteed to be heard before the summer holidays
	Where a vacancy arises, places continue to be offered from the waiting list	
	June – July 2026	Appeals heard
	1 September 2026	Academic Year commences
11.3	Secondary Intake Timetable	
	31 October 2025	Closing Date for Applications
	6 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockport Council sends applications for schools outside Stockport to the appropriate Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Local Authorities send applications for schools in Stockport to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team

	8 January 2026	Exchange of offer status with other Local Authorities begins
	24 January 2026	Last date that changes of address can be submitted
	5 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution of offer status exchanged with other Local Authorities • Other Local Authorities reciprocate
	25 February 2026	Stockport maintained schools informed by Admissions Team of the results, which may include offers to pupils living in other Council areas
	2 March 2026	Offers made by Stockport Council to parents/ carers resident in the area. Offers made to parents in other Council areas by their home Authority
	28 March 2026	Deadline for appeals to be submitted to be guaranteed to be heard before the summer holidays
	Where a vacancy arises, places continue to be offered from the waiting list	
	April – May 2026	Appeals heard
	1 September 2026	Academic year commences

Application for maintained schools in-year i.e. outside the normal admission rounds (Reception and Year 7)

12 General Principles

- 12.1 Applicants are advised to apply for a school place up to two weeks prior to their move into Stockport. Service Personnel and Crown Servants are exempt from this.
- 12.2 The Council will accept applications from family's resident in and outside of the United Kingdom. Applications will be based on where the child is residing at the time of the application and in accordance with published arrangements. School places cannot be allocated on the basis of an intended change of address. Documentary evidence in the form of a solicitor's letter to confirm exchange of contracts or a rental agreement and disposal of previous property may be required. Stockport Council reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support a claim to residence. Further details are contained in the Authority's School Admissions Policy document available to view at www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions.
- 12.3 Parents/ carers resident in Stockport must apply to Stockport Council for a Stockport area school place.
- 12.4 Parents wishing to apply for an in year transfer to a school in areas other than Stockport or Manchester should contact that area's council for more information on how to apply for a school place.

12.5 Determination of whether or not a place is available in a Stockport School will be made by the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team in conjunction with the Headteacher of the particular school.

12.6 All maintained schools must provide information on pupil numbers to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as appropriate to determine the outcome of applications.

13 Application

13.1 Parents/ carers of children moving into Stockport or attending a school not maintained by the Council must apply online at: <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

13.2 For transfers between Infant, Primary and Junior Schools and Secondary Schools within Stockport, an application form must be obtained and completed at the school the child is currently attending.

13.3 The online form provides an opportunity for the parent / carer to:

- Give details of the child for whom the application is being made (name, address, date of birth, any relevant medical / social information)
- State if the child has an Education, Health and Care Plan
- State if the child is Baptised Catholic (for use in faith school applications only) – sight of the Baptismal certificate may be required
- Apply for up to 6 schools
- Give reasons for the application
- Rank the schools applied for in order of preference
- Give details of siblings who already attend the preferred school
- Name the child's current school
- Give details about the person completing the application (name, address, relationship to the child, contact details)

14 Determination of Applications

14.1 Where the application concerns a child who has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), parents/ carers will need to contact to Stockport Council's EHCP Team for consideration. The EHCP Team will work with the parents/ carers of the child to secure a place at a school where the specific needs of the child can be met.

14.2 For all other applications the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will ensure that applications will be processed within 10 school days and no longer than 15 school days. Where the application is for a school outside Stockport timescales may be extended. This timescale would only be exceeded in limited and prescribed circumstances.

14.3 Headteachers reserve the right to request that an application is referred to Stockport's Fair Access Panel where the application triggers the 'Fair Access Protocol'. Applications referred to Stockport's Fair Access Panel will be

processed within 20 school days. The application will be referred to the Education Welfare Service for further consideration.

- 14.4 When schools are closed for school holidays, it may not be possible to process applications within our normal timescales.

15 Waiting lists

- 15.1 Waiting lists will be kept in respect of applications for all oversubscribed schools ordered by the published admissions criteria. Where a place becomes available at a school, it will be offered to the parent of the child at the top of the waiting list for that school.

- 15.2 Waiting lists for oversubscribed schools will be maintained by the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team until the 31 December 2026 for Nursery, Reception and Year 7 or the full academic year for all other year groups. Where appropriate, offers to parents will be made in conjunction with the relevant Admission Authority.

16 Fair Access Protocol

- 16.1 The Fair Access Protocol ensures that pupils, identified through the protocol as having additional needs, engage in that process for appropriate school placement. All maintained secondary schools in Stockport participate in the protocol, which may in some cases result in schools admitting pupils above the Published Admission Number. The Fair Access Protocol can be viewed at <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions>.

- 16.2 All preferences for maintained schools will be treated equally as if they were all first preferences.

- 16.3 All applications will be considered based on the Published Admission Number of the school, the number of pupils on roll and the effect an unplanned admission would have on the provision of efficient education and use of resources at the school. Parental and pupil circumstances are taken into account in line with each school's oversubscription criteria.

- 16.4 If there are multiple in-year applicants for the same school year and there are insufficient places to satisfy all requests, the oversubscription criteria's will be applied.

- 16.5 In the case of a preference for a maintained school in Manchester, the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will contact the relevant Manchester City Council to determine the outcome of the application.

- 16.6 If, as a result of this process, more than one school place can potentially be offered, the single offer will be for the school the parent has ranked the highest.

- 16.7 Where it is not possible to offer a preferred school place to a pupil resident in Stockport, a place at the nearest available school with a place will be offered. In the case of infant aged children moving into the Stockport area, this will be within a walking distance of 2 miles from the child's home.

- 16.8 If a place at the preferred school is refused, parents / carers are advised of their right to appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel, unless an appeal has already been heard for the same child and school within the same academic year. In the case of Reception and Year 7 applications only, the name of the child will be kept on a waiting list until the 31 December 2026. The normal in year admissions process will take over and any parents wishing to have their child's name included on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year will need to re-apply.
- 16.9 The above criteria apply equally to Stockport residents and to applicants from outside the borough.

17 Outcome of Applications

- 17.1 The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will email a letter to the child's parents/ carers to inform them of the outcome of their application and their right to appeal, if applicable and their child will be placed on the waiting list for their preferred school.
- 17.2 For their child to remain on the waiting list for the following academic year they will need to complete a new application.
- 17.3 If a parent / carer wishes to reject the place offered, they must email the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team on admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk

18 Admission of children of UK service personnel and crown servants

- 18.1 For children of UK service personnel with a confirmed position, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in Stockport, in accordance with paragraph 2.21 of the School Admissions Code 2021, the Council will allocate a school place in advance of a family arriving in the area. This is provided that the application is accompanied by an official letter issued by a government department declaring the relocation date. An application can be online as soon as confirmation of relocation is available.
- 18.2 In the absence of a future address, the Council will accept a unit address or quartering address (the address of the closest house in the nearest 'quartering area').

**PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR STOCKPORT COMMUNITY
AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS
2026/27 ACADEMIC YEAR**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following is in compliance with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code 2021 and School Admission Appeals Code 2022 and constitutes the admission arrangements for admission to Reception for September 2026 and in year admissions for the academic year 2026/2027 for all community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools. Stockport Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in the borough.
- 1.2 These arrangements do not apply to those being admitted for nursery provision including nursery provision being delivered in infant and primary schools. Parents of children who are admitted for nursery provision must apply for a place at the school if they want their child to transfer to Reception class. Attendance in a school nursery does not guarantee admission to the school.
- 1.3 All policies and admission numbers have been determined through the statutory consultation process with schools, Governing Bodies, parents, other Local Authorities and Diocesan Bodies and approved by the Place Planning Board.
- 1.4 A list of the published admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools can be found on the school admissions pages of Stockport Council's website here <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/documents/school-admissions>. The admission authority will admit up to the Published Admission Number if there are sufficient applications. Where there are fewer applications than the Published Admission Number, all applicants will be offered a place.
- 1.5 Admissions during the normal admissions round (entry to Reception and Year 7) and all in-year admissions to infant and primary and secondary schools are administered by Stockport Council's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team based at: Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE.
- 1.6 The frontline team at Stockport Council's Contact Centre should be contacted in the first instance by: telephone 0161 217 6022, more complex enquiries may be referred to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team. Admissions information can also be accessed via Stockport Council's website: <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

**2 ADMISSIONS TO RECEPTION (THE NORMAL ADMISSION ROUNDS)
SEPTEMBER 2026**

- 2.1 If you are a Stockport resident, you must make an application to Stockport Council even if you want your child to attend a school in another Council area.
- 2.2 Stockport operates a co-ordinated admissions scheme. This means parents only have to complete one application. There is co-ordination between the council and other admissions authorities, and every parent who lives in Stockport receives one offer of a school place on national offer day which is normally 16 April.

- 2.3 Parents can express a preference for up to six schools. These schools can be in or out of Stockport.
- 2.4 If you live outside Stockport, you should follow your home Council's application process, even if you wish to apply for a Stockport school.
- 2.5 Children in Stockport are eligible for a Reception place from the beginning of the school year in which they become 5 years old. However, they do not become of compulsory school until the start of the term after their fifth birthday. Parents may therefore request that their school place be deferred until later in the school year and if they do this the place will be held for the child. However, they cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday or for children born between 1st April and 31st August, not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer is made. Parents can also request that their child attend on a part time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.
- 2.6 Parents of summer born children can request that their child is placed outside their age range if they feel that their child will not be ready for school.

