

---

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD: 3 December 2008**

**SUBJECT: Options for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill Planning Area**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1 This report presents options for reorganising primary school provision in the Richmond Hill area of the city in the light of the successful Primary Capital Programme bid. Capital has been secured to deliver a new two form of entry (FE) school on the site of Richmond Hill Primary School, to incorporate new community specialist provision for children with special educational needs. The report identifies a preferred option and seeks the permission of the Executive Board to proceed with a public consultation on this option.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2 The Executive Board approved the Education Leeds Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change (PCPSfC) submission to the DCSF in June 2008, which outlines the priorities for Leeds schools within the national guidelines for this funding. Richmond Hill Primary School is identified in the submission as a school that we intend to rebuild in the first two years of the programme. The proposal contained in the PCPSfC is to rebuild the school on its current site as an expanded 2FE school.
- 3 The nearby Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School is currently housed entirely in temporary accommodation, on a constrained site with limited outdoor play space, and adjacent to the A64 dual carriageway. The Catholic Diocese have indicated that there is no long term need for the Catholic places provided by the school, and they are therefore unwilling to invest in improvements on this site, beyond maintaining it for health and safety issues. This school was the subject of a closure proposal several years ago which was withdrawn following consultation. Despite the challenging circumstances the school has faced it has continued to provide a high quality education for its pupils, a fact acknowledged by Ofsted in their last inspection in July 2006. However, since then the issues faced by the school have continued to challenge the leadership team of the school, the Diocese and Education Leeds. The acting headteacher has left to take up a permanent position elsewhere and a new acting headteacher has only recently taken up post. In October 2008 the school was placed into category 4 (the most serious level of concern within the School Improvement Policy) by Education Leeds, reflecting a

growing concern about the ability of the school to effectively manage a range of challenges without impacting on the quality of provision for children.

There is insufficient demand for catholic primary school places to warrant maintaining a catholic primary school, and without Diocesan commitment there cannot be a long term future for the school. There is, however, a need for more community places in the area.

4 The opportunity exists to provide a new state of the art 2FE primary school on the Richmond Hill site which could accommodate the pupils of both the existing Richmond Hill Primary School and those of Mount St Mary's Primary, as well as allowing for some demographic growth in the area. In addition, pupils at Mount St Mary's Primary would also have an option to transfer to another local Catholic primary school.

5 This report recommends consulting on a proposal to expand Richmond Hill Primary linked to a proposal to close Mount St Mary's Primary. Alternative options considered in this report are:

1. Close both Richmond Hill and Mount St Mary's, and establish a new school
2. Close Richmond Hill and Mount St Mary's and establish a joint community and Catholic provision.

6 It is also proposed to establish new community specialist provision for children with SEN within the new building project. This change is a prescribed alteration and will therefore also form a part of the consultation.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7 The new school will be built on the existing Richmond Hill site, and will be funded by the Primary Capital Programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8 The Executive Board is invited to approve that formal consultation is undertaken on the linked proposals to:

- Expand Richmond Hill Primary School by 1 form of entry with new community specialist provision for children with SEN; and
- Close Mount St Mary's Primary School.

---

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 3 December 2008

SUBJECT: Options for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill Planning Area

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p> <p><b>Burmantofts and Richmond Hill</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
Eligible for Call-in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Eligible for Call-in (Details contained in the Report) <input type="checkbox"/>

---

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report presents options for reorganising primary school provision in the Richmond Hill area of the city in the light of the successful Primary Capital Programme bid. Capital has been secured to deliver a new two form of entry (FE) school on the site of Richmond Hill Primary School, to incorporate new community specialist provision for children with special educational needs. The report identifies a preferred option and seeks the permission of the Executive Board to proceed with a public consultation on this option.

1.2 The proposed increase in size of Richmond Hill Primary School by 1 form of entry to 2 forms of entry, the addition of SEN provision at the school, and the closure of Mount St Mary's Primary require a statutory process, which includes this formal public consultation.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Executive Board approved the PCPSfC submission to the DCSF in June 2008. This submission outlines the priorities for Leeds schools within the national guidelines for this funding. Richmond Hill Primary School is identified in that submission as a school which the local authority intends to rebuild in the first two

years of the programme.

