



Consultation on a proposed reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) by one form of entry (1FE) for Reception Classes for September 2020 at Tudor Court Primary School

Consultation period: Wednesday 28th November 2018 to Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Why are we consulting?

The Schools Admissions Code 2014 sets out a requirement for all admission authorities to undertake statutory consultation where they propose a variation to the Published Admission Number of a school.

Once the admission arrangements have been determined for a particular year, the admission authority is required to seek approval, in the case of academies, from the Education and Skills Funding Agency on proposed variation / reduction of the school's PAN, and must notify the appropriate bodies.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of parents, carers and other interested stakeholders on the proposal to reduce the school's PAN for September 2020.

The schools admission code can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School Admissions Code 2014 - 19 Dec.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf)

The Proposal

The Trustees are proposing that the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Tudor Court Primary School be reduced from 120 to 90 for the September 2020 Reception Year group. The Local Authority are aware of this proposal.

The proposal to reduce the school's PAN will mean that the number of places available for children in Year R in September 2020 will be 90. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

Thurrock Local Authority projections show that there will be sufficient places available for local children if the PAN for this school is reduced. Should the demand for additional school places increase in the future, the Trustees will consider raising the PAN again. The school will also work closely with the Local Authority should there be a 'bulge' year.

This is the only proposed change, the oversubscription criteria will remain the same.

Background

The projected numbers in the Pupil Place Planning document produced annually by the Local Authority indicates that the school will not be able to fill four forms of entry, ultimately this will lead to the consideration of mixed year groups which is something that we wish to avoid. The current PAN for Tudor Court Primary Academy is 120. This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school in Reception is limited to 120. For the past two years the number of children admitted in to the reception cohort has been well below 120 and the future forecasts provided by Thurrock Local Authority indicate that this downward trend will continue.

Reducing the PAN will assist the Trustees in providing stability to their long-term planning while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers living in the surrounding area. Providing four forms of entry for less than 100 children is not sustainable as we still require four class teachers but wouldn't receive sufficient funding.

A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. If there are too many vacancies in our school this means that our income will reduce yet our costs will remain

static. Therefore we are proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively. If we do not reduce the PAN we will lose upwards of £60,000 year on year, whilst still needing to fund four classes due to class sizes not being able to rise above 30.

Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. Tudor Court Primary School Trustees and the school's Local Governing Body, as the admissions authority, is seeking comments on the proposed change.

Who are we consulting with?

During this consultation period we want to seek representations from:

- Parents and carers of children already attending the school;
- Parents of any other children aged from birth upwards;
- School staff;
- Local Primary Schools;
- Anyone else with interest or might be affected by the proposed change;

Factors that have been considered by the Governing Body in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- The continued ability of the school to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils thus facilitating continuing school improvement.
- Future resource planning and management.
- The capacity of the school buildings and site and resources management will be more effective.

What happens next?

Following the consultation period the Trustees will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admissions arrangements for September 2020 will be determined by 28th February 2019. The Trustees will consider the results of the consultation and, in discussion with the Local Authority, will decide whether to refer the proposed reduction in the admission number for the 2020/21 academic year to the Department for Education (DFE) for approval.

How to Respond

The consultation will run from 28th November 2018 until 3 p.m. on 23rd January 2019

All responses must be received by 3 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd January 2019.

Representations received after this specified time and date will not be considered.

You can respond to the consultation by giving your views online at:

consultation@tudorcourtprimary.com

or in writing to the school office at Bark Burr Road, Chafford Hundred, Essex RM16 6PL