

Dear Parents

The following is a letter issued by EA regarding the extension of numbers at Hazelbank PS.

Over the past number of years our applications have generally exceeded our admissions number of 17 and we have had to petition the Department of Education for a variation in numbers to be permitted to admit pupils. This is challenging for the school and creates uncertainty for parents applying.

We welcome this extension to our numbers which will secure the future of the school in the area. The governors support this development proposal which will allow us the flexibility to admit the children in our area without becoming so big as to lose the family ethos of the school.

As with any rural school the number applying each year rises and falls, for example we currently have 16 P2 children and 25 P1 children. We don't envisage filling the 182 places but the admissions number will ease the years when there is a larger number of applicants.

The proposal is now out for public consultation, and you are invited to respond should you wish to do so. The process for comment is outlined for your information.

Many thanks  
B Gray

**To Governors, Staff and Parents/Guardians of Hazelbank Primary School**

Dear Governor, Member of Staff, Parent/Guardian

**Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision  
Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 – Primary, Special and Post-Primary Schools (including Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools)**

The Education Authority is currently engaged in the process of area planning and published a Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision in June 2022 and an associated Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 on 1 September 2022. Within Operational Plan 1: 2022-24, Hazelbank Primary School was identified as below:

Hazelbank PS  20 Hazelbank Road Ballymena BT47 4LP	Background / Engagement	
	Hazelbank PS is experiencing increases in pupil numbers as a result of previous area planning activity in the area. The school currently has an approved admission number of 17 and approved enrolment number of 120. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 150 pupils. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty - Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

The Education Authority is proposing to increase the admission and enrolment numbers from 17 to 26 and from 116 to 182 respectively at Hazelbank Primary School with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. This pre-publication consultation will run for a period of 8 weeks, closing on 12 June 2023.

In accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, the Education Authority is seeking the views/comments from the governors, staff and parents/guardians of your school.

A consultation document and the rationale can be accessed on the Education Authority's website by following the link below:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/pre-publication-consultations>.

The Education Authority welcomes your participation in the consultation process and would encourage you to make a response via the online response form:

[Online Pre-Publication Response Questionnaire - Hazelbank PS](#)

Responses can also be submitted by email to [areaplanning1@eani.org.uk](mailto:areaplanning1@eani.org.uk). The Authority will also consider all written responses received during the consultation process addressed to: Area Planning, Education Authority, 17 Lough Road, Antrim, BT41 4DH. All responses to be received no later than 12 June 2023.

**“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”**

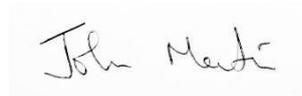
**Education Authority**

**17 Lough Road, Antrim, BT41 4DH T: +44 (0)28 9448 2200 W: [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)**

Please note that any letters of objection or support may be published on the Department of Education's website, with appropriate redactions, if they are included in full in the submission on which the outcome of the proposals are decided. Comments on the proposals will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully



**John Martin**  
**Area Planning Officer**

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