

Review of demography: Establishing a VA Roman Catholic school at Hampton Water

18th December 2019

Background

This demographic note has been created to support Peterborough City Council to reach a policy view on the establishment of a new VA Catholic School at Hampton Water, an area of new development in the south of the City. Of particular importance was the need to review the impact of the proposed new school's over-admissions policy (prioritising 80% of the Published Admission Number PAN for faith based admission and 20% for local demand if there are more applicants than places available) given the significant demand for primary places in the Hampton area.

Reference will be made to various local data sources as well as the submission by Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia (RCDEA) to the Department for Education.

Current demand and capacity at local schools

Table One: Reception: Actual and Forecast Local School Intakes: Summer 2019 School Capacity (SCAP) Return.

Local Schools	Actual Intake			SCAP Forecast (Summer 2019)				
	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Hampton College (Primary)	59	59	59	60	66	66	64	65
Hampton Hargate	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Hampton Vale*	91	89	89	66	81	79	75	78
Hampton Lakes	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	32	52	78	104
Hampton Water	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Open	Open
Total	240	238	238	229	269	287	307	337

**This data is taken from the 2018/19 SCAP return which takes parental preference trends into consideration. Hampton Vale received an Inadequate OFSTED rating in March 2018. The school is now an academy under the 4Cs trust, it is likely as the school improves outcomes educationally this preference will reverse and this school will fill.*

Table Two: Forecast Intake compared to Planned Capacity

	Actual Intake			SCAP Forecast (Summer 2019)				
	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Capacity	240	240	240	270 ¹	300 ²	300	306 ³	312 ⁴
Forecast Intake	240	238	238	229	269	287	307	337
Difference	0	-2	-2	41	31	13	-1	-25

Table One above reflects the rapid pace of housing development and population growth in the Hampton area. All the schools local to the development are currently working close to, at or over capacity and are forecast to do so up to and beyond September 2022. It should be stressed that the

¹ Hampton Lakes opens with 30 places.

² Hampton Lakes expands to 60 places.

³ Hampton Water opens with 6 non faith places

⁴ Hampton Water expands to 12 non faith places

level of growth in child numbers on the Hampton development has been exceptional, running ahead of past Peterborough forecasts. The Council is currently carrying out a new developments survey to better understand future demand for school places and this work has the potential to change future SCAP forecasting for Peterborough.

Table two compares the planned capacity of the schools with the current SCAP Forecast total. This shows that given the proposed restrictive admissions criteria for the Hampton Water School there will be the 306 places for 307 children in 22/23 and 312 places for 337 children, a possible deficit of 25 places. This makes it vitally important to assess the extent to which Catholic place will be taken up, and any additional capacity available if they aren't.

Current demand and capacity of Catholic places

Table Three: School Admissions Data: Numbers of Children Applying for Admission to Peterborough's existing Roman Catholic Primaries under the Roman Catholic Faith Criteria (first preference).

		St Thomas More	Sacred Heart	Total	Surplus places
	PAN	60	30	90	
2017	Catholic Applications	25	30	55	35
2018	Catholic Applications	17	23	40	50
2019	Catholic Applications	23	27	50	40
2017	Catholic Applications	42%	100%	61%	n/a
2018	Catholic Applications	28%	77%	44%	n/a
2019	Catholic Applications	38%	90%	56%	n/a

There are currently 90 places available for Catholic families if they wish to take up a distinctly Catholic education in Peterborough. Recent admissions data shows that there are approximately 40 places a year which could be used by Catholic children but are not. This is suggestive of more places being available to serve the local community than the 80% Roman Catholic over-admission criteria for Hampton Water would suggest.

Both existing Roman Catholic schools fill to PAN each year and are forecast to continue to do so suggesting wider popularity amongst parents. Neither school has a catchment area as such but both are very close to other primary schools that do. According to the January 2019 pupil data Sacred Heart draws 31% of its role from Middleton Primary Catchment and St Thomas More draws 58% of its role from Lime Academy catchment. **This suggests a possible 'local' admission range for the Hampton Water School along similar lines (based on 60 places) of between 19 and 35; with the expected deficit of 25 children needing places falling within this range.**

Comparison with another faith school on a local new development

St Michael's Church of England VA Primary School serves the new growing urban extension of Cardea, Stanground. Its over-subscription criteria includes reference to faith based criteria e.g. criterion 3: Children living in the catchment area who normally attend a Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The school is currently full in all year groups. For the 2019/20 admissions round it had no applications under the faith based criteria. This is at least suggestive that there is not an increased demand for a faith based education on new developments compared to elsewhere.

Conclusions

There will in all likelihood be more places available to serve the local community in the Hamptons than the proposed over-admissions criteria for the new school would suggest. The exact level of availability is hard to predict reliably but what evidence we have points towards the additional capacity providing the area with a 'tight fit' with forecast demand in 23/24.

Given the inherent level of uncertainty that pupil forecasting involves, this situation carries with it a medium level of risk for the local authority for a period of time until the Hampton development matures and the demand for school places starts to return to the City average. Whilst admissions performance (i.e. meeting parental preferences) for Peterborough is currently in line with the national average⁵ this situation has the potential to worsen rather than improve this metric, in addition any costs e.g. transport related, created by children not being able to access a local school place will also have to be carried by the authority.

⁵ For the 2018/19 admissions round 2870 applications were received and 2595 children were allocated their first preference. This equates to a 90.42% of children receiving their first preferences. This is slightly below the National Average of 90.6%, although it should be noted that national averages are skewed by poor performance of London Authorities.

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