3 THE PROCESS

- 3.1 The statutory equal preference system is used to allocate school places. This means that all preferences are initially looked at individually, regardless of the order in which they have been ranked. Up to six preferences can be expressed on the application form, in ranked order, which must be received by the published closing date of 15 January 2026.
- 3.2 If you live in Stockport and your child is due to start Reception in September 2026, you must apply using the online system available at www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The online system is available from 15 August 2025 and closes at midnight on 15 January 2026.

3 APPLYING ONLINE

- 3.1 If you do not already have a parent portal account, you will need to register online at: <https://education.stockport.gov.uk/Synergy/>. If you don't already have an email address, you will need to create one before you can register
- 3.2 When completing the online application, you will need to answer questions about your child including their name, address, date of birth. You will need to provide your contact details, including your email address and phone number as well confirmation of your relationship to the child
- 3.3 You will need to decide which six schools you would most like your child to attend and decide your order of preference. You are able to give reasons for each of your preferences. We need you to give us this information so that the Council can correctly apply their oversubscription criteria. Admission authorities can only use their published admission criteria to decide which children qualify for a place. This means it may not be possible to consider some of your reasons for your preference.

- 3.4 You should include details of any exceptional medical and social needs on the online form. Supporting documents should be uploaded to your application or you can send them to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team. If your child will have a sibling on roll at a school at the time of admission you should include the sibling details to ensure that your application is placed in the correct oversubscription criteria.

4 OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 When a community or voluntary controlled school is oversubscribed, after placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school for all on time applications:

- A. Looked after children and previously looked after children
- B. Children considered to have 'highly exceptional medical/social reasons'
- C. Children who live in the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the school or associated junior school at the time of admission
- D. Children who live in the catchment area of the school
- E. Children who live outside the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the school or associated junior school at the time of admission
- F. Any other applicants, in order of straight line distance measured between home and the school
- G. Applications received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed at A-F above

5 HOME ADDRESS

- 5.1 For the purpose of allocating school places in Stockport, only one address can be used and the address to be used should be the principal parental home address. Parents/ carers cannot, for example use:

- a child minder's address, the address of a grandparent or anyone else who may provide childcare
- a property they own but do not live in as the principal parental home, this would include business properties with living accommodation

6 DETERMINING A CHILD'S PRINCIPAL PARENTAL ADDRESS

- 6.1 Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, the place of residency will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the week (e.g., where the child wakes up the majority of mornings each week). Full details must be submitted in writing to enable the Council to determine which address will be used for the purpose of admission.

- 6.2 Where care is shared jointly, and it is not possible to determine which parent is the principal carer the LA will consider the following information to decide on a main address for the child:

- Address to which child benefit is claimed
- Address held by child's current School or Nursery

- Child's registered GP address
- Child's registered dentist address
- Any other documentation indicating the child's registered address

6.3 In the instance that further information is received regarding a conflict to the principal parental address of a child which has been provided, the Local Authority have the right to request both parent/ carers to provide proof of the child's residency at the address.

6.4 If you move address after you have applied, you must notify the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as soon as possible as this may have an impact on your application.

7 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) – KNOWN AS CARED FOR CHILDREN IN STOCKPORT

7.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that schools' oversubscription criteria must give priority to looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). (See Section 1.7 of the School Admission Code). Parents/carers of all previously looked after children will need to provide a photocopy of the relevant order or proof of adoption with the application form. You can upload proof with your online application if you wish to be considered under this criterion.

8 HIGHLY EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL AND / OR SOCIAL REASONS

8.1 Stockport Council has included an oversubscription criteria for highly exceptional medical/reasons and in very limited circumstances, some applications may be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons. In such instances, successful applications would be placed higher in the admissions oversubscription criteria for a particular school.

8.2 Where applicants feel this may be the case, they must indicate this by ticking the boxes provided on the application form and state the nature of the condition and/or circumstances. The applicant must provide written evidence from a recognised professional such as, but not limited to a consultant, doctor or social worker in support of their application. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the child or family and the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that could cater for the child's specific requirements/needs.

8.3 It should also explain any difficulties that would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school. Any supporting evidence you have must be submitted to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team by the closing date 15 January 2026. If you do not provide evidence by this date, it will not be considered.

8.4 A panel of Officers will consider the evidence given in the application and whether this is appropriate/ relevant for the particular school (and not just why a child

shouldn't attend a different school). The panel does not have to accept any recommendations made in the evidence.

9 CATCHMENT AREAS

- 9.1 Most schools in Stockport have a geographical area around it called the catchment area and every address in Stockport falls within the catchment area of one infant and primary and one secondary school. The catchment area in which the parent lives will determine which is the catchment area school. Residence in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school.
- 9.2 You can check your catchment school by visiting www.stockport.gov.uk/find-your-catchment-area, alternatively maps of these areas can be obtained upon request by emailing admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk.
- 9.3 The catchment area school may not always be the nearest school (although it will be in your locality). The law says that parents are not guaranteed a place in their catchment school, but that their application will be ranked in one of the higher oversubscription criteria of that school.

10 SIBLINGS (BROTHERS AND SISTERS)

- 10.1 A sibling for the purpose of allocating a school place means one who is still attending the school or the associated junior school at the time the child starts. The sibling must be of statutory school age (Reception to Year 5).
- 10.2 Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner, where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. This means that step or half brothers and sisters will be treated as siblings if they are living together, but full brothers and sisters living apart will not qualify.
- 10.3 Where there are applications for twins, triplets or other multiple births and there are not enough places for all of the children together within the Published Admission Number of the school, the Admissions Authority will exceed the PAN to provide a place for all the children of the multiple birth.

11 DISTANCE MEASUREMENT

- 11.1 For the purpose of allocating school places, distances will be measured consistently and will be measured to three decimal places as a straight line (as the crow flies) between the Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and the school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point. The Easting and Northing gives an approximate centre point of a site and everybody is measured to the same point of the school.
- 11.2 Applicants will be ordered starting with those living closer to the school within each of the appropriate oversubscription criteria.

12 MULTIPLE BIRTHS

- 12.1 Where there are applications for twins, triplets or other multiple births and there are not enough places for all of the children together within the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school, the Admission Authority will exceed the PAN to provide a place for all the children of the multiple birth.
- 12.2 The names of applicants whose preferences have not been met when the PAN of the school is reached will be retained on a waiting list based on the admissions oversubscription criteria and distance.

13 TIEBREAKER

- 13.1 If there are two or more applications with distances which are exactly the same competing for a final place random allocation will be used to determine which applicant will be allocated the final place. The random allocation will be carried out in a public place. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

14 DEFERRED ENTRY TO INFANT AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 14.1 Deferring entry cannot be done without first applying and being allocated the school place within the normal timescale appropriate to the child's date of birth.
- 14.2 Parents have a right to defer their child's entry to primary school. A child's entry to primary education as described above can be deferred if the child is under compulsory school age, without loss of the allocated full time place. A full time place can be deferred up to the term following the child's fifth birthday, however, not beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. Parents also have a right to have their child attend on a part time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.
- 14.3 A request to defer entry should be made in writing at the time of application and in conjunction with the Headteacher.
- 14.4 A child's entry to primary education as described above may be deferred if the child is under compulsory school age, without loss of the allocated place.

15 SUMMER BORN CHILDREN

- 15.1 If your child was born between 1 April and 31 August, you can request to delay their reception start date until the September after their fifth birthday.
- 15.2 For Stockport Council schools, you should make your choice known to the Council. If the school is an academy or has Voluntary Aided status, they will consider your request, but you should still apply to the Council so that we can coordinate the request.
- 15.3 A summer-born child request is different to deferred entry which allows you to delay starting until the first term after their fifth birthday, which is either January or Easter. Such requests should be submitted directly to the school the child has been offered a place at, after offer day.

- 15.4 Before making a summer-born child request, you must apply for a reception place for the child's chronological year group.

16 ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OF UK SERVICE PERSONNEL AND CROWN SERVANTS

- 16.1 Stockport Council acknowledges that service families are subject to movement within the UK and from abroad. The Council is not able to reserve places but will consider requests and allocate places in advance of the move provided the application is accompanied by an official letter declaring a relocation date. A Unit or quartering address can be used if evidence of the intended address is not provided. For in year admissions, places will be allocated, subject to a place being available in the relevant year group, prior to moving. If we are unable to allocate a place at that time, parents will be offered the right to appeal.

17 LATE APPLICATIONS

- 17.1 Applications received after the closing date of 15 January 2026, even by one day, will be treated as a late application. The Council will only accept applications received after the deadline if there is an exceptional circumstance for doing so. Late applications made without a genuine and good reason will be considered until at least two weeks after national offer day, 16 April 2026. Applications received after the closing date will be in the last oversubscription criteria and placed on waiting lists for each school, regardless of whether you live in the catchment area of the school and/ or have siblings at the school.
- 17.2 Parents or carers who apply late may miss out on a place at their preferred school. Applications received after the closing date without a genuine reason can only be considered for any of the remaining places available after the on-time applications had been processed. This designation as being 'received after the closing date' will remain up to and including 14 calendar days follow the relevant national offer day after which point the designation will be removed resulting in a reassessment according to the published oversubscription criteria.
- 17.3 If your preferred school has any places remaining, your child will be considered for these places along with any other late applications. Otherwise, your child's name will be added to the school's waiting list until 31 December 2026, along with those unsuccessful applications considered in the initial allocation round.