- 2.2 The school achieves a high overall priority ranking through the criteria used in the PCPSfC, indicating early action within the programme. It had high scores for asset management issues, qualifying it for rebuilding rather than simply refurbishing.
- 2.3 Further to the consultation on the PCPSfC, the school has also been visited to discuss both the implications for the school, and to make a preliminary assessment of the suitability of the site for rebuilding.
- 2.4 The nearby Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School is currently housed entirely in temporary accommodation, on a constrained site with limited outdoor play space, and adjacent to the A64 dual carriageway. The Catholic Diocese have indicated that there is no long term need for the Catholic places provided by the school, and they are therefore unwilling to invest in improvements on this site, beyond maintaining it for health and safety issues. This school was the subject of a closure proposal several years ago which was withdrawn following consultation. Despite the challenging circumstances the school has faced it has continued to provide a high quality education for its pupils, a fact acknowledged by Ofsted in their last inspection in July 2006. However, since then the issues faced by the school have continued to challenge the leadership team of the school, the Diocese and Education Leeds. The previous acting headteacher left to take up a permanent position in July 2008 and a new acting headteacher has only recently taken up post. In October 2008 the school was placed into category 4 (the most serious level of concern within the School Improvement Policy) by Education Leeds, reflecting a growing concern about the ability of the school to effectively manage a range of challenges without impacting on the quality of provision for children.
- 2.5 There is insufficient demand for catholic primary school places to warrant maintaining a catholic primary school, and without Diocesan commitment there cannot be a long term future for the school. There is, however, a need for more community places in the area.

### 3.0 **THE MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1 Richmond Hill Primary School and St Mary's Catholic Primary School are within the Richmond Hill planning area, which also includes Victoria Primary School, and a further voluntary aided school, All Saints CE Primary School.
- 3.2 Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School is approximately half a mile from Richmond Hill Primary and both schools draw their pupils from broadly the same communities (pupil dot maps are in Appendix 1). Mount St Mary's is currently accommodated entirely in temporary accommodation, on a constrained site with limited outdoor play space, and adjacent to the A64 dual carriageway. It is not a site which would meet current DCSF guidance for a new school, and as such Education Leeds would be reluctant to invest substantially in the site. The Catholic Diocese, who own the site, have indicated that there is no long term need for the Catholic places provided by the school, and they are therefore unwilling to invest in improvements on this site, beyond maintaining it for health and safety issues. The long term future of the school is therefore at risk. A proposal to close Mount St Mary's Primary School was withdrawn following consultation in January 2005.
- 3.3 Richmond Hill Primary School has already been identified as a school to be rebuilt within the PCP. Demographic projections indicate sufficient future demand within the area to justify an expansion of existing provision. Currently there are 48 surplus places in the area (i.e. 6%), however pupil projections based on recent birth data

suggest rising intakes into the schools, which could put pressure on existing provision within a few years. The area does have a highly mobile population and high inward migration, making projections for the area volatile and less reliable than in other parts of the city. It is unclear whether the area can sustain the levels of increase in population seen in recent years. However, the pupil projections are based on known births in the area and do provide an indication of likely increased demand. It is certainly possible in the current economic climate that some recent economic migrants may choose to return to their home countries, which could reduce projected demand. Current pupil projections and preference data are in Appendix 2.

- 3.4 By linking the expansion of Richmond Hill to the closure of Mount St Mary's there is an opportunity to secure high quality provision for the pupils of the school into the long term, in a brand new state of the art facility funded through the PCP. This represents the clearest and most positive outcome likely for the school. Expansion of Richmond Hill and a linked proposal to close Mount St Mary's is therefore the preferred option.
- 3.5 As part of the formal consultation Education Leeds would work closely with the Catholic Diocese to secure provision at alternative schools for those seeking to continue education in a Catholic school. Neighbouring St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is located less than half a mile away from Mount St Mary's, and occupies a large building and site which could potentially accommodate a temporary or permanent increase in numbers. Although on the opposite side of the A64, dedicated school transport already runs between the two areas. In addition, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School lies about 1 mile from Mount St Mary's.
- 3.6 A proposal linking closure of Mount St Mary's to the expansion of Richmond Hill would require Education Leeds to continue to monitor the need and options for further future expansion in the area.

