

Consultation on the proposed reduction in PAN at Academy St James

Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust is consulting on reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Academy St James from 60 to 45 from September 2021

Statutory consultation on the proposed reduction in Published Admission Number for Academy St James for the 2021/22 academic year

Consultation Document

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Academy St James is 60. This means that the number of children admitted to the academy in each year is a maximum of 60.

When planning primary school places in Bradford, the District is split into 26 primary school planning areas. Academy St James sits in the Bradford North West 2 planning area.

The population growth in Bradford over the last decade increased pressure on primary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand.

Whilst there are still small areas of population growth, overall across the Bradford District, there is a decrease in the number of younger children registered with the NHS. This has led to a high level of surplus places in some of the primary school planning areas including North West 2, where Academy St James is situated. Recent information published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) shows that the number of births in 2017 was the lowest recorded both nationally and in Bradford, since 2006; therefore the Local Authority does not anticipate that the numbers of children requiring school places in the Bradford North West 2 planning area will increase significantly in the near future.

Bradford Local Authority have predicted that the population in the school area will decrease over the next few years and we would like to consult on a PAN decrease of 15 pupils per year bringing year groups to 45 pupils.

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust, as the Admission Authority, is therefore seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN for Academy St James in the Bradford North West 2 planning area.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2014), the Trust is consulting with key stakeholders, including:

- Academy St James – Governing Body and Staff
- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- All other Admission Authorities within the District
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed

changes A copy has been sent to the Schools Adjudicator

The Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust and Academy St James will publish the proposal on their websites.

This consultation will run for six weeks from 2nd October 2020 to 18th November 2020, after which time any representations received will be considered by the Local Governing Body at Academy St James and the Trustees of Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust.

Specific Proposal

Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust proposes to reduce the PAN at Academy St James from 60 to 45 from September 2021.

This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception in 2021, and all subsequent Reception cohorts, will be 45. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change but the admission number for all other year groups will reduce to 45 from 2021 onwards.

Factors that have been considered by the Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools will not receive the maximum possible revenue and therefore the Trust is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.
- The school is located in the Bradford North West 2 planning area where there continues to be a falling demand for primary school places, resulting in a significant surplus across the area. This has meant that the reception class has not filled in the last three years.
- The total number of pupils from reception to Year 6 recorded by the school on the October 2019 census is 284 and is well below the current PAN of 420

The Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust believes that reducing the PAN will assist the academy to provide stability in their long-term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll. The reduction in PAN will ensure that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts.

Any representations should be made on the attached form sent by email to consultation@academystjames.com or post to PAN Consultation, Academy St James, Chelwood Drive, Bradford, BD15 7YD