

## Annexe B – Technical discussion

### Technical discussion of individual proposals to change admission limits.

School: **Rufforth Primary School**

Proposer: **School**

Proposal: **Increase from 10 to 12.**

#### Background

1. The LA have refused a number of previous requests to increase the admission limit at this school, on the basis that
  - i. physical capacity is limited and the school would have difficulty meeting infant class size legislation.
  - ii. Numbers from within Rufforth catchment are low, so increase would pull catchment pupils away from of other schools, particularly Carr Infant school.
  
2. Rufforth Primary currently has 66 children on roll, which are split over four classes.

**Table 1: Rufforth Primary - cohort sizes**

<b>Year group</b>	<b>pupils</b>
R	9
1	11
2	12
<b>KS1 tot</b>	<b>32</b>
3	10
4	8
5	7
6	9
<b>KS2 tot</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>

**Table 2: Rufforth Primary - Class organisation**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Pupils</b>
R	9
Y1/Y2	23
Y3/Y4	18
Y5/Y6	16
<b>total</b>	<b>66</b>

## Annexe B – Technical discussion

3. Intakes at the school have been at a healthy level for around five years. Sept 10 was the first time that the school did not attract preferences over the existing admission limit of ten. At time of writing, Rufforth has attracted eleven 1<sup>st</sup> preferences for Sept 11, eight of which are from within catchment. The remaining three pupils are resident in Carr, Poppleton Ousebank, and Woodthorpe catchments.
4. Governors are concerned that if numbers across Key Stage 1 fall below 30, the loss of infant class size funding will necessitate redundancies. This, in turn, would require running three large classes, making the school less attractive to families in future. Increasing the admission limit to 12 would provide more of a buffer against this eventuality in the event of in-year migration away from the school.
5. A review into admissions and school accommodation is currently being undertaken by the Government. Whilst the results of the review are yet to be made public, there are indications that the existing infant class size limit of 30 children in a KS 1 class may disappear. If this were to happen, the infant class size funding which is provided to schools by the Authority would likely be withdrawn, and a single large KS1 class would be financially unavoidable.
6. Rising demand for Reception places across the city has been particularly keenly felt at primary and infant schools in the South and West of the city. The impact has been that a number of schools which have traditionally had spaces available in Reception after place allocation are now being allocated numbers up to their admission limit. In September 2010 Carr Infant school was for the first time allocated its full compliment of 70 children. Early indications are that this will happen again in September 2011.
7. The school normally admit a small number of children 'in year'. This means that even though the school are allocated 10 children in Reception, if families move into the village after allocation point they will still be given a place at the school because of the distance to the next nearest school with places. The net effect of this is that cohorts generally increase in size by one or two children from number initially allocated a place in Reception.

### **OPTION 1: agree increase from 10 to 12.**

8. There is no risk of physical overcrowding on the basis of intakes of 12. The school now has enough teaching space available to run three standard classes and a smaller FS class, if the part of the hall is used (as it is currently).
9. Against the backdrop of rising pupil numbers across the city, and particularly in the Leeman Road / Boroughbridge Road area, it is unlikely that an increase in admission limit will have practical implications at other local schools (including Carr Infant).
10. Smaller classes are seen as preferable in terms of educational outcomes. Agreeing to the requested increase in admission limit would, *prima facie*, lessen the risk to the school of having to operate one large combined KS1 class comprising Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, should KS1 numbers

## **Annexe B – Technical discussion**

drop to 30 or below. However, removal of the infant class size limit following the Government's review could mean that the school are forced to run a single KS1 class as infant class size funding is withdrawn, regardless of admission limit. Under this scenario, approving an increase in admission limit could leave the school having to deal with a single large KS1 class of above 36 due to a lack of funding for an additional teacher.

### **OPTION 2: reject increase from 10 to 12**

11. Increasing the admission limit will not prevent placement of children in the school by route of appeal if families move into the village 'in year'. The school have indicated that cohort sizes of 15, which could arise through in year migration into KS1 cohorts, would be difficult to accommodate in their smaller Reception class due to physical space limitations. Agreeing to an increase in admission limit could make it difficult for the school to teach their reception class effectively in the event of significant in year admissions.
12. It is the LA's policy not to increase admission limits unless demand can be demonstrated from within catchment. Current indications are that there is not likely to be demand for 12 places from within the Rufforth catchment area in the short to medium term. Agreeing to an increase would therefore set an unwanted precedent in this regard.
13. Whilst Carr Infant would be unlikely to experience a reduced intake as the result of an increase at Rufforth, it still remains the case that an impact, however negligible, would still be felt at other schools within the south and west of the city, such as Westfield or Woodthorpe primary schools.
14. Opposing the increased admission limit, and retaining the existing limit of 10, would mean that in the event of infant class size funding being withdrawn, the size of the KS1 class would be smaller than if the limit was set at 12. Smaller class sizes are seem as beneficial to schools in terms of educational outcomes.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

15. If infant class size funding is withdrawn beyond 2012/13, as appears likely, an increased admission limit could leave the school having to operate a combined KS1 class of over 36 children.
16. In addition, it would be prudent not to set a precedent of increasing an admission limit on the basis of demand from out of catchment.
17. The Executive Member is therefore recommended to reject the school's proposal to increase their admission limit from 10 to 12.

### **View of Local Admissions Forum**

The Local Admissions Forum recommend rejecting this proposal, for the reasons outlined above.

## **Annexe B – Technical discussion**

School: **Joseph Rowntree School**

Proposer: **School**

Proposal: **Increase Year 12 admission limit from 25 to 40**

### **Background**

18. Schools offering post-16 education must set an admission limit for those entering the school in Year 12. The limit does not apply to children transferring into Year 12 from the school's own Year 11 cohort.
19. The Year 12 admission limits for September 2011 admissions, for all schools offering post-16 provision is shown in table 3, below.

**Table 3: current 6th form admission limits**

	Y12 limit (Sept 11)
Huntington	30
Joseph Rowntree	25
Archbishop Holgate's	40
Fulford	35

20. Joseph Rowntree school moved into a brand new building in time for the 10/11 academic year.
21. Governors have requested the increase in their Year 12 admission limit because:
  - a. The school now have the physical capacity to accommodate higher numbers.
  - b. A higher number would bring more parity with other school 6<sup>th</sup> form limits (above).
22. The LA are in agreement with the proposed increase on both counts. A higher Year 12 admission limit would match the arrangements in place following the new build, and would not negatively impact admissions into other 6<sup>th</sup> forms within the city.

### **Views of Local Admissions Forum**

23. The Local Admissions Forum recommend accepting this proposal, for the reasons outlined above.