Other options have been considered alongside this preferred option.

- 3.7 **Alternative Option 1** Close Richmond Hill and Mount St Mary's Primary Schools, and establish a new 2FE primary school, through a competition, on the Richmond Hill site.
- 3.8 Although offering the same benefits of securing long term provision for children served by both of the existing schools, in a state of the art new building, this option presents additional risks. Under the 2007 School Organisation Regulations opening a new school would require the local authority to hold a competition, inviting bids from any organisation interested in running the school. The Local Authority could either submit a proposal, as part of the competition, to establish a new community school, in which case the competition is decided by the Schools Adjudicator, or, choose not to submit a proposal in which case the competition would be decided by the Local Authority. A choice not to submit a proposal would likely result in a new school being established by a Trust. Even if the Local Authority chose to submit a proposal for a community school, the Schools Adjudicator might decide in favour of a rival Trust bid. These new procedures are only now being tested nationally and have not been tried in Leeds. A competition risks adding doubt and uncertainty in the community, particularly during consultation when there would be no information on the future provider of primary provision for the area and would inevitably extend the process, delaying the benefits of the new school for one of the most deprived communities in Leeds. In addition, this would be substantially more disruptive for the pupils and staff at Richmond Hill Primary, who currently have a thriving, viable school for the long term, with many strengths on which to build.

- 3.9 **Alternative option 2.** Relocate Mount St Mary's and co-locate with a rebuilt Richmond Hill Primary
- 3.10 A model has been established in Newcastle for a co-located school, where a community school and a Catholic school operate on a shared site, with shared central facilities such as administration, main hall and dining facilities. However this model is not transferable to the Richmond Hill area, as there is no long term need for the Catholic places provided by such a school. The Diocese do not require the places for catholic pupils that this model offers and expect to accommodate current and future catholic pupils in the area within existing Catholic primary schools. There is a need for non-faith, community places in the area. This option has not therefore been considered further
- 3.11 Enhanced Community Provision for Special Educational Needs
- Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS) is progressing the vision and values that are embedded within **Excellence for All: Meeting Special Educational Needs, (1997), Meeting Special Educational Needs: A Programme of Action (1998), Every Child Matters** and the previous **Education Leeds Inclusion Strategy, (2003)**. Key principles within LILS are that:
- Wherever possible children and young people will be able to attend and be supported with their friends and peers in their successful local neighbourhood school;
  - Through their school, children and young people will be able to access and benefit from additional (targeted) support when required provided by or through the school or a service or centre in their area;
  - Those children and young people with more severe and complex needs will be able to benefit from specialist services and provision.
  - Parental choice and options for children and young people will be strengthened and championed.
- 3.12 Through the Inclusive Education Strategy we intend to provide clear, supported pathways for every child and young person, whatever the circumstances and events that affect their life. We aim to ensure and demonstrate that by working together with an increasing range of partners, that there is a continuum of supported provision with equity and ease of access for all, as close to the child's home as possible.
- 3.13 Leeds has a lower than the national average proportion of pupils with special educational needs educated in special schools. This has been achieved by developing good inclusive practice over time in Leeds schools. In addition, there is a network of primary and secondary schools across the city that receive additional resources to make provision for particular needs e.g. physical difficulty, speech and language, to enable pupils with special needs to be educated in mainstream schools. Education Leeds has also been supporting special schools, in developing partnership arrangements with primary and secondary schools, to enable their pupils with more complex and multiple needs to be educated full-time or part-time in partner schools. (Appendix 3)
- 3.14 For a number of years Education Leeds has had control of the DCSF Schools Access Initiative grant and a revenue budget which have provided adaptations to school buildings and equipment to enable disabled pupils to attend the local school of their choice.

- 3.15 The priorities for the use of this access funding have been in meeting the access needs of:
- Individual pupils
  - Groups of pupils attending partnership schools
  - Pupils attending resourced schools
  - Developing a pattern of accessible primary and secondary schools across Leeds (General Access)

The accessibility programme has been very successful and has resulted in no child and family being refused a mainstream place where one has been requested in the last 4 years. In addition all children are able to attend their local or local enhanced Children's Centre through joint working arrangements between Education Leeds and Children's Services.

