

The following information was received from Essex County Council in response to the questions shown.

18 March 2014

Q: 1. Are all children who live in Wivenhoe and whose parents would like to attend either Millfields or Broomgrove able to do so?

1. Having looked at the pupil distribution analyses for both Millfields Primary and Broomgrove Infant/ Junior Schools it is apparent that there are pupils attending these schools in every year group who reside outside the priority admissions areas for the schools. It can be inferred from this information that demand from the parents of pupils living in the priority admissions areas for the places at these schools has been met. However, there is a slight caveat. As Millfields Primary and Broomgrove Infant/ Junior Schools are popular schools it is generally the case that once demand for places has been met from the siblings of children attending the schools and children who live within the area any remaining places are filled with children who live outside the priority admissions areas for these schools. As a consequence, on occasion, when a family moves into Wivenhoe outside the normal admission round there may not be a place available in either Millfields Primary or Broomgrove Infant/ Junior Schools. Under these circumstances children are offered a place at the nearest primary school with a vacancy in the relevant year group. I understand that this most commonly occurs when families with links to the University move into the area in October each year.

Q: 2. Does the County currently have any projections about the demand for primary school places in Wivenhoe based on current population projections?

2. The Pupil Place Planning team produces forecasts for school on an annual basis. These forecasts use information on birth rates checked against the number of children registered with g.p.'s living within the priority admission areas for the schools. There is no indication from the birth data/ g.p. registration data currently available that the number of children residing within Wivenhoe exceeds the number of places available across both Millfields and Broomgrove Infant/ Junior i.e. 90 places per year group.

Q: 3. Would there be adequate school places to accommodate increased population in Wivenhoe – so say 200 more houses were built would there be room in the schools?

3. The only housing sites in the Wivenhoe area that the Pupil Place Planning team is currently aware of are the following sites:

- Essex University Research Park – 150 dwellings.
- Cedric's Bus Garage – 24 dwellings.

The Pupil Place Planning team use the following factors to estimate the number of pupils that will be produced by a new housing development: 0.3 pupil for houses and 0.15 for 2 bedroom flats. One bedroom properties and housing specifically designed for the elderly are discounted. On this basis it is anticipated that the Essex University Research Park development would produce 32 primary aged children and the Cedric's Bus Garage development 5 primary aged children. It would not be

possible to guarantee that all of the children moving into new housing developments in Wivenhoe could be accommodated at the local schools for the reasons outlined above.

A development, or developments, of up to 200 houses i.e. not flats, would generate an additional demand for up to 60 additional primary school places. It might not prove possible to accommodate all of these additional pupils within the existing capacity of the schools currently serving the town. Under these circumstances those pupils living furthest from the two schools would be displaced. Families moving onto the Essex University Research development, for example, might find it difficult to obtain places at a Wivenhoe school. However, they would be within safe walking distance of a number of primary schools located in Colchester town. Alternatively, if a large scale development or a number of smaller developments were planned for Wivenhoe, then consideration would be given to the expansion of provision at the existing schools. Any expansion would be dependent on the site capacity of the schools, the views of their governing bodies and the level of funding available. There are currently no plans to expand provision in the area.

Q4. Could you explain a little bit about catchment areas for the schools in Wivenhoe?

4. Please find attached a map showing the priority admissions areas (paa's) for Millfields Primary and Broomgrove Infant and Junior Schools. You will see that both have their own paa's with a shared area around the railway station.

The admissions policies for the schools differ. The oversubscription criteria for Broomgrove Infant and Junior schools, which are community schools, are as follows:

- Looked after children and previously looked after children;
- Children with a sibling attending the school or the partner infant/ junior school;
- Children living in the priority admissions area;
- Remaining applications.

The oversubscription criteria for Millfields Primary, which is a Foundation school are as follows:

- Looked after children and previously looked after children;
- Children living in the priority admissions area who submit an application by the closing date and who have a sibling at the school at the time of application, unless the older child is in Year 6 at that time;
- Children living in the priority admissions area who submit an application by the closing date;
- Children living outside of the priority admission with a sibling attending the school at the time of application and determination unless the older child is in

Year 6 at that time;

- Other children living outside of the priority admissions area.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria for all 3 schools, priority is determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority.

I trust that my answers aren't too complicated to understand. However, if you would like any further clarification, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

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