

South Street Community Primary School Consultation

Gateshead Council is consulting from the 15th November 2021 to the 7th January 2022 on the proposal to decrease the admission limit of South Street Community Primary School from 44 to 30.

The Proposal

The council is proposing to;

Decrease the current Published Admission Number (PAN) for each year group from 44 to 30 reducing the school capacity from 351 to 210 a reduction of 141 places across the school.

Numbers in the school have been steadily decreasing over the last several years with reception admissions over the past four years being around 30 suggesting that one form of entry would be sufficient to accommodate demand. The school has however taken a number of children via the council's fair access process to increase the numbers in the school.

Current numbers in the school are;

Reception 32

Year 1 27

Year 2 36

Year 3 27

Year 4 28

Year 5 32

Year 6 41

Projection numbers based on birth data indicate that there will be around 27 children requesting places at the school in the short to medium term.

Reception admissions for September 2021 showed that only 6 children from the catchment area were allocated a place which equates to 19% of those allocated a place being from the school's catchment area. Currently for

September 2022 reception admissions there are again only 6 children from the catchment area registered with school admissions indicating a similar pattern of admissions which further supports a reduction in the school's PAN.

There are planned new housing developments in the area which should in time increase demand for places at South Street such as the Town Centre development including the Freight Depot and High Street South sites. The local authority had planned for the expansion of South Street to accommodate extra demand from new housing developments, however, these have been delayed due to the pandemic.

In order to achieve the reduction in capacity, sections of the school will need to be mothballed which will enable the school to expand in the future when demand increases as housing developments are completed.

Whilst this will potentially impact on other schools in the area the council feels that the evidence shows that the school cannot maintain its current PAN of 44 and a reduction will enable the school to be more effective in delivering quality education to a smaller cohort in the short to medium term.

How you can give your views

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

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