

REPORT:

**CATCHMENT AREAS: SCHOOLS - WALES PRIMARY AND
KIVETON PARK INF./KIVETON PARK MEADOWS JUN**

Introduction

The Wales Primary School Governing Body has written to the Authority requesting a review of the catchment areas for the above-named schools. A map dating from the period of the previous review of the area, which took place in 1995, is attached. Areas of the more recent housing development in the area, from 2001 onwards, are indicated.

The drawn catchment areas have an area of overlap ('shared area'). Dwellings within the shared area are included in both catchment areas.

The governing body feels that the 'shared area' can be confusing for parents – there are no other instances of two community schools sharing an area in Rotherham. Additionally, the position was not clear on the authority's 'Mapkey' or Rotherham's web page 'The Knowledge', but changes have recently been made to these sites and both now reflect the current position. The governing body is also mindful of the extent of recent housing development in the area and its location.

A review of the catchment areas could lead to the following options:

1. make no change,
2. combine all of the areas and make one whole 'shared area',
3. allocate all of the addresses within the 'shared area' to Wales.
4. allocate all of the addresses within the 'shared area' to the two Kiveton Schools
5. divide the 'shared area' and draw two conjoined catchment areas, or
6. draw two new conjoined catchment areas.

Any decision on a preferred option should take account of the information presented in the following sections.

Statistical Background

As previously stated, the latest review of the area was conducted in 1995. The 'shared area' was already in existence and the decision at that time was to leave this unchanged.

The following fall within the 'shared area':

Beeches Road	Manor Road
Brooklands Farm	Old Quarry Avenue
Cedar Nook	Orchard Croft
Church Close	Poplar Nook
Forge Road	Rookery Close
Horseshoe Close	The Square
Horseshoe Gardens	Wales Road (small no. of
Lodge Hill Drive	properties)

The above contain 228 properties in total. This number of properties would be expected to produce around 6/7 pupils in an average year group (based on a planning formula of 3 pupils per year per 100 dwellings). At the time this report was compiled, the pupils from this area attending the schools was as follows:

	R(FS2)	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTALS
Kiveton Park	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	8
Wales	2	3	4	5	7	3	2	26
TOTALS	2	5	5	6	9	3	4	34

There was an average of around 5 pupils per year within the 'shared area', with the majority preferring to attend Wales Primary School.

Parental preference and relative size of the schools.

For admission to Reception (FS2), parents will make a preference for Kiveton Park Infant, Wales Primary or any other Infant/J & I/Primary school. There are currently places available at both schools to satisfy all parental preferences with the number on roll, average year group and admission number being:

SCHOOL	NOR	AVERAGE	ADM. No.
KIVETON PARK I	119	39.7	54
WALES PRIM	156	22.3	30

Interestingly, the average numbers on roll in each year group and the admission numbers are almost exactly the same proportion for each school (i.e 5:9).

Main points for consideration

These can be summarised as follows:

1. The Authority remains committed to the use of catchment areas within its admission criteria where any school is oversubscribed.
2. Although there is a duty to keep catchment areas under review, it is recognised that they should not be subject to frequent change.
3. Catchment area change should not be a mechanism for simply moving pupils from one school to another.
4. Parental preference should be maximised as far as possible and all preferences will be satisfied where schools are not oversubscribed.
5. The admissions process (including drawn catchment areas) should be clear rather than confusing.

If we consider each of the options described in the introduction within the context of these points, it is suggested Option 3 would be the most appropriate option to follow, by allocating all of the addresses within the 'shared area' to Wales Primary School. The main reasons for this are :

1. If options 1 and 2 were followed the potential for confusion because of the 'shared' nature of the area continue.
2. If options 5 and 6 were followed, the change could continue any confusion and may contradict the pattern of parental preferences as described above.
3. If option 4 was followed then this would contradict the pattern of parental preferences as described.

4. Option 3 would be the most appropriate option because it would:
- a) be a minor rather than a major change.
 - b) end any confusion arising from the use of a school area.
 - c) mainly reflect the current trend of parents preferences in the area.

Next Steps

Before making any final decision on this matter, the Authority will wish to seek the views of the schools' governing bodies and also local parents. It is recommended that this report is sent out, together with an appropriate pro-forma, in order to collect feedback. Details should also be forwarded to local ward members.

A further report will then be prepared in order to consider the responses before a final decision is made.