- 3.16 Further progression of the Inclusive Learning Strategy will be delivered through an increase in mainstream provision that has enhanced facilities for meeting the needs of children with severe and complex SEN.

- 3.17 An analysis and mapping of children indicates a high number of primary age children with SEN in the east of the city. Current and already planned enhanced SEN provision in this area will provide specialist places for early years (Parklands and Seacroft Children's centres) and primary pupils with severe learning difficulties, (Parklands Primary); complex physical and medical difficulties, (Whitkirk Primary and Kippax Ashtree); and speech, language and communication difficulties, (Grimes Dyke).

- 3.18 All of this provision has a clear pathway into the secondary phase at John Smeaton Community College, Corpus Christi Community College, Temple Moor High School and Brigshaw High School.

- 3.19 Data would support the development of enhanced community provision for primary age children with severe pragmatic difficulties (autism) across the city. There is currently provision in both the south and west/north west (Windmill Primary and Iveson Primary), both of which are heavily subscribed. There is no enhanced specialist provision in the east currently but data for the last three years would indicate a rising trend in the identification of children with severe pragmatic difficulties:

Number of pupils in East Wedge with severe pragmatic difficulties	Year
139	2006
193	2007
235	2008

- 3.20 It is therefore proposed that the enhanced community provision for special needs at Richmond Hill would be for children with severe pragmatic difficulties. The provision would serve the east of the city and take a maximum of 16 children, notionally 2 per year group.

#### 4.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 The rebuilding of both Richmond Hill Primary School as a 2FE school has been approved in principle by the Executive Board as part of the PCPSfC.
- 4.2 Planning primary school places is relevant to a number of key priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan, the Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Plan, in terms of managing the supply and demand of school places and school improvement. It is also relevant to the Closing the Gap agenda, with the planning of school places taking consideration of wider socio-economic factors and regeneration.
- 4.3 The community specialist provision for children with SEN is an essential part of the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy. This provision was also approved in principle as part of the PCPSfC.

## 5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Statutory implications

- 5.2 Whilst the projects to be progressed in the first two years of the PCP have been identified within the submitted PCPSfC, the need to consult further arises from
- The proposed change in size of Richmond Hill Primary School
  - The proposed closure of Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary
  - The addition of community specialist provision for children with SEN
- 5.3 The consideration of primary provision fulfils the LA's statutory requirement to keep under review the supply and demand of school places.
- 5.4 The recommendation of this report is to proceed to a formal consultation. Any objections received will be reported back to the Executive Board, and may then be followed by a further statutory process.

### 6.0 Resource Implications

- 6.1 The school will be rebuilt on the existing site. The funding for the project will come from the Primary Capital Programme.

## 7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Executive Board is invited to approve that formal consultation is undertaken on the linked proposals to:
- Expand Richmond Hill Primary School by 1 form of entry with new community specialist provision for children with SEN; and
  - Close Mount St Mary's Primary School.

