

ST FELIX CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAVERHILL



UPDATE ON OUR 2021/22 ADMISSION NUMBER PROPOSAL

24th AUGUST 2020

What we have done so far

1. Our Year R (Reception) Admission Number for children entering the school in September 2021 was set at 45 early in 2020. Since then we have been looking at new pupil numbers forecasts and our school budget. The budget forecasts, which are based on pupil numbers, show the school running a financial deficit unless we do something about it.
2. We worked out that if we had an Admission Number of 30 for 2021/22 and following years, it would make the school's budget much more stable which in turn would allow us to make the school educationally stronger.
3. So between June and August this year, we consulted parents, local schools and a wide range of the school's other stakeholders to let them know of our wish to reduce the Admission number for 2020/21 to 30. We wanted to hear their views on our proposal. We have now looked at what people said to us and it shows that two thirds of those who responded in writing (12 out of 18) agreed with the proposal.
4. As a result, we have decided to move to the next stage of the process. This is to secure the approval of the Regional School's Commissioner for the proposal to vary the Admission Number of 45 to 30 for September 2021.
5. We have prepared a formal submission to the Regional Schools Commissioner and this was sent off on Friday 21st August.
6. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who read about our proposal and especially to those who responded to the survey.

ST FELIX CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAVERHILL**Results of the consultation in more detail**

7. Eighteen responses were received, all via the on-line survey form.

Of these:

- 12 agreed with the proposal;
- 3 disagreed with the proposal;
- 3 responded with 'Don't know'.

The following table shows the views expressed by the different categories of respondent:

	Total responses	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Parent of child at St Felix	7	2	2	3
Parent of child at another school	3	2	1	
Staff member	3	3		
Local Councillor	2	2		
Local EYFS provider	1	1		
Member of local Catholic congregation	1	1		
Diocese	1	1		
TOTAL	18	12	3	3

8. The main concerns of those who disagreed with the proposal, or said 'Don't know', were about pressure on future pupil admissions at the school because of new housing in the town. As the only faith school in the town, there should, it was also felt, be scope to increase pupil numbers from non-Catholic Christian families.
9. We understand the points made about not knowing future pupil numbers for certain. However we also received a response from Suffolk County Council which confirmed that there will be sufficient primary

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school places in the town for the foreseeable future. They would have no objection to our proposal to reduce the Admission number to 30.

10. The school will continue to work closely with the Council as they plan for future numbers in the town and if necessary and appropriate we would take additional numbers in particular year groups.

11. We are also committed to ensuring that the school continues to make a positive contribution to the breadth of educational choice within the Haverhill area. Our school population is drawn from all faiths and backgrounds and all are made welcome.

The next stage

12. If the Regional Schools Commissioner agrees to the reduction in Admission number to 30, this number, along with our full admissions policy for 2021/22, will be published on our website.

13. We will then want to make a reduction in the Admission number to 30 for the years after 2021/22. We will inform people of our plans at the end of 2020.

Jill Sandvig

Executive Head