18 IN YEAR APPLICATIONS

- 18.1 Stockport Council administers all applications for school places in Stockport. Where the Governing Body/ Academy Trust of a school is responsible for admission arrangements this is done in conjunction with the Headteacher.
- 18.2 If you live in Stockport and wish to change school during the school year, all applications for Stockport school places must be made to our School Places, Admissions and Transport Team.

- 18.3 If you are moving into Stockport from another area or moving house within Stockport, you may be asked to provide evidence that you live at the address indicated on your application.
- 18.4 If you're applying to transfer to a school in another Council's area, you'll need to contact the Council that the school is located in to discuss their process for changing schools during the year.
- 18.5 Please visit our website for further information on changing schools during the school year: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>
- 18.6 All applications are considered in relation to the normal year group for the child's chronological age. All maintained schools, and academies, including schools designated with a religious character, that have places available must offer a place to every child who has applied for one, without condition or the use of any oversubscription criteria, unless admitting the child would prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources.
- 18.7 An in-year transfer application can only be refused on the following grounds:
- When the admission of an additional child would cause Infant Class Prejudice (for infant and primary school applications only)
 - When the admission of an additional child would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education and to the efficient use of resources. To determine this the LA will take into account:
 - The number of children on roll and the original Published Admissions Number from when that year group entered the school
 - The current circumstances at the school being applied for such as a significant proportion of the site being out of use due to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete
 - The pupil has been permanently excluded from two schools
- 18.8 In the case of multiple applications for a particular year group, places will be allocated, or names placed on the waiting list in accordance with the published admissions criteria for the school as determined for 2026/27 admissions.
- 18.9 Where an application is refused the parent will be notified, in writing, advising them of the reason for the refusal and their right of appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel.
- 18.10 Parents/ carers and pupils should be aware that a request to transfer primary school will be subject to Stockport Council's Transfer Process and Fair Access Protocol. This can be viewed at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>.

19 WAITING LISTS

- 19.1 If a parent is not offered a place at their preferred school, their child's name will be included in the school's waiting list. The list will be ordered by the published oversubscription criteria. Waiting lists for Nursery, Reception and Year 7 will be maintained until the 31 December of the normal admissions round.

- 19.2 Should a vacancy occur in that school before the 31 December, then it will be offered to the parent whose child is ranked at the top of the waiting list. If that parent does not accept the vacancy, it will be offered to the next child on the waiting list. This procedure will be followed until the vacancy is accepted or the waiting list is exhausted.
- 19.3 After 31 December in the normal admissions year, the normal in-year admissions process will take over and any parents wishing to have their child's name included on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year will need to re-apply.
- 19.4 A child granted a place at a school by the Independent Appeal Panel or other permitted exception under the School Admissions Code will count as an allocated place above the PAN of the school. This will influence the availability of places accordingly i.e. places will not be offered from the waiting list of a particular school until the number of children allocated falls below the PAN.
- 19.5 Parents / carers wishing to have their child's name included in the waiting list the following academic year must make a new application for the relevant year group.

20 APPEALS

- 20.1 Parents/ carers of children refused a place at any of their preferred schools have the right to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. A parent cannot appeal more than once for the same school place in the same academic year, unless significant and material changes in the case have taken place which the previous Independent Appeal Panel could not have been aware of at the time of the hearing. More details about our appeal process can be found on our website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/admission-appeals/school-admissions-how-to-appeal>.
- 20.2 If your request for a place at a particular school has been turned down, you will be offered an alternative. If, however, you wish to appeal against the decision, you can do so by completing an appeal form online at www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals .
- 20.3 If you would like a PDF copy of the appeal form to return via email or post, please contact the appeals team in Democratic Services at admission.appeals@stockport.gov.uk.
- 20.4 Appeals for admission to Reception in September will be heard from May to July. Appeals cannot be heard over the summer holidays. Where possible, the Panel will hear all appeals for the same school before coming to any decisions. If you are appealing before your child is due to start infant and primary school, it is important that you register your appeal as soon as possible to ensure that a decision is made well before the start of the new school year in September. The deadline to submit an appeal that is guaranteed to be heard before the summer holiday is 16 May 2026. Late appeal applications will be received up to the end of June 2026. Any appeal application submitted after this date may not be allocated a hearing until September 2026.
- 20.5 The date of the hearing will be arranged by the Secretary to the Independent Appeals Panel who will give you at least fourteen calendar days' notice via email of the date and time of the appeal.

- 20.6 Approximately seven school days before the appeal, the Admissions Authority will provide the parent with a statement of the reasons why a place has not been offered.
- 20.7 Your appeal will be heard by an Independent Appeals Panel consisting of three volunteers including at least one 'lay person', in an informal atmosphere and will be conducted in such a way as to put you at ease. The meeting is held remotely via Microsoft Teams and all information is treated in confidence. A representative of the Admissions Authority will attend to explain why a place has not been allocated at your preferred school. All appeals are determined on their individual merits.
- 20.8 A parent cannot appeal more than once for the same school place in the same academic year, unless significant and material changes in the case have taken place which the previous Independent Appeal Panel could not have been aware of at the time of the hearing.
- 20.9 The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on the school and the Admissions Authority.

**PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR
STOCKPORT COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOLS
2026/27 ACADEMIC YEAR**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following is in compliance with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code 2021 and School Admission Appeals Code 2022 and constitutes the admission arrangements for admission to Year 3 at Banks Lane Junior School; Great Moor Junior School and Nevill Road Junior School for September 2026 and in year admissions for the academic year 2026/2027. Stockport Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in the borough.
- 1.2 All policies and admission numbers have been determined through the statutory consultation process with schools, Governing Bodies, parents, other Local Authorities and Diocesan Bodies and approved by the Place Planning Board.
- 1.3 The published admission number for the junior schools are:
- Banks Lane Junior School 90
Great Moor Junior School 78
Nevill Road Junior School 90
- 1.4 The admission authority will admit up to the Published Admission Number if there are sufficient applications. Where there are fewer applications than the Published Admission Number, all applicants will be offered a place.
- 1.5 Admissions during the normal admissions round (entry to Junior School) and all in-year admissions to infant, primary, junior and secondary schools are administered by Stockport Council's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team based at: Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE.
- 1.6 The frontline team at Stockport Council's Contact Centre should be contacted in the first instance by: telephone 0161 217 6022, more complex enquiries may be referred to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team. Admissions information can also be accessed via Stockport Council's website: <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

2 ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

- 2.1 If your child attends Banks Lane Infant School, Great Moor Infant School, Hursthead Infant School, Cheadle Catholic Infant School or Nevill Road Infant School, you will receive a letter in September 2025 from Stockport Council's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team advising you to apply for a place in Year 3. Only one application per child may be submitted.
- 2.2 Stockport operates a co-ordinated admissions scheme. This means parents only have to complete one application. There is co-ordination between the council and other admissions authorities, and every parent who lives in Stockport receives one offer of a school place on national offer day which is normally 16 April.

- 2.3 Parents can express a preference for up to five junior schools. These schools can be in or out of Stockport.
- 2.4 Stockport Council may verify information you provide on the form, which could involve contacting other departments of the Council. In instances where the information provided is different from that held by them, they may use the information on this form to investigate further. If false or misleading information is given, Stockport Council has the right to withdraw the offer of a school place.

3 THE PROCESS

- 3.1 The equal preference system is used to allocate school places. This means that all preferences are initially looked at individually, regardless of the order in which they have been ranked. Up to five preferences can be expressed on the application form, in ranked order.
- 3.2 The online form will open from 15 August 2025 and will invite parents to indicate a preference for a place at one of the five junior schools in Stockport. Applications should be submitted by the published closing date of 31 October 2025.
- 3.3 Late applications will be dealt with as late and ranked after all applications received by the deadline.
- 3.4 Changes to pupil details, such as change of address, cannot be considered after the closing date of 31 October 2025.
- 3.5 Decisions will be sent out to parents on 16 April 2026. The emails will also inform parents of their right of appeal and who to contact if their application is unsuccessful.
- 3.6 If parents wish to apply for a year 3 place at another Stockport primary school for September 2026, they will need to complete an in year transfer application from June 2026.

4 OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 When a community junior school is oversubscribed, after placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school for all on time applications:
- A. Looked after children and previously looked after children
 - B. Children considered to have highly exceptional medical/social reasons
 - C. Children who live in the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the associated infant or junior school at the time of admission
 - D. Children who live in the catchment area of the school
 - E. Children who live outside the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the associated infant or junior school at the time of admission
 - F. Any other applicants, in order of straight line distance measured between home and the school

G. Applications received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed at A-F above

4.2 Associated Infant and Junior Schools

- Banks Lane Infants School is associated with Banks Lane Junior School
- Great Moor Infant School is associated with Great Moor Junior School
- Nevill Road Infant School is associated with Nevill Road Junior School

5 HOME ADDRESS

5.1 For the purpose of allocating school places in Stockport, only one address can be used and the address to be used should be the principal parental home address. Parents/ carers cannot, for example use:

- a child minder's address, the address of a grandparent or anyone else who may provide childcare
- a property they own but do not live in as the principal parental home, this would include business properties with living accommodation

6 DETERMINING A CHILD'S PRINCIPAL PARENTAL ADDRESS

6.1 Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, the place of residency will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the week (e.g., where the child wakes up the majority of mornings each week). Full details must be submitted in writing to enable the Council to determine which address will be used for the purpose of admission.