## 8.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS

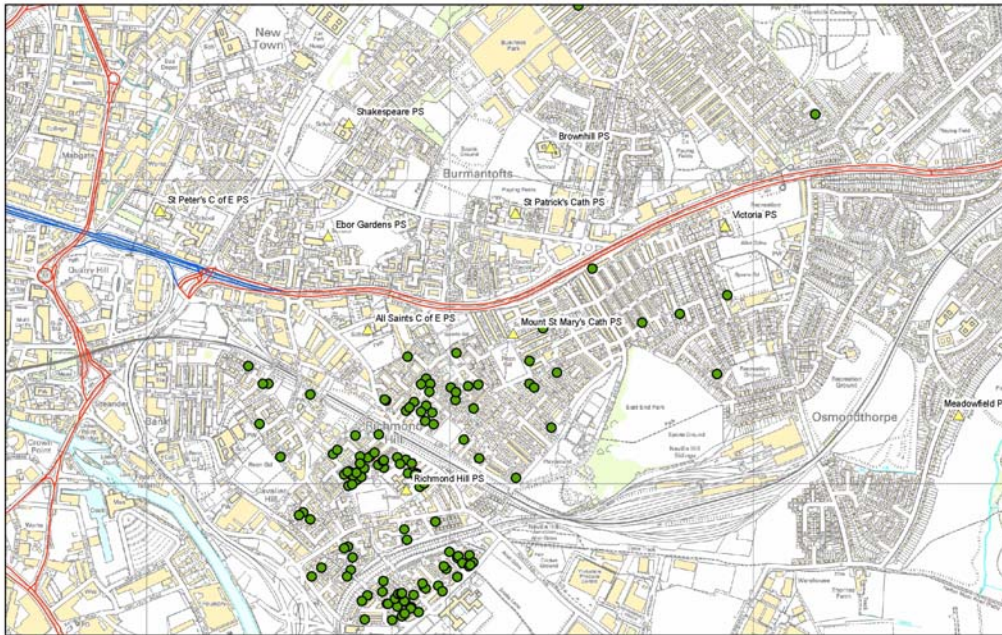
PCPSfC

Primary review: Richmond Hill Planning Area – 6 July 2005 Executive Board



# Appendix 1 Pupil Dot Maps

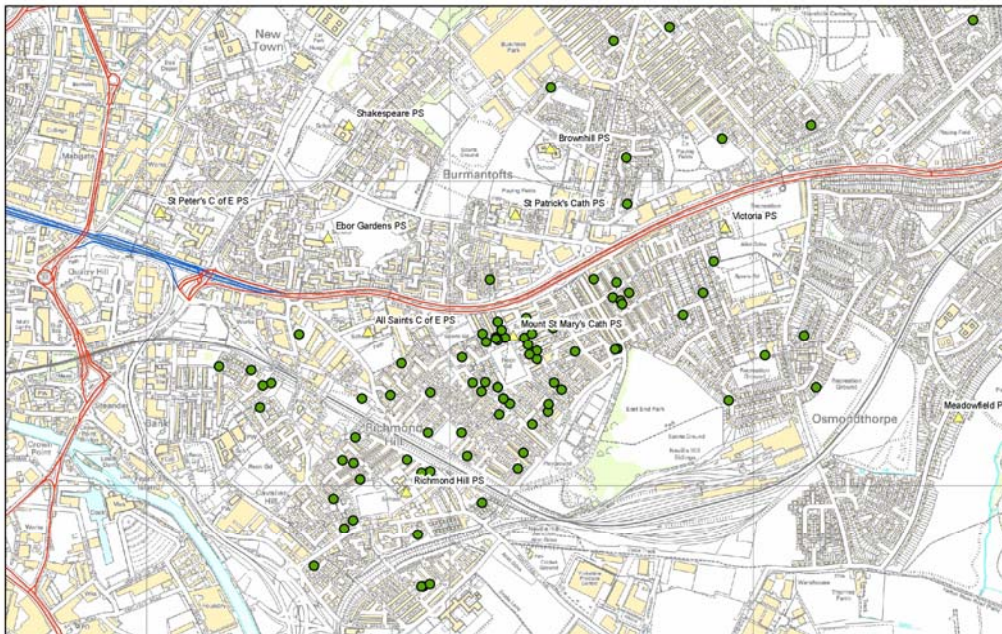
## Pupils of Richmond Hill PS (Plasc 2008)



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Leeds City Council 100019667 2008  
Wednesday, September 3, 2008 09:06:38  
G:\GIS\New Projects\School Organisation\Primary\Roy\New Project 2008.mxd

0 0.050.1 0.2 Miles

## Pupils of Mount St Mary's Catholic PS (Plasc 2008)



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Leeds City Council 100019667 2008  
Wednesday, September 3, 2008 09:06:38  
G:\GIS\New Projects\School Organisation\Primary\Roy\New Project 2008.mxd

0 0.050.1 0.2 Miles

## Appendix 2

### Demographic Information, Richmond Hill planning area.

**Table 1 Projections for the Richmond Hill Planning Area (PLASC 08)**

	REC	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6	TOTAL	AD LIM	CAPAC ITY	SURPLUS	
												%
2002\3	108	93	116	119	112	106	118	772	140	882	110	12%
2003\4	112	114	93	114	121	109	107	770	140	845	75	9%
2004\5	110	127	114	100	117	122	112	802	140	845	43	5%
2005\6	114	109	123	114	103	119	120	802	140	845	43	5%
2006\7	118	119	111	115	117	101	119	800	140	845	45	5%
2007\8	124	119	120	111	110	111	102	797	140	845	48	6%
2008\9	133	122	120	116	110	108	110	819	140	845	26	3%
2009\10	151	132	123	117	115	106	107	851	140	845	-6	-1%
2010\11	153	148	133	120	114	111	105	884	140	845	-39	-5%
2011\12	178	151	149	130	118	111	111	947	140	845	-102	-12%

