

## **Brighton Avenue Primary School Consultation**

Gateshead Council is consulting from the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022 on the proposal to increase the admission limit of Brighton Avenue Primary School from 45 to 50.

### **The Proposal**

The council is proposing to;

Increase the current Published Admission Number (PAN) for each year group from 45 to 50 expanding the school from 315 to 350 places an increase of 35 places.

Classes in the school are currently organised in groups of 22 and 23 enabling the pupils to make good progress and disadvantaged pupils are well supported. The school has seen a steady increase in both in year admissions and first year of entry requests over the past five years. For reception in September 2021 the school received 63 first preference applications and therefore had 18 refusals as well as admission appeals for the first time.

The school in September 2021 will have 302 pupils on roll with key stage 1 being almost full in every class at the current PAN.

In order to retain sufficient capacity and to continue to provide choice and diversity for parents as well as building on the Department for Education's principle of expanding popular schools, the Council is proposing to increase the school's PAN from 45 to 50 across all year groups. The school's last net capacity assessment indicated that each class could accommodate up to 27 pupils, however, given the potential impact of circulation around the school in communal areas, it is felt that a PAN of 50 would both enable the school to meet ongoing demand and continue to provide a safe environment for all the children.

There is also additional housing being built in the school's catchment area with 287 homes being built between 2021 and 2028. Using the pupil projection model this would potentially generate an additional 86 primary age children in the area over the next seven years.

Whilst any increase in a school's PAN will potentially have an impact on other schools in the area, given the demand for places at the school and ongoing new building in the Bensham area, the Council feel that the increase will not have a significant impact on other schools but will increase the choice and diversity of provision within the area.

### Alternative Options

Should the Council not expand the PAN at Brighton Avenue Primary School the school will not be able to meet the projected demand from the new housing in its catchment area. Other schools in the area, with the exception of Kelvin Grove Community Primary School are below the 10% surplus capacity the Council works toward to enable suitable choice and diversity for parents moving to the area or applying for Reception places. The current occupancy of all schools in the area is shown below;

Caedmon Primary School - %100

Kelvin Grove Community Primary School – 78%

St Aidan's C of E Primary School – 93%

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School – 91%

Brighton Avenue Primary School – 96%

### Conclusion

Without expansion potentially the only school non faith school able to accommodate additional children would be Kelvin Grove Community Primary School which would reduce the Council's ability to provide sufficient school places to enable parents to have adequate choice and diversity especially given the increased housing in the school's catchment area.

### **How you can give your views**

You can take part in this consultation by sending any comments to;

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