



REQUEST 17602

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is due to give local authorities greater powers to prevent good/popular schools from expanding, on the grounds that such expansion would undermine bad/unpopular schools - which might cease to be viable and have to close. This would be via the mechanism of setting a "published admissions number" PAN for each school.

Details of the proposals can be found [here](#)

Please advise if your local authority has made any decision on whether you would be willing to contemplate using such powers in the event of this legislation being enacted and if so what that decision is.

Please also provide a copy of any submission you have made to the Department of Education regarding this proposal and copies of any email correspondence within your Council regarding the matter.

RESPONSE

We have a duty to ensure sufficiency of school places in our area. As part of our strategy for school places in Wigan, we have managed supply by decreasing and increasing published admission numbers when appropriate. This has been done to support the viability of all schools, not just those that are popular. This would extend to any potential school expansion. The local authority (LA) would consider using the proposed powers to support sufficiency and the viability of schools in our area.

The LA has not made any submission to the Department of Education on this matter.