



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## *Report* School Organisation Committee

---

**Date** 16 January 2002  
**Title** Statutory Notices : Standard Numbers  
**Author** Strategic Manager Schools/Chief Education Officer  
**Contact Officer** David Ayres (01296) 383527

### **Electoral Divisions Affected**

### **Summary**

To bring to the Committee a number of statutory proposals relating to changes in standard numbers for schools which are being consulted upon and for which the statutory objection period has now finished.

The Committee is asked to determine the Statutory Notices.

### **Recommendation**

**Approval be given to the Statutory Notices relating to changes in standard numbers at the followings schools:**

**Chesham Bois CE Combined  
Jordans Infant  
St. Peter's CE Combined, Burnham  
Winslow CE Combined**

### **Supporting Information**

The Statutory Notices relating to the above Buckinghamshire Schools were published in the Summer. The proposals all relate to a change in standard number (and therefore the relevant admission arrangements) with effect from September 2002. The objection period for all four of the notices closed in September.

No statutory objections to any of the proposals had been received at the time of the close of the objection periods.

Copies of the proposals in respect of the four schools were circulated to Members of the Committee in July (**MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING THESE PAPERS WITH THEM TO THE MEETING IN ORDER THAT APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION LEADING TO A DECISION ON THE INDIVIDUAL NOTICES CAN TAKE PLACE**).

There is one matter which does need to be brought to the attention of the Committee. In Winslow, there are three Church Schools, Padbury CE Infant (Controlled), Swanbourne CE Infant (Aided) and Mursley CE Infant (Controlled), where pupils may continue at the School until Key Stage 2 and parents may therefore seek transfer to Winslow School, which is the appropriate recipient combined school, at Year 4 (8+) or even Year 5 (9+).

Previously the Authority had attempted to give some support to this arrangement by indicating in its Information for Parents Booklet, a point of admission, albeit without a corresponding standard number at 8+ and 9+.

However, in drawing up proposals for an increase in the standard numbers which will better reflect the overall pattern of demand and the capacity of the Combined School, the advice from the DfES was that only two points of entry should be established at a primary school and that it was not possible to have more (for example three at 4+, 7+ and 8+ or even four at 4+, 7+, 8+ and 9+).

Under normal circumstances, this should not have caused a problem because the projected cohort sizes in Key Stage 2 for Winslow School, once there has been transfer from the Feeder Infant Schools, typically is between 90 and 100 pupils which would enable the school to accommodate these year cohorts in three classes.

This year, the year cohort which will become year 4 in September 2002 is exceptionally large with approximately 115 in the Year Group. This has meant that were the school to admit the 14 in area pupils who were seeking admission into year 4 in September 2002, the Year cohort would be too large to be accommodated in the 3 class groups and therefore an additional fourth group would need to be formed. This has implications both as far as funding the additional staffing is concerned as well as the provision of accommodation.

It was indicated therefore to parents that it was unlikely that the school would be able to offer a place for their child for September 2002. Subsequently however local negotiation has resulted in the Authority providing extra funding for staffing and extra accommodation in order to house the large cohort.

In future, it is unlikely that the Authority will be able to maintain its position with a point of entry at 8+ or 9+ and therefore late transfers will have to apply to the school on the basis of casual late admissions. Members of the Committee are reminded that the relevant sections of the draft guidance on local decision making on statutory proposals, are contained at Section A (2) pages 30 and 31: Statutory Guidance on the factors to be considered in decision standard number variations and Section F (1) pages 111 to 119 : Standard Numbers.

### **Resources Appraisal**

There are no immediate resource implications arising directly from this report.

### ***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper which you would like the Cabinet to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Head of Cabinet Support by [Date]. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382966), Fax (to 01296 383441), or e-mail to [cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk)*