

Published Admission Number (PAN)

FAQ

What is the PAN?

The PAN is the number of places we make available as part of our normal Reception intake. Once the PAN has been set for a school, we will not refuse applications submitted during the normal admission round for Reception, where the PAN has not been exceeded.

Why is it reviewed?

We have a statutory duty to review the PAN at least every 7 years. However, where the PAN does not reflect the actual, or predicted admissions numbers, it should be reviewed more regularly.

Is the PAN the maximum number of children who will be admitted to the school?

Not necessarily. As the admissions authority for our schools, the Trust has scope to admit above the PAN. Where there is sufficient demand for places, we are committed to doing that.

Can the PAN be increased as well as decreased?

Yes. Where demand for places increases beyond PAN then it can be increased. We've seen this in our secondary schools where some have experienced multiple increases in their PAN across the past few years.

Why is it important to have an accurate PAN?

We can only use our resources effectively when we have clarity about demand. For example, a PAN that is set too low could mean we have insufficient staff to accommodate demand. Conversely, a PAN that is set too high could lead to unaffordable over-staffing.

What things affect the PAN?

There are a number of variables that are taken into consideration when setting the PAN, these include:

- Previous demand for places
- Birth rates
- Housing development in the local area
- New schools being built in the local area
- Social mobility

Could a reduction in PAN lead to split year groups in the same class?

The need for split year groups in the same class is driven by pupil numbers. Maintaining a higher PAN is not a guarantee that sufficient numbers of children will come to a school and as such, a high PAN does not in itself mean there will not be split-year classes.

Can the PAN be changed at any time?

No, there is a fixed timetable for making changes to the PAN and they have to be done well in advance. For example, changes proposed for 2025/26 must have been consulted on by 31/1/24, with a final decision being confirmed no later than 28/2/24.