

**Monday 17 March 2014 to
Friday 11 April 2014**

Public consultation

**Proposal to increase primary school places
within the Guiseley area**

From September 2015



Key phrases and terms used in this booklet

Admissions limit	The maximum number of children a school plans to accept into each year group.
Executive Board	The decision making body of Leeds City Council, formed by the Leader of the Council and nine other executive Members. Representatives of all political parties attend the Executive Board.
Form of entry	Primary schools are organised around classes of 30 pupils. A one form of entry school has seven year groups of 30 pupils, a two form of entry school has seven year groups of 60 pupils each.
Infant Class Size Regulations	The Infant Class Size Regulations state that a class with one qualified teacher can contain no more than 30 pupils. Infant classes are reception, year 1 and year 2, when pupils are aged between 4 and 7.
Key Stage 1	The legal term for the two years of schooling normally known as year 1 and year 2, when pupils are aged between 5 and 7.
Key Stage 2	The legal term for the four years of schooling normally known as years 3, 4, 5 and 6, when pupils are aged between 7 and 11.
Through school	A school that provides both primary and secondary provision.
Planning Area	Areas within the city defined and used by Children's Services to monitor demographics and support the planning of primary school places.
Reception class	This is the first year group for children starting primary school in the year they will reach 5 years old.
Statutory notice period or statutory notice	A period of time required by law to inform the public that the local authority is proposing to do or change something. The statutory notice is published with the proposal details, and invites comments. It follows a period of consultation like this one, allowing the local authority to adapt the proposals based on the views raised in the initial consultation.

Foreword

Our ambition is to be the best city in the country. As a vibrant and successful city we will attract new families to Leeds, and making sure that we have enough school places for the children is one of our top priorities. We are working very hard to plan for the impact of rising pupil numbers across the city which also stems from a rising birth rate, and means the numbers entering reception classes in primary school each year is now much larger than the size of the year groups leaving the city's secondary schools.

We have an ongoing city-wide school expansion programme in place to meet the increased demand for primary-age places, and through this programme the council has already approved 1118 new reception places since 2009, including two new primary schools and creating two 'through' schools for 4-18 year olds.

All schools share our ambition to make Leeds the best city in the UK to grow up in, so we are working with all the schools in Leeds to ensure there are enough good quality, local school places.

We will continue to work together throughout this process to ensure that children in Leeds will have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver our vision of a child friendly city.

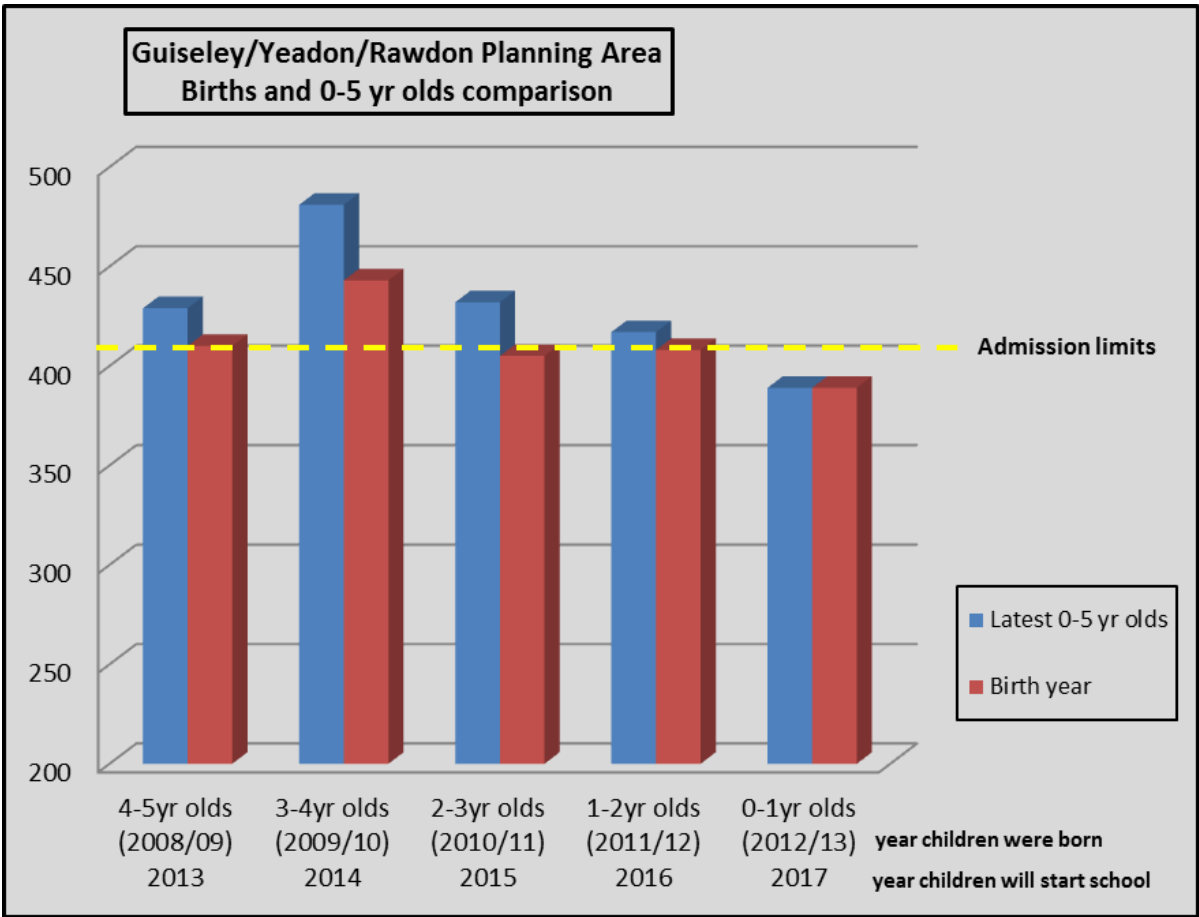
Signed
Cllr Judith Blake, Lead Member for Children's Services
Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services