6.2 Where care is shared jointly, and it is not possible to determine which parent is the principal carer the Council will consider the following information to decide on a main address for the child:

- Address to which child benefit is claimed
- Address held by child's current School
- Child's registered GP address
- Child's registered dentist address
- Any other documentation indicating the child's registered address

6.3 In the instance that further information is received regarding a conflict to the principal parental address of a child which has been provided, the Council have the right to request both parent/ carers to provide proof of the child's residency at the address.

6.4 If you move address after you have applied, you must notify the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as soon as possible as this may have an impact on your application.

7 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) – KNOWN AS CARED FOR CHILDREN IN STOCKPORT

- 7.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that schools' oversubscription criteria must give priority to looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). (See Section 1.7 of the School Admission Code). Parents/carers of all previously looked after children will need to provide a photocopy of the relevant order or proof of adoption with the application form. You can upload proof with your online application if you wish to be considered under this criterion.

8 HIGHLY EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL AND / OR SOCIAL REASONS

- 8.1 Stockport Council has included an oversubscription criteria for highly exceptional medical/reasons and in very limited circumstances, some applications may be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons. In such instances, successful applications would be placed higher in the admissions oversubscription criteria for a particular school.
- 8.2 Where applicants feel this may be the case, they must indicate this by ticking the boxes provided on the application form and state the nature of the condition and/or circumstances. The applicant must provide written evidence from a recognised professional such as, but not limited to a consultant, doctor or social worker in support of their application. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the child or family and the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that could cater for the child's specific requirements/needs.
- 8.3 It should also explain any difficulties that would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school. Any supporting evidence you have must be submitted to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team by the closing date 31 October 2025. If you do not provide evidence by this date, it will not be considered.
- 8.4 A panel of Officers will consider the evidence given in the application and whether this is appropriate/ relevant for the particular school (and not just why a child shouldn't attend a different school). The panel does not have to accept any recommendations made in the evidence.

9 CATCHMENT AREAS

- 9.1 Most schools in Stockport have a geographical area around it called the catchment area and every address in Stockport falls within the catchment area of one infant and primary and one secondary school. The catchment area in which the parent lives will determine which is the catchment area school. Residence in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school.
- 9.2 You can check your catchment school by visiting www.stockport.gov.uk/find-your-catchment-area, alternatively maps of these areas can be obtained upon request by emailing admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk.
- 9.3 The catchment area school may not always be the nearest school (although it will be in your locality). The law says that parents are not guaranteed a place in their

catchment school, but that their application will be ranked in one of the higher oversubscription criteria of that school.

10 SIBLINGS (BROTHERS AND SISTERS)

- 10.1 A sibling for the purpose of allocating a school place at a junior school means a sibling who is still attending the junior school or the associated infant school at the time the child starts.
- 10.2 Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner, where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. This means that step or half brothers and sisters will be treated as siblings if they are living together, but full brothers and sisters living apart will not qualify.

11 DISTANCE MEASUREMENT

- 11.1 For the purpose of allocating school places, distances will be measured consistently and will be measured to three decimal places as a straight line (as the crow flies) between the Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and the school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point. The Easting and Northing gives an approximate centre point of a site and everybody is measured to the same point of the school.
- 11.2 Applicants will be ordered starting with those living closer to the school within each of the appropriate oversubscription criteria.

12 MULTIPLE BIRTHS

- 12.1 Where there are applications for twins, triplets or other multiple births and there are not enough places for all of the children together within the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school, the Admission Authority will exceed the PAN to provide a place for all the children of the multiple birth.
- 12.2 The names of applicants whose preferences have not been met when the PAN of the school is reached will be retained on a waiting list based on the admissions oversubscription criteria and distance.

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- 13.1 If there are two or more applications with distances which are exactly the same competing for a final place random allocation will be used to determine which applicant will be allocated the final place. The random allocation will be carried out in a public place. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

14 SUMMER BORN CHILDREN AND THOSE TAUGHT OUT OF THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP

- 14.1 If your child's entry to infant school has already been delayed and you wish your child to remain outside of their age group when they transfer to junior school, you will need to apply once again for an outside normal year group place.

- 14.2 You should be aware that the decision by one admissions authority is not binding on other admissions authorities so it is possible that a new admissions authority will decide that it is in your child's best interests to return to their normal year group.
- 14.3 The Council will consider your request in the same way as the original request but must also take into account that your child has been educated in a different year group up until this point. For many children, it will be right for them to remain with their adopted year group, but it is possible that others may be better off joining their normal year group.
- 14.4 All decisions will be made taking individual circumstances into account and considering all of your child's needs, including their social and emotional needs. You should make this request alongside an application for a school place and should do so when your child's normal year group are making applications for a school place. This means that a summer born child that started in Reception a year later than is usual, would apply for a junior school place and for an out of year group place when they are in year 2 rather than year 3.

15 ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OF UK SERVICE PERSONNEL AND CROWN SERVANTS

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- 19.5 The date of the hearing will be arranged by the Secretary to the Independent Appeals Panel who will give you at least fourteen calendar days' notice via email of the date and time of the appeal.
- 19.6 Approximately seven school days before the appeal, the Admissions Authority will provide the parent with a statement of the reasons why a place has not been offered.
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- 19.9 The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on the school and the Admissions Authority.

Proposed Published admission numbers - Stockport community and voluntary controlled infant, primary and junior schools for September 2026			
School	Type		
Abingdon Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Adswold Primary School	Community	Primary	45
Alexandra Park Primary School	Community	Primary	60
All Saints CofE Primary (Marple)	VC	Primary	30
All Saints CofE Primary (Stockport)	VC	Primary	30
Arden Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Banks Lane Infant School	Community	Infant	90
Banks Lane Junior School	Community	Junior	90
Bolshaw Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Bradshaw Hall Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Bridge Hall Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Broadstone Hall Primary School	Community	Primary	75
Brookside Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Cale Green Primary School	Community	Primary	45
Cheadle Heath Primary School	Community	Primary	60

Cheadle Village Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Dial Park Primary School	Community	Primary	45
Didsbury Road Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Etchells Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Fairway Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Great Moor Infant School	Community	Infant	78
Great Moor Junior School	Community	Junior	78
Greave Primary School	Community	Primary	45
Hazel Grove Primary School	Community	Primary	60
High Lane Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Hursthead Infant School	Community	Infant	90
Ladybridge Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Ladybrook Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Lane End Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Lark Hill Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Ludworth Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Lum Head Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Mersey Vale Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Moorfield Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Moss Hey Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Nevill Road Infant School	Community	Infant	90
Nevill Road Junior School	Community	Junior	90
Norbury Hall Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Norris Bank Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Oak Tree Primary School	Community	Primary	90
Outwood Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Pownall Green Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Prospect Vale Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Queensgate Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Romiley Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Rose Hill Primary School	Community	Primary	75
St John's Church of England Primary School	VC	Primary	30
St Mary's C of E Primary School	VC	Primary	30
St Paul's Church of England Primary School	VC	Primary	45
St Thomas' Church of England Primary (Stk)	VC	Primary	30
Thorn Grove Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Tithe Barn Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Torkington Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Vale View Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Vernon Park Primary School	Community	Primary	45
Warren Wood Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Westmorland Primary School	Community	Primary	60
Whitehill Primary School	Community	Primary	30
Woodley Primary School	Community	Primary	60

**PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR STOCKPORT
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS
2026/27 ACADEMIC YEAR**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following is in compliance with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code 2021 and School Admission Appeals Code 2022 and constitutes the admission arrangements for admission to Year 7 for September 2026 and in year admissions for the academic year 2026/2027 for all community high schools. Stockport Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in the borough.
- 1.2 All policies and admission numbers have been determined through the statutory consultation process with schools, Governing Bodies, parents, other Local Authorities and Diocesan Bodies and approved by the Place Planning Board.
- 1.3 A list of the published admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools can be found on the school admissions pages of Stockport Council's website here <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/documents/school-admissions>. The admission authority will admit up to the Published Admission Number if there are sufficient applications. Where there are fewer applications than the Published Admission Number, all applicants will be offered a place.
- 1.4 Admissions during the normal admissions round (entry to Year 7) and all in-year admissions to infant, primary, junior and secondary schools are administered by Stockport Council's School Places, Admissions and Transport Team based at: Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE.
- 1.5 The frontline team at Stockport Council's Contact Centre should be contacted in the first instance by: telephone 0161 217 6022, more complex enquiries may be referred to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team. Admissions information can also be accessed via Stockport Council's website: <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

2 ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 7 (THE NORMAL ADMISSION ROUNDS) SEPTEMBER 2026

- 2.1 If you are a Stockport resident, you must make an application to Stockport Council even if you want your child to attend a school in another Council area.
- 2.2 Stockport operates a co-ordinated admissions scheme. This means parents only have to complete one application. There is co-ordination between the council and other admissions authorities, and every parent who lives in Stockport receives one offer of a school place on national offer day which is normally 1 March.
- 2.3 Parents can express a preference for up to six schools. These schools can be in or out of Stockport.
- 2.4 If you live outside Stockport, you should follow your home Council's application process, even if you wish to apply for a Stockport school.

