



Rushmere Hall Primary School
IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

Rushmere Hall Primary School
Lanark Road, Ipswich
Suffolk IP4 3EJ

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Date: 03.10.2022

Statutory Consultation on Reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Rushmere Hall Primary School for the 2024/25 Academic year

Dear Rushmere Community,

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Rushmere Hall Primary School is currently 90. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in reception each year is a maximum of 90.

Around 10 years ago, Rushmere Hall was expanded from two-forms of entry (60 pupils) to three-forms of entry (90). This was because there was greater demand in the local area for pupil spaces and in preparation for housing developments being built in close proximity to the school.

Despite that, since 2019 Rushmere Hall Primary has admitted a significantly lower number of pupils into reception than the number of spaces available. In 2021 – 2022, only 58 children joined our reception class. In 2022 – 2023, only 51 children joined our reception class. Out of the 51 children, just 23 are from the catchment area. If the school had not attracted the other 28 from out of the catchment area, this year group would have had just 23 children within it.

In the surrounding 5-mile radius there are currently known to be a number of other schools with spaces in these year groups. Schools who previously always had a full intake are no longer in the same position. Similar to Rushmere Hall, some of these schools locally were also increased in size.

Current published forecasts indicate that there will be a surplus number of reception places required for reception for the next five years based upon the best available birth rate data.

The school has spoken with Suffolk County Council, which does not anticipate that the numbers of children requiring school places in the planning area will increase significantly in the near future. Planned developments locally will take a few years to be built and there is an expectation that schools will be built on these developments so there is reduced need for spaces at Rushmere.

Who are we consulting with?

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. The Eko Trust, as the Admission Authority for Rushmere Hall, is therefore seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN from the following sources:

- Parents and carers of children already attending the school;
- Parents of any other children aged from birth upwards;
- School staff;
- Local primary schools, both in the North-East Ipswich cluster as well as schools within a 2 mile radius of this school;

- Anyone else with interest or who might be affected by the proposed change.

Specific Proposal

Rushmere Hall proposes to reduce the PAN at Rushmere Hall Primary School from **90 to 60** from September 2024. This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception in 2024 will be 60. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

Factors that have been considered by the school when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many pupil vacancies mean that the school will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Therefore, the school is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.
- The school is located on the outskirts of Ipswich (with minimal transport links) where there continues to be a falling demand for primary school places, resulting in a surplus across the area.
- This has meant that the reception classes have not filled for the last two years.
- The total number of pupils in reception recorded by the school on the October 2022 census is 51 and is well below the current PAN of 90.
- Rushmere Hall Primary School believe that reducing the PAN will assist the school in providing stability in their long-term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll.
- The reduction in PAN will ensure that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts.

There are no other changes being proposed. More information can be found on the school website.

<https://www.rushmerehallprimaryschool.com/consultation.html>

The consultation process

This consultation will run for six weeks on the school's website from Monday 31st October until Friday 9th December, after which time any representations received will be considered and a report taken to the Trust Board for a decision to be made on the PAN.

Responses must be submitted or, completed and returned by Friday 9th Decemeber.

In writing to: Consultation Response

Rushmere Hall Primary School

Lanark Road

Ipswich

IP4 3EJ

By email to: rhps-office@ekotrust.org.uk for the attention of the Headteacher, Paul Fykin

By webform: using the form on the 'Consultation page' on our school website.

Yours sincerely,



Head teacher