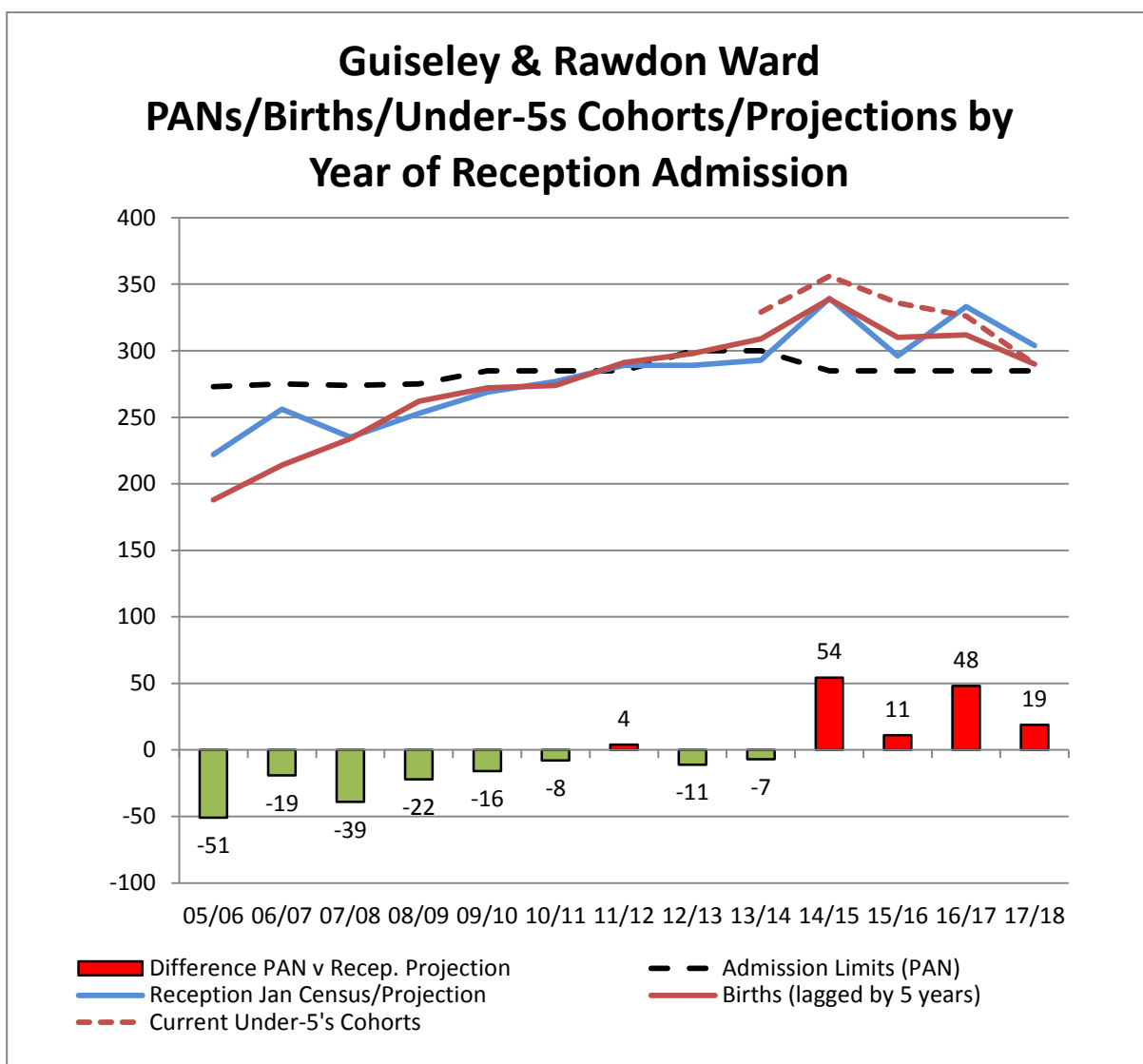
Background Information

Supporting Data

Following a rise in demographics caused by an increasing birth rate and new housing developments, the need for additional school places across the Guiseley area has increased significantly over the past few years.

The chart below shows the Guiseley / Yeadon / Rawdon planning area and compares the number of children at the point they were born (red column) to the number of children as they have aged (blue column). Consistently across the area, each age group shows an increase in numbers as the children get older, which can be attributed to the additional housing that has been developed across the area. Although the chart shows some decline in numbers after 2014, the further housing developments planned, will certainly add to these numbers.





What we've done so far

To address the additional need across the area, we have already expanded Rufford Park Primary from an admission number of 30 to 45 from September 2014. Consultation also took place on a proposal to increase Tranmere Park from a 45 admission number to 60 in September/October 2012. Responses during that consultation acknowledged a local need for places but there were significant concerns about traffic and highways issues close to the school. These issues continue to present a barrier to permanently expanding the school, although the school did take in two bulge cohorts of 60 in September 2012 and 2013. It is unlikely that the additional 15 places a year would be enough without further expansion elsewhere.

Continuing to consider the need for additional places consultation then took place in June/July 2013 on a proposal to change the three form entry Guiseley Infant and St Oswald's Junior schools both into two form entry primary schools which would add an extra 30 places a year in the area. Responses to the consultation gave some support to the junior school becoming a primary school but there was resistance to the Infant school changing and losing that option for parents in the area. The main concerns were around the volume of traffic and whether the Infant school site was big enough for the building work required. There were also questions