3 THE PROCESS

- 3.1 The statutory equal preference system is used to allocate school places. This means that all preferences are initially looked at individually, regardless of the order in which they have been ranked. Up to six preferences can be expressed on the application form, in ranked order, which must be received by the published closing date of 31 October 2025.
- 3.2 If you live in Stockport and your child is due to start Year 7 in September 2026, you must apply using the online system available at www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The online system is available from 15 August 2025 and closes at midnight on 31 October 2025.

4 APPLYING ONLINE

- 4.1 If you do not already have a parent portal account, you will need to register online at: <https://education.stockport.gov.uk/Synergy/>. If you don't already have an email address, you will need to create one before you can register
- 4.2 When completing the online application, you will need to answer questions about your child including their name, address, date of birth. You will need to provide your contact details, including your email address and phone number as well confirmation of your relationship to the child
- 4.3 You will need to decide which six schools you would most like your child to attend and decide your order of preference. You are able to give reasons for each of your preferences. We need you to give us this information so that the Council can correctly apply their oversubscription criteria. Admission authorities can only use their published admission criteria to decide which children qualify for a place. This means it may not be possible to consider some of your reasons for your preference.
- 4.4 You should include details of any exceptional medical and social needs on the online form. Supporting documents should be uploaded to your application or you can send them to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team. If your child will have a sibling on roll at a school at the time of admission you should include the sibling details to ensure that your application is placed in the correct oversubscription criteria

5 OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 When a community or voluntary controlled school is oversubscribed, after placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school for all on time applications:
- A. Looked after children and previously looked after children

- B. Children considered to have 'highly exceptional medical/social reasons'
- C. Children who live in the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission
- D. Children who live in the catchment area of the school
- E. Children of staff who have been employed at the school for a minimum of two years or are offering a shortage subject/area
- F. Children who will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission and reside outside the catchment area
- G. Any other applicants, in order of straight line distance measured between home and the school
- H. Applications received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed at A-G above

6 HOME ADDRESS

6.1 For the purpose of allocating school places in Stockport, only one address can be used and the address to be used should be the principal parental home address. Parents/ carers cannot, for example use:

- a child minder's address, the address of a grandparent or anyone else who may provide childcare
- a property they own but do not live in as the principal parental home, this would include business properties with living accommodation

7 DETERMINING A CHILD'S PRINCIPAL PARENTAL ADDRESS

7.1 Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, the place of residency will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the week (e.g., where the child wakes up the majority of mornings each week). Full details must be submitted in writing to enable the Council to determine which address will be used for the purpose of admission.

7.2 Where care is shared jointly, and it is not possible to determine which parent is the principal carer the LA will consider the following information to decide on a main address for the child:

- Address to which child benefit is claimed
- Address held by child's current School or Nursery
- Child's registered GP address
- Child's registered dentist address
- Any other documentation indicating the child's registered address

7.3 In the instance that further information is received regarding a conflict to the principal parental address of a child which has been provided, the Local Authority have the right to request both parent/ carers to provide proof of the child's residency at the address.

7.4 If you move address after you have applied, you must notify the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as soon as possible as this may have an impact on your application.

8 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) – KNOWN AS CARED FOR CHILDREN IN STOCKPORT

- 8.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that schools' oversubscription criteria must give priority to looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). (See Section 1.7 of the School Admission Code). Parents/carers of all previously looked after children will need to provide a photocopy of the relevant order or proof of adoption with the application form. You can upload proof with your online application if you wish to be considered under this criterion.

9 HIGHLY EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL AND / OR SOCIAL REASONS

- 9.1 Stockport Council has included an oversubscription criteria for highly exceptional medical/reasons and in very limited circumstances, some applications may be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons. In such instances, successful applications would be placed higher in the admissions oversubscription criteria for a particular school.
- 9.2 Where applicants feel this may be the case, they must indicate this by ticking the boxes provided on the application form and state the nature of the condition and/or circumstances. The applicant must provide written evidence from a recognised professional such as, but not limited to a consultant, doctor or social worker in support of their application. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the child or family and the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that could cater for the child's specific requirements/needs.
- 9.3 It should also explain any difficulties that would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school. Any supporting evidence you have must be submitted to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team by the closing date 31 October 2025. If you do not provide evidence by this date, it will not be considered.
- 9.4 A panel of Officers will consider the evidence given in the application and whether this is appropriate/ relevant for the particular school (and not just why a child shouldn't attend a different school). The panel does not have to accept any recommendations made in the evidence.

10 CATCHMENT AREAS

- 10.1 Most schools in Stockport have a geographical area around it called the catchment area and every address in Stockport falls within the catchment area of one primary and one secondary school. The catchment area in which the parent lives will determine which is the catchment area school. Residence in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school.

- 10.2 You can check your catchment school by visiting www.stockport.gov.uk/find-your-catchment-area, alternatively maps of these areas can be obtained upon request by emailing admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk.
- 10.3 The catchment area school may not always be the nearest school (although it will be in your locality). The law says that parents are not guaranteed a place in their catchment school, but that their application will be ranked in one of the higher oversubscription criteria of that school.

11 SIBLINGS (BROTHERS AND SISTERS)

- 11.1 A sibling for the purpose of allocating a school place means one who is still attending the school at the time the younger child starts.
- 11.2 Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner, where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. This means that step or half brothers and sisters will be treated as siblings if they are living together, but full brothers and sisters living apart will not qualify.
- 11.3 Where there are applications for twins, triplets or other multiple births and there are not enough places for all of the children together within the Published Admission Number of the school, the Admissions Authority will exceed the PAN to provide a place for all the children of the multiple birth.

12 CHILDREN OF STAFF

- 12.1 Children of staff at the school are defined by either or both of the following circumstances:
- a. where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - b. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- 12.2 At the point of application, the Headteacher of the relevant school will be asked to verify the circumstances of the child/member of staff.

13 DISTANCE MEASUREMENT

- 13.1 For the purpose of allocating school places, distances will be measured consistently and will be measured to three decimal places as a straight line (as the crow flies) between the Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and the school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point. The Easting and Northing gives an approximate centre point of a site and everybody is measured to the same point of the school.
- 13.2 Applicants will be ordered starting with those living closer to the school within each of the appropriate oversubscription criteria.

14 MULTIPLE BIRTHS

- 14.1 Where there are applications for twins, triplets or other multiple births and there are not enough places for all of the children together within the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school, the Admission Authority will exceed the PAN to provide a place for all the children of the multiple birth.
- 14.2 The names of applicants whose preferences have not been met when the PAN of the school is reached will be retained on a waiting list based on the admissions oversubscription criteria and distance.

15 TIEBREAKER

- 15.1 If there are two or more applications with distances which are exactly the same competing for a final place random allocation will be used to determine which applicant will be allocated the final place. The random allocation will be carried out in a public place. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

16 SUMMER BORN CHILDREN

- 16.1 If your child's entry to primary school has already been delayed under the summer born process, and you wish your child to remain outside of their age group when they transfer to high school, you will need to apply once again for an outside normal year group place.
- 16.2 You should be aware that the decision by one Admissions Authority is not binding on other admissions authorities so it is possible that a new Admissions Authority will decide that it is in your child's best interests to return to their normal year group and so your child would miss a school year.
- 16.3 The Council will consider your request in the same way as the original request but must also take into account that your child has been educated in a different year group up until this point. For many children, it will be right for them to remain with their adopted year group, but it is possible that others may be better off joining their normal year group.
- 16.4 All decisions will be made taking individual circumstances into account and considering all of your child's needs, including their social and emotional needs. You should make this request alongside an application for a school place and should do so when your child's normal year group are making applications for a school place. This means that a summer born child that started in Reception a year later than is usual, would apply for a secondary school place and for an out of year group place when they are in year 5 rather than year 6.

17 ADMISSION OUTSIDE OF CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP

17.1 Requests should be submitted in writing to the admissions authority responsible for the school preferred by the parent. Requests should be supported by documentary evidence where necessary. Stockport Council will consider the request based on the information provided and reserves the right to request further information or request that the child is assessed by the school's Headteacher. Decisions are communicated in writing and are final.

17.2 Please also consider the points below before submitting a request:

- It is advised that all parents/ carers wishing submit a request, still make an application for a school place at the normal time.
- Requests should be made in writing to the relevant Admissions Authority for the school the request relates to
- Parents / carers may provide any supplementary documentary evidence to support their request
- Decisions are made by the Admissions Authority on an individual case basis and will consider:
 - The views and wishes of the parent
 - The views of the prospective Headteacher/Governing Body
 - Evidence indicating academic, social and emotional development to date
 - Where relevant, the child's medical history
 - Whether the child has previously been educated out of age group
 - If the child would have fallen into another age group if it were not for the child being born prematurely
- Decisions will be communicated in writing
- Should a request be granted, it does not indicate a formal offer of a school place instead it is an agreement to consider the child's application for a school place outside of the normal admissions round.
- Should the request be granted, and your child is unsuccessful at obtaining a place at the school requested. The agreement to consider other schools outside of the normal admissions round may not be extended, particularly if the school is under the control of a different Admissions Authority. This could result in your child being considered for school places in the expected chronological age group

18 ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OF UK SERVICE PERSONNEL AND CROWN SERVANTS

18.1 Stockport Council acknowledges that service families are subject to movement within the UK and from abroad. The Council is not able to reserve places but will consider requests and allocate places in advance of the move provided the application is accompanied by an official letter declaring a relocation date. A Unit or quartering address can be used if evidence of the intended address is not provided. For in year admissions, places will be allocated, subject to a place being available in the relevant year group, prior to moving. If we are unable to allocate a place at that time, parents will be offered the right to appeal.

