

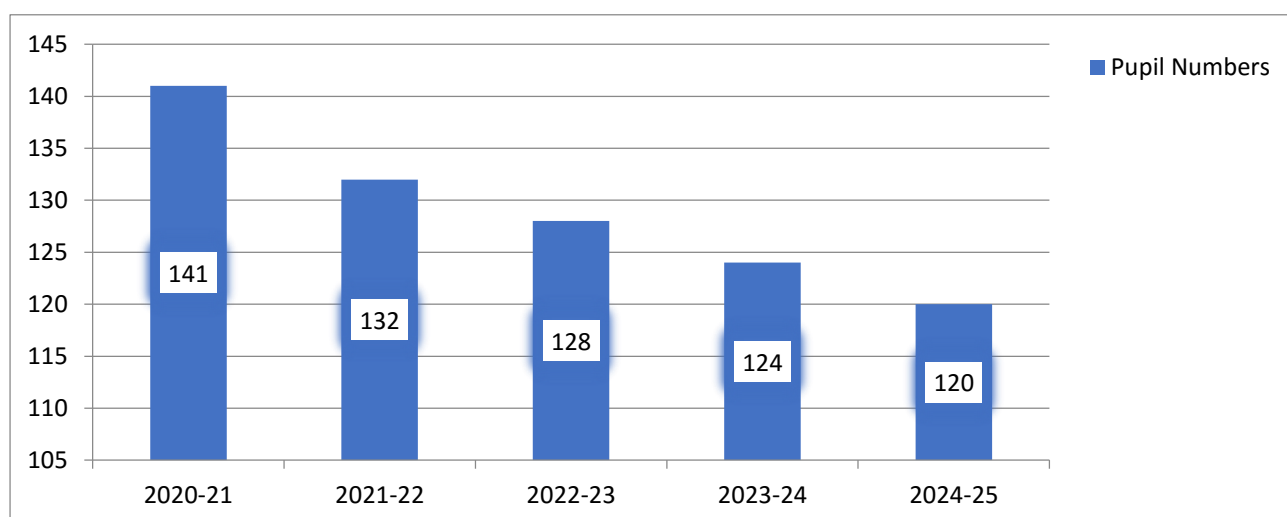
## Response to the Statutory Proposal to Expand Farley Hill Primary School through use of additional premises on the Arborfield Green development from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

Although I acknowledge that there might be a need for a new school in the future, I am concerned about the impact that it will have on our pupil numbers. I am fully aware of the importance of children having access to schools where they live; however, we currently have a number of children who live in the Arborfield area and a new school could have a significant impact on our funding and our budgets.

The table below illustrates the issue we currently have.

| Year Group   | Number of Pupils | PAN        | Surplus places |
|--------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Reception    | 13               | 26         | 13             |
| Year 1       | 15               | 26         | 11             |
| Year 2       | 18               | 26         | 8              |
| Year 3       | 24               | 26         | 2              |
| Year 4       | 22               | 26         | 4              |
| Year 5       | 25               | 26         | 1              |
| Year 6       | 24               | 26         | 2              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>141</b>       | <b>182</b> | <b>41</b>      |

With a capacity of 182 pupils in the school, there is currently surplus places of 41 across all year groups. As the smaller class sizes are in Key Stage 1, when the larger class sizes higher up the school leave, the impact of this shows a gradual decline in overall pupil numbers over the next 5 years:



### **Funding for the next 5 years**

Indicative budgets have now been published by Wokingham Borough Council for 2020/2021 and the funding allocated to St Sebastian's is £666,165 based on the October 19 census pupil number of 141. This has resulted in a reduction of £13k of income from 2019/2020. Based on the current funding factors and the reduced pupil numbers, the funding for the next 5 years decreases year on year to £596k, which is not sustainable for the existing staffing structure.

|            | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|            | £'000     | £'000     | £'000     | £'000     | £'000     |
| GAG Income | 666       | 636       | 622       | 609       | 596       |

### **Conclusion**

As I have already mentioned, I understand that in the future a new school might be necessary. However, I would like the council to consider the timeframes around this and the impact that a September 2021 start could have on my school and other local schools who are in similar positions.

Martin Gater

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