

Hertfordshire County Council Consultation 2019/20
Total comments as of 03.01.2018.
Total comments - 74

Q3. Do you agree to the proposed change to the wording of 'Rule 5 - Nearest School'?	
Yes	47
No opinion	11
No	16 – 12 of which gave comments.

Comments below:

1. Because I have a feeling that it could mean that there is a possibility that a child could be allocated a substandard school and that could be miles away from home
2. Unfair
3. I agree with them except that they are not fair if you cannot get into your nearest school (rule 5). Then if your next choice school (normally rule 6) is on distance that rule 5 priority must be 'carried forward' to this next nearest school. Otherwise, you never get a chance to get in as a rule 5 to a nearby school. In St Albans city centre, we missed out on our no1 choice, the nearest so a rule 5 as Hertfordshire County Council does not provide enough school places for the housing you allow to be built. So our no 2 choice, a rule 6, did not work either as we were behind the other entire rule 5s even though it is v near. Same for our no 3 choice, again near, again rule 6, again beaten by all the other nearby rule 5 applicants. So we never got to 'play' the rule 5 hand. it was as if we had no nearest school. The rules must be altered so every applicant has a rule 5 choice which is 'carried forward' to their next nearest school. Otherwise it is grossly unfair. Some applicants have a rule 5 option. Others, through no fault of their own, have no rule 5 option to apply under, despite having a nearest (full) school. Very unfair.
4. It seems to me that this is an attempt to avoid people's legitimate complaint that they would like a school close to them and can't get one for a child by simply erasing that as a requirement. It's a bureaucratic move, rather than one that addresses the issue of not enough local school places, or the upcoming situation with the massive building works going on in the area. It's sweeping the problem under the carpet and is an appallingly short sighted suggestion.
5. I feel that there should be more schools so that parents have more choice and admissions criteria therefore wouldn't be such a big issue
6. Because some schools are very academic and should only have pupils attending who are capable. It is obvious at an academic school which pupils got in on location rather than academic ability
7. If academic test it should be based on ability not because you happen to live closes to that school.
8. I do not agree that the sibling rule should now link Richard Hale and Simon Balle. The whole ethos of a sibling rule is for the convenience of 2 or more siblings being at the SAME school. The proposed change will take places away from children who are nearer to either Richard Hale or Presdales. I strongly oppose the change.

9. The problem I see is that the nearest school may not be a normal school providing 'normal' education. For example, one school near us is a free school and has a sort of Steiner type approach. Parents send their children there - or don't because their children don't suit normal mainstream approaches to education. I would hate to think that it would be considered my children's nearest school in applications.

10. I think the nearest school should be allocated to the kids unless they choose alternate schools and this should include faith school. It's the child's parents who can make the best decision

11. Some parents like that school good or bad so that's their choice.

12. I want my child to actually be able to go our nearest school and not any school. This wording effectively removes the nearest school category

Q5. **For schools located in and families resident in the relevant area of Hertford and Ware only
Do you agree to the proposed reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN) at Watton-at-Stone Primary School, from 34 to 30?**

Yes	18
No opinion/Not in Hertford or Ware	53
No	3 – 2 of which gave comments

Comments below:

1. The number of children requiring school places is increasing so it seems madness to propose to reduce the number allocated.
2. Some parent work near the school so easy to travel .moving house

Q7. Do you agree to the proposed inclusion of the Shared Anti-Fraud Service in the definitions section in cases of fraudulent address verification?

Yes	57
No Opinion	17

There are no comments to the above question.

Q9. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

1. I believe that the PAN should be reduced for Watton At Stone as it causes implications for the whole school and reduces the number of teaching staff and support staff further up the school if we have to split key stage 1 classes. Plus my daughter is in a large year group and as it has to be split by age she will always be in the younger class, however she is looking to be a high achiever and may therefore never be in a class with children who will stretch her. The school either has to split this year group all the way up the school or have an extremely large class of up to 45 pupils, which is untenable as a parent.

2. My son is currently in Year 3 at Watton at Stone school. He is in a class of over 30 children and the school has to admit children in his year until it reaches 34, if they apply. I

am dismayed by his current class size and it may grow in the coming years. There is a great deal of evidence which links greater class size to a reduction in educational outcomes. I feel his class size is too big and puts home at a disadvantage compared to other children in the district who have a maximum of 30 children in a class.

Additionally, to produce class sizes that meet the KS1 criteria of having a maximum of 30 children, the school has to do split classes. The children are divided up differently over several years. This is meant that friendship groups are disrupted several years in a row. Both my children have found this difficult to cope with.

3. Welwyn Parish Council considered the admissions consultation at their last meeting on 18/12/17 and makes "no comment". Welwyn Parish Council would like to thank HCC for the opportunity to respond.

4. As a village school, the community are close and will offer support to those in need. The school at present has a larger than average range of academic abilities and smaller class sizes do help with these pupils.