**Table 2 Reception projections for the Richmond Hill Planning Area**

School	Actual Intakes		Projections				Adm. Limit
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
All Saints CE (VA)	24	30	32	40	39	48	30
Richmond Hill	26	29	28	37	36	44	30
Victoria	49	47	56	56	60	68	50
Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary	19	18	18	18	18	18	30
Richmond Hill Area Total	118	124	134	151	153	178	140

**Table 3 Siblings and first preference data**

School	Sibs & 1sts Sept 05	Receptn Sept 05	Sibs & 1sts Sept 06	Receptn Sept 06	Sibs & 1sts Sept 07	Receptn Sept 07	Sibs & 1 sts Sept 08	Ad Limit 2007
All Saint's CE Primary (VA)	15	36	16	24	25	30	41	30
Richmond Hill Primary	21	23	16	26	34	29	26	30
Victoria Priimary	38	39	39	49	46	47	33	50
Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary (VA)	na	16	14	19	16	18	17	30
<b>RICHMOND HILL AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>140</b>

## Appendix 3

### Current Specialist Resource Provision in mainstream settings –

There are 16 Resourced Provision Schools across the City which cater for a range of SEN in both primary and secondary. There are currently no formal agreements between Education Leeds and these schools regarding the provision that is being commissioned.

**Table 1**

School	Category of Need	Phase (Secondary/ Primary/ Pre-school)	No on roll of provision (at Summer Term 08)	Capacity (fte)
John Smeaton High	SLD	Secondary	14	20
Allerton Grange High	HI	Secondary	19	20
Wortley High	SLCN	Secondary	13	20
Brigshaw High	PD	Secondary	6	20
Allerton High	SLCN	Secondary	13	20
Corpus Christi Catholic College	SLD	Secondary	17	20
Roundhay	SpLD	Secondary	11	20
Shakespeare Primary	HI	Pre-School	3	8
Cottingley Primary	HI	Primary	13	12
Parklands Primary	MLD	Primary	12	12
Ireland Wood Primary	PD	Primary	15	12
Ralph Thoresby High	PD	Secondary	16	20
Middleton Primary	SLCN	Primary	6	8
Grimes Dyke Primary	SLCN	Primary	7	8
Gledhow Primary	SLCN	Primary	8	8
Hawksworth Wood Primary	SLCN	Primary	6	8

## Informal Partnerships -Table 2

There are a range of informal partnerships that have developed since September 2004. These have been developed by SILCs in order to provide inclusive learning opportunities for both SILC Children and those at the host school. The pupils are on the roll of the originating SILC and included in their numbers.

**Table 2**

<b>SILC Partnerships</b>		<b>No of places (April 08)</b>
<b>North East SILC</b>		
Boston Spa	Generic KS3 and 4	17
<b>East SILC</b>		
Kippax Ash Tree	Generic KS1 and 2	8
Temple Moor	Complex PD and Medical KS3 and 4	6
Whitkirk	Complex PD and Medical KS1 and 2	4
Parklands CC	Early Years	2
Seacroft CC	Early Years	3
<b>South SILC</b>		
Rodillian	Generic KS3 and 4	25
Windmill CC	Early Years	15
New Beverley	Early Years and generic KS1 and 2	7
<b>West SILC</b>		
Farnley Park	Complex PD and Medical	2
Hollybush	Generic	12
Priesthorpe	Generic	10
Lawns Park	Generic	5
<b>North West SILC</b>		
Allerton High	Autism KS3 and 4	8
Benton Park	Generic KS3 and 4	22
Brudenell	Generic KS1 and 2	6
Iveson	Autism KS 1 and 2	11
Rawdon St Peters	Generic KS1 and 2	9
Hawksworth CC	Early Years	1
Little London CC	Early Years	5