

Consultation

Proposal to Increase the Admission Number of Harris School

June 2008

1. Introduction

1.1 The proposal is to increase the admission number of Harris C.of E. (Voluntary Aided) School from 157 to 183 pupils per year with effect from September 2010 admissions. The proposal is supported by the Governing Body of Harris School and the Diocesan Board of Education. The purpose of this document is to inform interested parties of the proposal and seek comments that will inform any decision of the County Council.

2. The Proposal

2.1 The proposal arises out of a review of sec school provision in Rugby which identified the need for some additional secondary places in response to continued development in the town. Discussions with schools have led the Authority to conclude that it would be best for those additional places to be at Harris school. Other schools were not seeking at this stage to expand. Harris School is an oversubscribed school which has admitted above its planned admission number in recent years.

3. Background

3.1 Harris School is an 11 to 16, Church of England Voluntary Aided secondary school that serves the town of Rugby and surrounding villages. The school has no priority area. The admission number of the school is currently 157 pupils per year. The recorded capacity of the school is 754 pupils and there are 768 pupils currently on roll. It is anticipated that in September 2008, when the current smallest year group, Year 11, graduates and is replaced by an intake of approximately 180 new Year 7 pupils, the total number of pupils on roll will increase to around 820. Table1 below gives a detailed breakdown of pupil numbers at Harris School:

Table 1- Actual pupils on roll at Harris School – June 2008

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total	Net capacity
Harris School	162	165	164	151	127	769	754

3.2 In terms of the impact of new housing, the latest figures available indicate that approximately 1400 dwellings are due to be built in the town over five years. This could result in an increase in the demand for school places of between 7 and 15 pupils per academic year. Table 2 indicates the forecast demand for Year 7 places in Rugby secondary schools when the impact of new housing is added to the demographic trend. The Borough Council is developing plans for significant numbers of new houses over the next 20 years, as its response to the Regional Spatial Strategy and the County Council will be responding to consultations on the matter.

Table 2 – Forecasts of total demand for Year 7 places at all Warwickshire schools in Rugby
(Source November 2007 Forecast)

	Estimates of Year 7 demand including pupils at new housing				
	For September				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Year 7 demographic forecast (including out of county pupils)	1,119	1,050	1,079	1,089	1,064
Number of pupils from new Housing	11	22	33	44	55
Total	1,130	1,072	1,112	1,133	1,119
Year 7 capacity in Rugby secondary schools	1,106	1,106	1,106	1,106	1,106
Surplus / shortage of places in Year 7	- 24	34	- 6	- 27	- 13

3.3 Table 2 indicates that when the impact of new housing developments over the next five years is factored into the forecast demographic trend, the current capacity of secondary schools in Rugby could fall short of meeting the demand for school places. In 2008/09 the situation will be alleviated mainly by Harris School admitting above its admission limit; a situation which cannot be repeated in future years unless there is an increase in its capacity along the lines outlined in this proposal. While the demand for places is forecast to ease in September 2009, there may be barely sufficient places in September 2010 and in 2011 and 2012 there could be a clear shortfall of places.

4. What will be the impact of the change?

4.1 An increase in the admission number of Harris School to 183 pupils per year will enable the school to continue to admit pupils at its current level and provide sufficient secondary school capacity in Rugby to meet forecast pupil demand in the Town until at least 2013. If the school is not enlarged, the County Council may be unable to continue to meet demand for what is a popular, oversubscribed, school. Given that the school has needed to admit similar numbers of pupils in recent years there will be no change to the pattern of admissions in the Town and there will be sufficient pupil numbers to satisfy all secondary schools in the Town.

4.2 Increasing the admission number of Harris School to 183 would bring the size of the school more closely into line more with that of the other secondary schools in Rugby. The size of the school site means that there is little more room for expansion once this project was completed. The other secondary schools in Rugby do not wish to grow further. The increase in admission numbers at Harris School is unlikely to change the current pattern of admissions in the town.

5. When would the changes take effect?

5.1 If approved, a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 183 pupils would apply to admissions to Harris School from September 2010 onwards although if the necessary building work was completed by September 2009, the school may be in a position to admit above its current admission limit in 2009.

6. Building implications

6.1 It will be necessary to extend and alter the existing buildings to provide the additional capacity required. The County Council is working closely with the school governing body and the Diocesan authorities on this matter. It is intended to widen the school drive as part of the proposals.

7. Finance

7.1 It is calculated that the cost of the changes to the accommodation will be in excess of £3.5m. Provision has been made in the County Council's capital programme in 2008/9.

8. We want to know your views

8.1 This consultation paper is being sent to all parents/carers of pupils and prospective pupils of Harris School, the governing body, all staff and the School Council of Harris School, the governing bodies of schools in East Warwickshire, the Diocesan Education Authorities, the local Learning and Skills Council, Rugby Borough Council and Parish Councils in the Borough, neighbouring local authorities and the Local Member of Parliament.

8.2 Please send your comments on the proposals in writing to:

Phil Astle
Children Young People and Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL

or email: philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk

By Friday 18 July 2008

9. What happens next?

9.1 It is intended that at the end of the consultation period, these proposals, and a summary of all the comments received, will be considered by the Cabinet of Warwickshire County Council for a decision on 31 July 2008.