

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Discontinuation of Holt Farm Primary School

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, being the Local Authority, hereby gives notice in accordance with Section 29(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that it intends to discontinue Holt Farm Primary School, Holt Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9HG from 31 August 2006.

It is proposed that pupils of primary school age (5 - 11 years) who will be displaced as a result of this proposal will be eligible to attend a number of primary schools located within the area and are closest to Holt Farm Primary School. These include:

- Hurst Green Primary School
- Olive Hill Primary School

In addition those pupils of Nursery age (3 - 5 years) who attend the Nursery class will be considered alongside those pupils of statutory school age and may be offered places in the area at Olive Hill Primary School, other primary schools or other providers.

The Authority will continue to work closely with parents and potential recipient schools and others to manage the transfer of pupils to these alternative schools in a sympathetic and practical way. Transport arrangements will be in accordance with existing Council policy.

Although there is a high number of available places in Halesowen primary schools there is a need to increase the number of school places at the two nearest schools, Olive Hill Primary and Hurst Green Primary. The planned admission number at both schools will be increased to 60 from September 2007. The Holt Farm buildings will be used as temporary accommodation for a period not expected to exceed 12 months to enable essential construction work at Olive Hill Primary School.

Following the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to the proposals by sending their representation by no later than 18 May 2006 to:

Carol Williams, Team Leader, Executive Support Team, Directorate of Children's Services, Westox House, 1 Trinity Road, Dudley DY1 1JQ.

Within one month after the end of the representation period, the Local Authority will send to the School Organisation Committee for the area copies of all representations made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the representation period, together with the Authority's observations on them.

Signed: John Freeman

Dated: 7 April 2006

Explanatory Notes

The proposal to discontinue Holt Farm Primary School is being made following consultation with governors, staff and parents and because:

- a) The live birth rate in Dudley has fallen by almost 20% since 1997;
- b) There are 3,500 surplus places in 82 primary schools which without action will rise to over 5,000 by 2009/10.
- c) Pupil numbers at the school have declined over the last decade creating 127 surplus places representing 45% of the total at January 2006.
- d) The school receives £683 per pupil more than the average for primary schools in the borough.