raised about whether or not the 30 extra places would be enough to cope with the additional housing in the area.

Outcomes Based Accountability event (OBA)

In order to consider afresh how to meet the needs of the area an event was held in October 2013, which included the headteacher and a governor from each of the schools across the Aireborough area, including the secondary schools and SILC. Local elected members, representatives from the parent groups who had opposed the earlier proposals and other parental representation from each school, a range of council officers from planning and highways, representatives from the Church of England and Catholic diocesan education boards and other interested parties. At this event a whole array of data about birth rates, housing, parental preference for schools and so forth was made available for everyone to consider. Participants were invited to discuss and debate what alternative outcomes might be considered and how we could move forward.

The discussion was carried out on a number of tables each of which hosted a mix of participants to encourage all points of view to come forward and be debated.

The discussion included whether participants felt that the information about births and housing would lead them to believe it was necessary to increase places, and therefore the need to find a solution. The general consensus suggested that an extra two forms of entry (60 extra places a year) in the area should be considered as there was a wish to ensure that there would be enough places for children in the new housing that was still being built. There was a wish to find a solution for this now rather than revisiting further proposals in a couple of years' time.

Outcome of OBA event:

The four common themes that emerged from the OBA event were:

1. Revisit the original proposals at Tranmere Park and Guiseley Infant and St Oswald's Junior schools.
2. Expand Guiseley Infant and St Oswald's Junior to 4 forms of entry, but keep them as infant and junior schools
3. Create a through school on the secondary school site.
4. Move the Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC) and open a new primary school on the site.

