

From: Nicky Patrick  
Date: Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 8:03 AM  
Subject: Burnham Southminster Education Capacity  
To: "copseyandrea@gmail.com" <copseyandrea@gmail.com>

Dear Andrea,

As Headteacher of Burnham Primary School I am writing to bring you attention to some fundamental inaccuracies in the Burnham Southminster Education Capacity statement which, I understand was submitted to the Inspector last week.

Firstly, whilst the PAN for Burnham remains at 60, our total pupil capacity is in fact 390, not 417 as stated, due to the removal of a physical class base in 2010 when the Local Authority commissioned some remodelling of our premises. I met with our School Organisation Officer in June 2014 to discuss capacity and reminded him at that stage of our reduction in capacity but to date this has not been resolved. A further meeting is planned for early March but unless swift action is taken to replace that 14th class base, this reduces our published capacity by 27.

Secondly, our predicted September 2015 intake is stated to be 50. The latest information from Planning and Admissions indicates a total of 56 first choice applications for September with a further 25 second choices. Taking into account that applications usually rise by between 5 and 10 pupils between publication of the original list and school start date, it seems fair to assume that our reception classes will be full at 60 in September.

In addition, the numbers stated for pupils in other year groups are also incorrect due to the high number of mid year applications that have resulted in admissions throughout the year. With those children accounted for along with the places currently offered with start dates agreed after half term and / or Easter, there will be at least 375 children on role at BCPS in September 2015. Furthermore, I have received an additional 5 admissions requests in the last two weeks from families who have yet to be formally offered places.

This means that the net capacity of Burnham on Crouch Primary School in September 2015 is set to be less than 10 as opposed to the 57 places listed in the Capacity Statement. It is worth noting, that the majority of children joining our school in recent weeks have moved into Burnham, to existing housing stock, from places as diverse as Southend, Romford, Staffordshire and Australia, therefore our increasing numbers do not reflect increasing capacity elsewhere.

Finally, the Statement relies on the assumption that all out of catchment pupils can be 'pushed back' to Southminster, completely overlooking the fact that we have a significant number of children from Tillingham, St Cedd's, Mayland and Latchingdon catchment areas.

I trust that the information within the Statement will be amended with immediate effect so that planning decisions can be made on the basis of fact, ensuring that the town is able to continue to provide high quality education to all children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Kind regards,

Nicky Patrick  
Headteacher  
Burnham on Crouch Primary School  