19 LATE APPLICATIONS

- 19.1 Applications received after the closing date of 31 October 2025, even by one day, will be treated as a late application. The Council will only accept applications received after the deadline if there is an exceptional circumstance for doing so. Late applications made without a genuine and good reason will not be considered until at least two weeks after national offer day, 1 March 2026. Applications received after the closing date will be in the last oversubscription criteria and placed on waiting lists for each school, regardless of whether you live in the catchment area of the school and/ or have siblings at the school.
- 19.2 Parents or carers who apply late may miss out on a place at their preferred school. Applications received after the closing date without a genuine reason can only be considered for any of the remaining places available after the on-time applications had been processed. This designation as being 'received after the closing date' will remain up to and including 14 calendar days follow the relevant national offer day after which point the designation will be removed resulting in a reassessment according to the published oversubscription criteria.
- 19.3 If your preferred school has any places remaining, your child will be considered for these places along with any other late applications. Otherwise, your child's name will be added to the school's waiting list until 31 December 2026, along with those unsuccessful applications considered in the initial allocation round.

20 IN YEAR APPLICATIONS

- 20.1 Stockport Council administers all applications for school places in Stockport. Where the Governing Body/ Academy Trust of a school is responsible for admission arrangements this is done in conjunction with the Headteacher.
- 20.2 If you live in Stockport and wish to change school during the school year, all applications for Stockport school places must be made to our School Places, Admissions and Transport Team.
- 20.3 If you are moving into Stockport from another area or moving house within Stockport, you may be asked to provide evidence that you live at the address indicated on your application.
- 20.4 If you're applying to transfer to a school in another Council's are, you'll need to contact the Council that the school is located in to discuss their process for changing schools during the year.
- 20.5 Please visit our website for further information on changing schools during the school year: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>
- 20.6 All applications are considered in relation to the normal year group for the child's chronological age. All maintained schools, and academies, including schools designated with a religious character, that have places available must offer a place to every child who has applied for one, without condition or the use of any oversubscription criteria, unless admitting the child would prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources.
- 20.7 An in-year transfer application can only be refused on the following grounds:

- When the admission of an additional child would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education and to the efficient use of resources. To determine this the LA will take into account:
 - The number of children on roll and the original Published Admissions Number from when that year group entered the school
 - The current circumstances at the school being applied for such as a significant proportion of the site being out of use due to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete
- The pupil has been permanently excluded from two schools

20.8 In the case of multiple applications for a particular year group, places will be allocated, or names placed on the waiting list in accordance with the published admissions criteria for the school as determined for 2026/27 admissions.

20.9 Where an application is refused the parent will be notified, in writing, advising them of the reason for the refusal and their right of appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel.

20.10 Parents/ carers and pupils should be aware that a request to transfer secondary school will be subject to Stockport Council's Transfer Process and Fair Access Protocol. This can be viewed at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>.

21 WAITING LISTS

21.1 If a parent is not offered a place at their preferred school, their child's name will be included in the school's waiting list. The list will be ordered by the published oversubscription criteria. Waiting lists for Year 7 will be maintained until the 31 December of the normal admissions round.

21.2 Should a vacancy occur in that school before the 31 December, then it will be offered to the parent whose child is ranked at the top of the waiting list. If that parent does not accept the vacancy, it will be offered to the next child on the waiting list. This procedure will be followed until the vacancy is accepted or the waiting list is exhausted.

21.3 After 31 December of the normal admission round, the normal in-year admissions process will take over and any parents wishing to have their child's name included on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year will need to re-apply.

21.4 A child granted a place at a school by the Independent Appeal Panel or other permitted exception under the School Admissions Code will count as an allocated place above the PAN of the school. This will influence the availability of places accordingly i.e. places will not be offered from the waiting list of a particular school until the number of children allocated falls below the PAN.

21.5 Parents / carers wishing to have their child's name included in the waiting list the following academic year must make a new application for the relevant year group.

22 APPEALS

- 22.1 Parents/ carers of children refused a place at any of their preferred schools have the right to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. A parent cannot appeal more than once for the same school place in the same academic year, unless significant and material changes in the case have taken place which the previous Independent Appeal Panel could not have been aware of at the time of the hearing. More details about our appeal process can be found on our website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/admission-appeals/school-admissions-how-to-appeal>.
- 22.2 If your request for a place at a particular school has been turned down, you will be offered an alternative. If, however, you wish to appeal against the decision, you can do so by completing an appeal form online at www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals .
- 22.3 If you would like a PDF copy of the appeal form to return via email or post, please contact the appeals team in Democratic Services at admission.appeals@stockport.gov.uk.
- 22.4 Appeals for admission to Year 7 in September will be heard from May to July. Appeals cannot be heard over the summer holidays. Where possible, the Panel will hear all appeals for the same school before coming to any decisions. The deadline to submit an appeal that is guaranteed to be heard before the summer holiday is 28 March 2026. Late appeal applications will be received up to the end of June 2026. Any appeal application submitted after this date may not be allocated a hearing until September 2026.
- 22.5 The date of the hearing will be arranged by the Secretary to the Independent Appeals Panel who will give you at least fourteen calendar days' notice via email of the date and time of the appeal.
- 22.6 Approximately seven school days before the appeal, the Admissions Authority will provide the parent with a statement of the reasons why a place has not been offered.
- 22.7 Your appeal will be heard by an Independent Appeals Panel consisting of three volunteers including at least one 'lay person', in an informal atmosphere and will be conducted in such a way as to put you at ease. The meeting is held remotely via Microsoft Teams and all information is treated in confidence. A representative of the Admissions Authority will attend to explain why a place has not been allocated at your preferred school. All appeals are determined on their individual merits.
- 22.8 A parent cannot appeal more than once for the same school place in the same academic year, unless significant and material changes in the case have taken place which the previous Independent Appeal Panel could not have been aware of at the time of the hearing.
- 22.9 The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on the school and the Admissions Authority.

Proposed Published admission numbers - Stockport community high schools – September 2026		
School	Type	
Bramhall High School	Community	270
Marple Hall School*	Community	300
Stockport School	Community	270

* active academy conversion

Admission Arrangements Consultation 2026-27

Overview

Stockport Local Authority is the Admission Authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Stockport, it administers matters regarding admission arrangements on behalf of the Governing Bodies of many Voluntary Aided schools and Academies in the Borough. Accordingly, Stockport Education Department are undertaking this statutory consultation process with parents and other stakeholders for the whole family of Admission Authorities in Stockport.

The Admissions Code requires Admission Authorities to consult on its Admission arrangements every seven years, if no changes have taken place within this time period. The Local Authority wishes to invite interested parties to take part in this consultation on the following items:

- Admissions arrangements for all community Primary, Infant, Junior and Secondary Schools
- Proposed change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Abingdon Primary School, Arden Primary School, Lum Head Primary School, St Paul's C of E Primary and Westmorland Primary School, and expansion of the age range at Lum Head Primary School and Highfields College
- Please see Consultation Document and Appendices at the bottom of the page.

Introduction

1 Are you responding as

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Parent/Carer
- Headteacher
- School
- Governor
- Local Authority
- Other

If Other, please

2 What is your email address?

Email

3 Affiliated School

Please select only one item

- Nursery
- Primary
- Secondary
- Special

School *(Required)*

4 Do you support to maintain the Admission Arrangements for all community Primary, Infant, Junior and Secondary Schools?

More information

Admission Arrangements for all community Primary, Infant, Junior and Secondary Schools

The School Admissions Code requires Admission Authorities to consult every seven years on their admissions arrangements. Admissions arrangements must, however, be determined each year by 28th February whether a consultation has taken place or not.

See Appendices 1a, b and c for the full Admission policies for community schools.

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No View

Comments

5 Do you support the proposed change to the Published admission Number (PAN) at Abingdon Primary School, Arden Primary School, Lum Head Primary School, St Paul's C of E Primary and Westmorland Primary School, and expansion of the age range at Lum Head Primary School and Highfields College?

More information

Proposed change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Abingdon Primary School, Arden Primary School, Lum Head Primary School, St Paul's C of E Primary and Westmorland Primary School, and expansion of the age range at Lum Head Primary School and Highfields College

The Local Authority is the Admissions Authority for Abingdon, Arden, Lum Head, St Paul's C of E and Westmorland Primary Schools. The Local Authority is proposing a reduction in PAN for all of the named schools, in line with their current admission numbers. The Local Authority are also proposing to extend the age range at Lum Head Primary School to include a Nursery class and extend the age range at Highfields College to include ages 16-19.

See Appendix 2 for the full report on the changes at each school.
Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No View

Comments

Closure of Lark Hill Nursery and Extending the Age Range at Lark Hill Primary School

Overview

Each time a nursery school Headteacher announces their intention to retire, consideration is given to whether the school should unite with a local school to become a single primary school. Following the announcement that the Headteacher at Lark Hill Nursery School is retiring at the end of the 2024/25 school year, Stockport Council is exploring the opportunities that this presents and that includes closing Lark Hill Nursery School and expanding the age range at Lark Hill Primary School to enable them to operate nursery provision at the school.

