



# HORMEAD C of E (VA) FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Philip Asher



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

Dear Consultee,

## Hormead CE(VA) First School

The Governing Body of Hormead CE (VA) First School propose to reduce the published admission number (PAN) at Hormead CE(VA) First School from 20 to 15. The school's PAN has already been set for 2017/18 and to amend it requires the approval of the Office of the School's Adjudicator (OSA).

The Governing Body will be submitting a proposal to the OSA to reduce Hormead CE(VA) First School's PAN with immediate effect for the current academic year at the start of November. You are invited to submit your views on this proposal by **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.

### Background

The Governing Body of Hormead CE(VA) First School have raised concerns with the County Council that the current intake of 20 will lead to a breach of the Infant Class Size Regulations.

Since the current PAN of 20 was set, the school has reduced size to three classes from four, and children now leave the school at age 9 (since September 2014). This structure permits a capacity of 75 children in Reception-Y4. The number of staff has also reduced, and the school has balanced its budget despite a significant reduction in pupil numbers in the years up to September 2015, when the school roll was 26 (Reception-Y4).

The housing expansion in Buntingford has resulted in a larger number of parents choosing the school (Reception intake was 14 in both 2016 and 2017, compared to 5 in 2015). The school has also experienced an increased number of In Year admissions, particularly in KS1 where Y1 has increased from 14 to 17. The current school roll is 65 (Reception – Y4, as of 2/10/17), with 5 children joining the school since September – the Reception cohort is now 15.

Admitting up to the PAN of 20 in Reception would result in a significant breach of the Infant Class Size regulations from September 2018, when this group moves into Y1. Due to the mixed age class structure, the class would be 37. This would compromise the quality of education available to this class, and place a significant financial burden on the school budget. The school has already appointed additional staff to meet the needs of the increased number of pupils, and would need to appoint further staff to support a class of this size.

### Action Already Taken

- In January 2017 the Governors concluded a consultation to reduce the PAN to 15 for 2018. This was agreed and forms part of the Admission Arrangements for 2018 onwards.
- The Governors have agreed, with the support of the County Council, to "cap" the numbers entering the school in Years 1-4.

Great Hormead, nr Buntingford SG9 0NR

T: 01763 289201 E: [admin@hormead.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hormead.herts.sch.uk)

[www.hormead.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hormead.herts.sch.uk)

 [facebook.com/hormeadschool](https://facebook.com/hormeadschool)



**How to respond**

We are seeking views on this proposal from all that may be affected. Please send any comments no later than **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017** by email to:

[admissions@hormead.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@hormead.herts.sch.uk)

Alternatively written responses can be mailed to

Hormead Consultation  
Hormead First School  
Great Hormead  
Nr. Buntingford  
SG9 0NR

Thank you for your help with this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Philip Asher**  
Headteacher

**Mrs Sam Abbey**  
Chair of Governors

Hormead CE(VA) First & Nursery School