
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	03 May 2016
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/42/16/WB
Contact Officer:	Wilma Bain	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Notre Dame High School – Review of Agreed Capping Figure		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a review of the agreed capping figure for Notre Dame High School by the Education and Communities Committee in light of the pattern of placing request applications for S1 over the last 2 years and the school's current capacity.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 11 October 2011, the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee capped the intake for Notre Dame High School at 140 pupils per year group. This figure includes 5 places for pupils attending the Stella Maris Base within Notre Dame High School.
- 2.2 Last year, following the placing request appeal process 160 pupils were allocated to S1 in Notre Dame High School for session 2015/16.
- 2.3 For session 2016/17, a total of 56 placing request applications were received - 17 have been granted which has taken the S1 intake for next session to the capped figure of 140. This means that 39 placing request applications have been refused.
- 2.4 While the current capping of Notre Dame High School for the S1 intake sits at 140 pupils (including 5 pupils for the Stella Maris Base), the school has the capacity to take up to 160 pupils (including 5 pupils for the Stella Maris Base) as happened in session 2015/16 due to placing request appeals being upheld.
- 2.5 If the capping figure for Notre Dame High School was increased to 160, this would allow an additional 20 placing request applications to be granted resulting in only 19 placing request applications being refused.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee agree to revise the current capping figure for Notre Dame High School from 140 to 160 per year group from session 2016/17 as an interim measure pending a revised policy on placing requests which will be presented to the Education and Communities Committee for consideration in September 2016.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On 11 October 2011, the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee capped the intake for Notre Dame High School at 140 pupils per year group. This figure includes 5 places for pupils attending the Stella Maris Base within Notre Dame High School. Therefore the Authority can allocate 135 mainstream places in each year to S1. The 5 places reserved for the Stella Maris Base are allocated by the Additional Support Needs forum.
- 4.2 Last year, following the placing request appeal process 160 pupils were allocated to S1 in Notre Dame High School for session 2015/16.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 For session 2016/17, a total of 56 placing request applications were received by the deadline of 1 February 2016 - 17 have been granted which has taken the S1 intake for next session to the capped figure of 140. This means that 39 of these placing request applications have been refused.
- 5.2 While the current capping of Notre Dame High School for the S1 intake sits at 140 pupils (including 5 pupils for the Stella Maris Base), the school has the capacity to take up to 160 pupils (including 5 pupils for the Stella Maris Base) as happened in session 2015/16 due to placing request appeals being upheld.
- 5.3 From previous experience, it is likely that many of the pupils whose placing requests were unsuccessful will appeal, and last year the outcome of the placing requests appeal process meant the school accepted 160 pupils into S1. If Notre Dame High School accepted 160 pupils in S1 through the appeal process this year, then there would still be 19 pupils who would be refused a place at the school.
- 5.4 Included in these figures are three placing request applications which were received after the deadline of 1 February 2016 and these placing requests have been refused. (We are still receiving late applications for placing requests for Notre Dame High School).
- 5.5 If the capping figure for Notre Dame was increased to 160, this would allow an additional 20 placing request applications to be granted resulting in only 19 placing request applications being refused.
- 5.6 It should be noted that once an extra class has been created because of the allocation of a placing request at appeal, the Authority can no longer use the argument that the placing of the next pupil would result in the employment of an extra teacher. This means that if a single placing request is accepted resulting in 141 places in S1 at Notre Dame High School, then 160 pupils can be accepted.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Any financial implication resulting from an increase in the capping figure will be contained within the Education Staffing budget.

Legal

6.2 N/A

Human Resources

6.3 N/A

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 N/A

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Policy on Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools (2009).