There were also some suggestions that occurred only on one or two tables such as increasing the size of Queensway and Yeadon Westfield Infant and Junior schools. Whilst these suggestions may have merit they are considered by most to be a little too far out of the immediate area of Guiseley. There were also comments that secondary expansion should be considered at the same time.

Online forum

For two weeks during March, an online forum was set up seeking views from any interested parties on the four themes that emerged from the OBA event. Many people viewed and commented on the four options over the two week period. Following the closure of this forum, we have been able to review all the comments made online and the consensus of opinion favoured option 3. *Create a through school on the secondary school site.* In addition to this, we have also referred back to comments made during the OBA session and previous consultations to develop a preferred option, which has become a mixture of the first 3 options mentioned.

Details of the proposal

The proposal we are consulting on for the Guiseley area is:

- retaining Guiseley Infant School as a 3 forms of entry Infant school, that has an admission number of 90 into reception each year;
- developing a through school with junior capacity on the site of Guiseley High School, with an admission limit of 90 into year 3; and
- converting St Oswald's Junior School to a 2 forms of entry primary school, with an admission number of 60 into reception class each year.

Possible Secondary Expansion

This was raised as a consideration during the OBA event. The concern was that if there is a rising primary need, there would at some point be rising secondary need. The additional 2 forms of entry of primary capacity would not arrive at high school until 2020, however new housing means that demand for places may start to increase ahead of this. Consideration should also be given to the value for money and disruption to the school of delivering different phases of education at separate times. Secondary expansion could be delivered as part of this proposal or later, could be reconsidered at a later date, or could be rejected. As part of this consultation we are therefore seeking views on possible secondary expansion.

Secondary projections for Guiseley School suggest a modest rise in the demand for places by 2017, but this does not increase much for the next 6 years. Projections are based on the numbers already in primary schools and birth data, so already reflect the rising primary cohorts. They allow for housing under construction, but do not allow for housing not yet started to be built.

	Admission limit	Projections by year of entry									
		14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Guiseley School	225	211	223	230	253	251	251	254	257	235	259

Transition arrangement options

If this proposal were to proceed it would take some time to establish all the year groups in the new schools. Transition arrangements need to consider where all the children currently in the infant school would go while St Oswald's adjusts to being a primary school and the through school establishes itself. They will also look at what the options are for children starting school in this period. Transition arrangements are very important to the management of the schools involved, as well as to parents who are expressing preferences about their children's education. There are some practical constraints around transition; St Oswald's could not continue to offer 90 year 3 places throughout this period as well as start to admit reception children as they would not have enough space to accommodate the maximum number of children on roll that would result. Options that increase the scope for parental choice also bring extra challenges for the schools to manage uncertainty and changing staffing levels. Options for transition listed below are for illustration and are not exhaustive, nor are they necessarily supported by the schools, but are provided for illustration and to prompt comment. We would welcome any views on how transition might work for this scheme.

Option 1:

- From September 2015, there are no year 3 places at St Oswald's and all 90 children that finish year 2 at the infant school, transfer to the new junior phase (year 3) of the through school.

This option would allow consistency for all three schools to manage the transition arrangements, clearly knowing which children and how many would be entering each year group and able to work together to ensure smooth transition. However parents who had expected to be able to move from the infant school to St Oswald's would not be able to do so.

Option 2:

- From September 2015, St Oswald's would take a maximum of 60 children into year 3, with the junior phase (year 3) of the through school having capacity to take a minimum of 30 children, and a maximum of 90.

This option would give parents some scope to express a preference for either St Oswald's or Guiseley through school for year 3.

What happens next?

During this consultation period, we will be holding a number of meetings with the schools involved, which will include governors, staff and children. We will also be having informal drop-in meetings for parents and public to attend, details of dates and venues will be posted on the web at: <http://leedsschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/>

Following the end of the consultation period, we will be gathering all the comments from the various meetings as well as summarising all comments received. This will be reported along with a summary of the various stages of this proposal, including the OBA event in a report to the Executive Board of Leeds City Council. If the Executive Board approve to proceed with the

proposal, we would then publish statutory notices which would run for four weeks. This would be another opportunity for people to comment about this proposal, although there would be no meetings during this period.

Following this period we would again report to the Executive Board of Leeds City Council who would make a final decision on the proposal.

Updates and details of the dates that the various reports are to be considered by the Executive Board, will be posted on the web at: <http://leedsschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/>.

You can also use this link above to make comments on this proposal or alternatively email us at: educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk.