

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Petitions

(i) Details of decision

That the response attached as an Appendix be agreed.

(ii) Reasons for decision

To respond to the petition.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report

Mr Simon Baronti attended the meeting to present the petition.

Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)

None.

Decision taken by:

(i) Name: Linda Kemeny

(ii) Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning

Date of Decision: 14 May 2014

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 14 May 2014

Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Children and Education Select Committee):
22 May 2014

CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO PETITION

'We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to create a bulge year at St. James Primary School in Weybridge for Manby Lodge leavers (Sept 2014)'

Presented by Naomi Baronti

Further Details of petition:

Only for the current year 2 classes at Manby Lodge (Princes Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9DA) who have been allocated a place at a school which is unacceptable, we request that Surrey County Council creates a bulge year at St James C of E Primary School (Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8PL) for a September 2014 intake. We would also welcome an audience with Andrew Davis MP to discuss this in more detail and in person.

RESPONSE

Surrey County Council (SCC) has been able to make offers to all parents in Weybridge whose children require a Year 3 place. The vast majority of parents in Surrey have received either their first choice of school (87%) or one of their four preferred schools (94%) for Key Stage 2 admissions. This percentage is reflected across the Elmbridge Borough. We understand that 26 of the 60 Year 2 parents at Manby Lodge did not get a place for their child at Cleves Junior School; however of these, 11 have been offered another preferred school and 15 were made offers at other schools in Elmbridge within a reasonable travelling distance.

The County Council has a duty to provide sufficient places and it has done so without having to commission any additional accommodation; in other words, it has filled empty spaces in all its local schools and this is the most cost effective use of public money . To put a 'bulge ' class into a school requires the school to agree to this and also planning permission for the temporary accommodation that is usually required. It also means meeting the cost of a teacher and the temporary building, associated costs of teaching resources and revenue to fund any vacant places if the class is not filled up to 30 pupils.

The SCC Education Department also has to consider the quality of education on offer at any school that it seeks to expand, even on a temporary basis. St James was inspected in November 2013 and was judged by OFSTED to require improvement in the standard of education provided.

For all of the above reasons (no basic need, financial probity and standard of education provision), Surrey County Council will not be seeking to put a temporary additional Year 3 class into St James primary in Weybridge in September 2014.

Mrs Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
14 May 2014

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Manby Lodge Infant School expansion

(i) Details of decision

In order to meet increased demand for primary school places in Weybridge, it was agreed that:

- Manby Lodge Infant School be enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 2 FE to 3 FE) on 1 September 2015.
- The school roll be increased by one form each year until September 2017 when its capacity will be 270 pupils.
- An associated building programme go ahead, in a single phase, to provide appropriate new classrooms and facilitate the removal of all temporary accommodation on site. The new build will improve the overall layout of the school and is intended to provide a modern educational facility which will enhance learning.

(ii) Reasons for decision

School rolls have been rising steadily across Elmbridge since 2003. Over this period the birth rate has risen by 24.6%; additionally families have chosen to move into the borough, in part due to housing development. Weybridge Primary School pupil numbers have reflected this borough trend. In 2007 there were around 220 applications for Reception places; by 2020 this is predicted to rise to 270 places, or nine forms of entry (9FE); this is one more form of entry (or 30 Reception places) per year than is currently provided.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report

None.

Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)

None.

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- (ii) **Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning Decisions

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CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Riverbridge Primary School, Staines

(i) Details of decision

In order to respond to parental and governing body preference, it is agreed that:

- Riverbridge Primary School's Stanwell New Road Base permanently closes at the end of term July 2014.
- In September 2014 Riverbridge Primary School re-open for the new academic year 2014/15 on its two remaining bases with the same number of pupils on roll. The admissions policy will not be affected.
- An associated building programme go ahead, in a single phase, to provide appropriate new classrooms at the Park Avenue base to accommodate all the Reception and Year 1 pupils.
- The Stanwell New Road site be retained for future educational use.

(ii) Reasons for decision

There is evidence to indicate that families are less likely to prefer places at Stanwell New Road Base than at Park Avenue. This is because of where people live in relation to this school. Many parents have put their children's names on a waiting list to transfer to the Park Avenue base in order to avoid having to deliver and collect siblings to and from two different sites each day. These sites are significantly far apart and require a car journey to be made.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report

None.

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