We believe that unifying the schools will be beneficial to the local community as it enables children and families to feel part of one school community.

The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley:

- Single School Leadership Team and Governing Body with the strategic overview of the School's 2-11 provision
 - Consistency, continuity, and familiarity in
 - Ethos, and approach to learning
 - Pastoral care
 - Curriculum
- SEND provision and support

including early identification of needs

Same site

Opportunities for existing staff to professionally develop across the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

The proposal is to close Lark Hill Nursery School from the end of the 2024/25 school year and to open a school run nursery from 1 September 2025 at Lark Hill Primary School and the school will carry over any existing children from the nursery provision.

Why your views matter

This initial consultation is the first of two consultations required to close the nursery school and make the permanent change to the school's age range. At this early stage, the Council is wishing to understand the support for this proposal as well as any unintended consequences of the proposal.

Introduction

Lark Hill Primary School is a one-form entry, maintained primary school in Edgeley, Stockport. The Headteacher and Governors wish to enhance the excellent education the children receive by uniting the existing nursery and primary schools, following the retirement of the nursery headteacher in summer 2025.

We believe that by uniting the nursery school nursery we can extend our provision and have a positive impact on the pre-school education of local children. We intend to ensure that our school nursery continues to provide the highest standards of care and education.

There are many benefits to providing this provision within our school for 2 to 4 year olds. Nursery children attending Lark Hill Primary will be part of the whole school, benefitting from all aspects of the wider school.

We want to move forward in a spirit of togetherness and inclusion, and work with schools and communities to plan our priorities to:

Align and underpin the offer of our schools so that they meet the needs of their community

Enhance our early offer, ensuring all children, young people and families receive the help they need, when they need it and before things escalate

Deliver our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Strategy to ensure children and young adults with SEND have the best start in life and the opportunity to improve the emotional wellbeing for all children

Equip children in care and care leavers with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life through delivery of our Corporate Parenting Strategy We believe the fundamentals to delivering our vision for Children and Young People in Stockport is:

Strong leadership

Clear and consistent ethos about learning and life

Fostering a sense of belonging and significance within schools and colleges

Quality teaching and learning opportunities

Learning environments suited to providing quality learning and to the needs of its pupils

1 What is your name? Name

2 What is your email address?

Email

3 What is your relationship to the nursery/school?

Relationship

Rationale: Close the Nursery School and extend the age range at Lark Hill Primary School Rationale

Leadership and vision

A single governing body and one agreed vision and set of values to continue to drive up standards and promote continuity and progression

Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older **Transition and supporting pupils' progress**

One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school.

Smoother transition from Nursery to Reception.

Tracking of pupil progress and early intervention would be seamless for those pupils moving between Nursery and Reception.

Expectations for behaviour and learning would be consistent.

**Sharing of resources /
expertise and efficiency gains**

Opportunities to build on the sharing of resources and expertise across Early Years, Key Stages 1 and 2 which in turn will support an enriched curriculum.

Opportunities for staff to develop their skills and expertise across a wider age range.

Enable the single governing body to make efficiencies in the running of the primary school

(particularly in respect of leadership, finance, administration and caretaking but also in other areas such as pastoral care, IT, etc.).

Role models / social development of pupils

Opportunities for children to work across phases and support each other. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with different aged children. This can include older pupils having some appropriate pastoral responsibilities for younger children or supporting them with reading e.g., reading buddies or play leaders.

Proposal:

To close the existing nursery school, and extend the age range of the primary school from 4-11 years to 2-11 years.

Related information

1 of 10 Automatic Zoom

UNITING LARK HILL
NURSERY SCHOOL AND
LARK HILL PRIMARY

4 Do you support the proposal change to Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

If you disagree or don't know, can you suggest alternative proposal or provide

5 Do you agree that a single leadership team can provide greater continuity and consistency to education and learning, as opposed to two separate leadership teams?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Comments

6 Do you agree that by providing more development opportunities to staff across all Key Stages that they may be able to provide better learning experience/opportunities to children?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Comments

7 Do you think the Nursery and Primary Schools currently meet the needs of its local community?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

In what ways do they / do not meet local needs?



Closure of Lark Hill Nursery and Extending the Age Range at Lark Hill Primary School: Summary report

This report was created on Monday 09 December 2024 at 10:35 and includes 22 responses.

The activity ran from 16/09/2024 to 18/10/2024.

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Question 1: What is your name?

Name

There were 21 responses to this part of the question.

Question 2: What is your email address?

Email

There were 21 responses to this part of the question.

Question 3: What is your relationship to the nursery/school?

Relationship

There were 21 responses to this part of the question.

Question 4: Do you support the proposal change to Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School?

support_alex



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	3	13.64%
No	16	72.73%
Don't Know	3	13.64%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If you disagree or don't know, can you suggest alternative proposal or provide further feedback?

There were 16 responses to this part of the question.

Question 5: Do you agree that a single leadership team can provide greater continuity and consistency to education and learning, as opposed to two separate leadership teams?

single leadership team



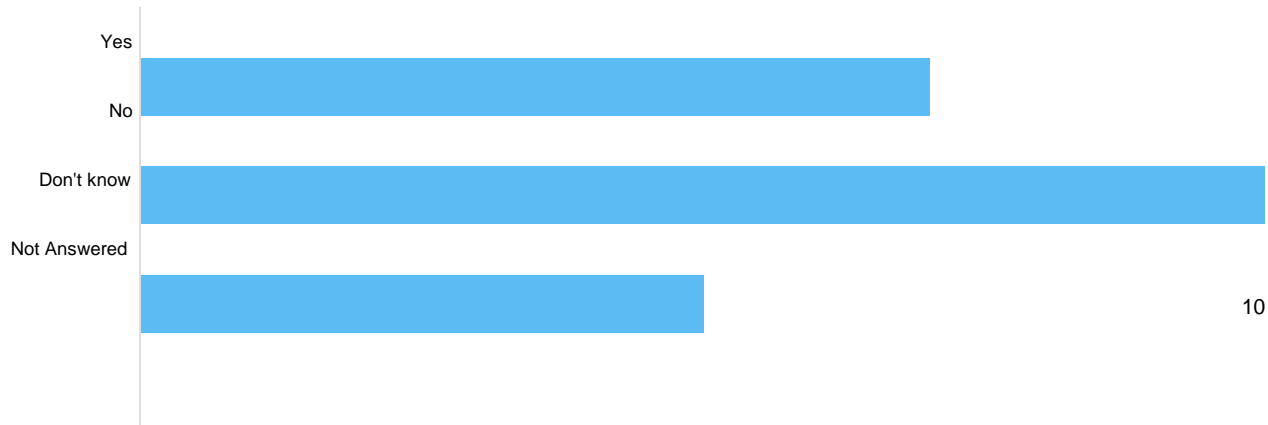
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1	4.55%
No	17	77.27%
Don't know	4	18.18%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments

There were 14 responses to this part of the question.

Question 6: Do you agree that by providing more development opportunities to staff across all Key Stages that they may be able to provide better learning experience/opportunities to children?

developmen opps

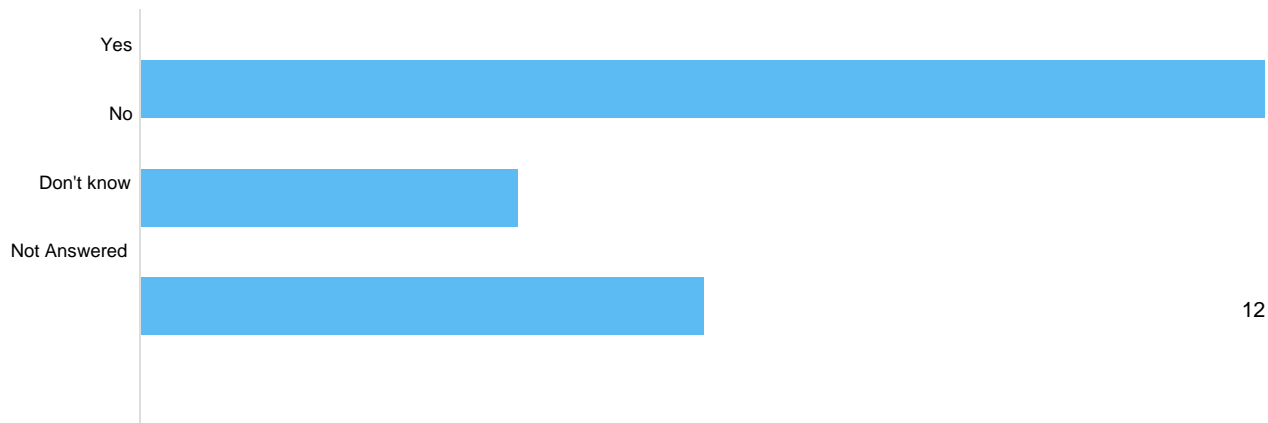


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	7	31.82%
No	10	45.45%
Don't know	5	22.73%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments

There were 14 responses to this part of the question.

Question 7: Do you think the Nursery and Primary Schools currently meet the needs of its local community? meets needs



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	12	54.55%
No	4	18.18%
Don't know	6	27.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

In what ways do they / do not meet local needs?

There were 13 responses to this part of the question.

