

Petition

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to abandon the proposal to halve the admission numbers for Hertford Infant School.

1. The Infant and Junior Schools are the heart of our community and play an important role in many of the improvements to our neighbourhood in recent years.
2. Reducing the intake in the infant school will feed through to the junior school and mean significant cuts to the budgets of these schools in an area which is already recognised as one of the most deprived in the city, to the disadvantage of children who are already underprivileged.
3. While we acknowledge that there may for (at the moment) a dip in the child population in Brighton as a whole, we do not believe this is the case in Hollingdean.
4. A number of new houses are being built or planned in our neighbourhood, including two- and three-bedroom council houses which will most likely be allocated to families with children, maintaining the child population in this area.
5. We are concerned that no alternatives appear to be under consideration, such as reducing the intake of one of the four-class entry schools to three, instead of halving Hertford's entry and forcing local children out of their closest school.
6. Not all children or families would be comfortable with a four-class entry school, yet many families would be left with no choice. The two Hertford schools offer great green space, dedicated provision for special needs and a small enough school that all adults and all children know one other – but again some children would be forced out into much bigger schools.
7. We request that an Equalities Impact Assessment be carried out before any more consideration is given to reducing the size of Hertford's intake.
8. We request that the entry capacity of both Hertford Infant and Hertford Junior School remain at sixty per year.