Proposed amalgamation of Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School and change of age range

Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and

Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

1 Contact Details

Name and address of the local authority making the proposal:

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Stopford House, Stockport, SK1 3UR

Name of schools:

Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School

Address of schools:

Northgate Road, Edgeley, Stockport, SK3 9PH

Category of schools:

Community

2 Implementation

The proposals are to discontinue Lark Hill Nursery School with effect from 25 July 2025 and change the age range of Lark Hill Primary School from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to create a primary school with nursery provision with effect from 1 September 2025

3 Reason for the proposals

Each time a nursery school Headteacher announces their intention to retire, consideration is given to whether the school should unite with a local school to become a single primary school. The Headteacher at Lark Hill Nursery School will retire at the end of the 2024/25 academic year.

We believe that amalgamating the schools will be beneficial to the local community as it enables children and families to feel part of one school community.

Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School are two separate schools which share the same site. Many pupils from the nursery school move through into the primary school but not all. Each school has its own governing body, headteachers and work whilst independent from each other, they do work closely together. In December 2019, Lark Hill Nursery School was judged to be Outstanding by Ofsted and in November 2022, Lark Hill Primary School was judged to be Good.

The schools have worked closely together and have shared resources and expertise for example, with staff training. The proposals would enable the single governing body to make efficiencies in the running of the primary school (particularly in respect of leadership, finance, administration and caretaking but

also in other areas such as pastoral care, IT).

Lark Hill Nursery School is currently run by the governors under a different Ofsted registration, meaning it is run as a separate legal entity to Lark Hill Primary School. By changing its age range, the extended primary school would be able to formally take on the management of the nursery provision under the same Ofsted registration as the school.

4 Objectives

The proposals offer a coherent, consistent approach with one vision to support children between ages of 2-11 and their families in the Edgeley area.

The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for children.

A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout a child's primary school life.

The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Edgeley:

- Single school leadership team and Governing Body with the strategic overview of the School's 2-11 provision.
- Consistency, continuity, and familiarity in
 - Ethos, and approach to learning
 - Pastoral care
 - Curriculum
 - SEND provision and support including early identification of needs
 - Same site
- Opportunities for existing staff to professionally develop across the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older.

One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school including:

- Smoother transition from Nursery to Reception.
- Tracking of pupil progress and early intervention would be seamless for those pupils moving between Nursery and Reception.
- Expectations for behaviour and learning would be consistent.
- Sharing of resources / expertise and efficiency gains
- Opportunities to build on the sharing of resources and expertise across Early Years, Key Stages 1 and 2 which in turn will support an enriched curriculum.
- Opportunities for children to work across phases and support each other. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with different aged children. This can include older pupils having some appropriate pastoral responsibilities for younger children or supporting them with reading e.g., reading buddies or play leaders.

The formal closure of Lark Hill Nursery School would mean the Nursery School

staff posts would be at risk. Stockport Council knows the process of bringing two schools together as one can be unsettling for staff. As with any process of change, the interests of staff must be considered carefully, and all staff, and their unions would be consulted in accordance with the Council's policies. Stockport Council's Human Resources team would work closely with school staff throughout the transition. In line with previous successful projects of this nature, consultation will be undertaken with the Governing Body of the Primary School with a view to securing ring-fenced recruitment for staff affected by proposals should the proposals go ahead.

The extended primary school would continue to operate on the existing school site under a single governing board and headteacher

5 Pupil Numbers and admissions

Lark Hill Nursery School currently offers 78 places for 3 and 4 year olds and 16 places for 2 year olds across the week. However, declining birth rates across the borough have resulted in falling numbers at the school with numbers in summer term 2024 of 39 3 and 4 year olds and 19 2 year olds across the week. Autumn 2024 term has 14 2 year olds and 22 3 and 4 year olds.

It is proposed to offer 26 places for 3 and 4 year olds (52 across the week) and 8 places for 2 year olds (16 places across the week). This would accommodate the anticipated need.

Children will continue to be admitted to nursery provision each term and if they are 2 after their 2nd birthday. 2 year old places are applied for directly to the School and 3 and 4 year old places are applied for to the Council.

From Sept 2026 there is a vision to create a Foundation Stage Unit. This would give the benefits of children being taught by need rather than age and having fewer transitions at a younger age.

6 Displaced pupils

No children would be displaced by the proposals.

7 Impact on the community

It is anticipated that the proposal would have a positive impact on the school community, as set out in the benefits in section 4 above. Families will still be able to access provision on the same site.

8 Rural primary schools

Neither school is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2023.

9 Balance of denominational provision

West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School are both

community schools. The balance of denominational provision in the area would not change as the proposed all-through primary school would be a community school.

10 Maintained nursery schools

The Department of Education guidance says that there is a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. This does not mean that a maintained nursery school will never close. The proposals set out here demonstrate that the future provision will be at least equal in quantity to that currently provided at Lark Hill Nursery School. The provision will be as accessible and convenient for local parents as it is an amalgamation of the two current schools.

11 Sixth form provision

Neither school has sixth form provision.

12 Special educational needs provision

At the May 2024 school census, Lark Hill Nursery School had 15 children (42%) identified as in need of SEN Support which is significantly higher than the Stockport average of 17%. The Nursery School did not have any children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Lark Hill Primary School had 14 children (9.3%) with an EHCP and 44 children (29.3%) in need of SEN Support both higher than the Stockport average of 3.2% for children with an EHCP and 13.3% in need of SEN Support.

Both Schools are proudly inclusive and the extended age Primary School will be able to benefit from expertise across 2-11 age range.

Lark Hill Nursery School staff have joined the Primary School in staff training and have had extensive training on Autism, Communication, ELSA, ELKLAN and the current Nursery Teacher has completed the NASENCO training as of July 2024.

Unless a child has an EHCP, the determination of whether a child has SEN is down to individual schools in consultation with parents and the threshold varies between schools. All schools have the same duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014 to identify and provide for children with SEN. Unless there are specific provisions named in a statutory plan which would make admission incompatible with the requirement for reasonable adjustments, it is a legal requirement for all schools to comply. As the barriers to learning that a child with SEN might experience change over time, Stockport Council would expect provision to adapt and change alongside these developments. In some cases, children may cease to be identified as having SEN if appropriate adjustments are put in place to enable them to overcome barriers and to make progress in line with their peers.

13 Travel

As all children currently on roll at the nursery and primary schools would automatically have a place at the extended primary school following amalgamation, Stockport Council does not envisage any change to current travel arrangements.

14 The effect on other educational institutions within the area

Stockport Council does not believe that the proposals would have an effect on other educational institutions within the area as there would be no loss of provision or places as a result of the proposals

15 Project costs

No capital expenditure is required to implement the proposals.

Booking:

Booking Ref: 902341847
Size: 7 cm x 2 column
Start date: Wed 30 Oct 2024
In: Statutory

Publications:

1 insert in the Stockport Express 1 listing on Public Notice Portal

Notice Text:

Stockport Council
Statutory Notice Notice is hereby given of the proposed amalgamation of Lark Hill Nursery School and Lark Hill Primary School and change of age range under

Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

This notice is an extract of the complete proposal which are published on Stockport Council's website <https://consultation.stockport.gov.uk/schools/lark-hill-stat-proposal/>

Alternatively, you can request a printed copy of the complete proposal by email admissions.consult@stockport.gov.uk.

Any objections or comments must be received by midnight on 2 December 2024. M5 4BJ

**Stockport Council
Statutory Notice**

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Lark Hill Primary School

A Community of Responsibility and Respect; Creativity and Challenge.

A Happy Place to Learn

Friday 8th November 2024

Response to consultation

As governors of Lark Hill Primary School we support the proposed closure of Lark Hill Nursery School and expansion of the age range of Lark Hill Primary School to include nursery provision. Our reasons for supporting the proposal are as follows:

- It is vital that the community continues to have high quality nursery provision for two-year-olds, three-year-olds and four-year-olds. The precarious financial position of Lark Hill Nursery School makes this continued provision highly vulnerable. The efficiency savings that could be made by incorporating the nursery provision into the primary school can safeguard the continuance of high-quality provision for nursery-age children in this community.
- There is a strong commitment from Lark Hill Primary School's Governing Body, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to maintain and enhance the existing outstanding provision of Lark Hill Nursery School. The two schools' leadership teams and wider staff are working together to more closely align practice and make the transition from nursery to reception ever more coherent. To this end, the Early Years external consultant who works with Lark Hill Nursery School is booked in to also audit provision in the reception class of Lark Hill Primary School this half term. We will receive reports at the next Full Governing Body meeting as to how aligned provision currently is and what recommendations are made in respect of smoothing the transition, developing levels of school-readiness and ensuring that all of the very best child-development work that takes place in the nursery is, at a developmentally appropriate level, continued into reception.
- By 2026 the plan is to have an integrated Foundation Stage ensuring smoother transition and sharing of best practice between nursery and reception classes with both classes and their respective teachers working together on the same site.
- There are no plans to lose any of the expertise of the nursery school's teaching staff. We look forward to welcoming them into the staff of the primary school and utilising all of their considerable expertise and skills.
- The opportunities for the school to forge relationships with families from a much earlier stage has great potential for earlier identification of needs and attendant referrals and support to be put in place. It also removes the need for families to have to learn to trust new people all over again when their child transitions into reception.

The Governing Body
Lark Hill Primary School