



Proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Unity Academy from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2026

Background

The current PAN for Unity Academy is 60, which means no more than 60 children can be admitted into Reception each year.

Currently admissions are below PAN and figures from Blackpool Council show that the birth rate for future years is reducing significantly.

As a result, Fylde Coast Academy Trust and Unity Academy are seeking to consult and reduce the PAN from 60 to 30. This reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of Unity Academy.

Reducing the PAN will assist the school and the Trust to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow the school to continue to secure high quality education for the pupils currently on roll, whilst continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupils in line with local demand.

Be assured that Fylde Coast Academy Trust will continue to review local demand and if there is a lack of school places in the future, increasing the PAN back to 60 may be considered.

Impact

The proposal means that the number of places available for children in Reception in 2026, and all subsequent Reception cohorts will be 30. This change will have no effect on children already attending Unity Academy.

Factors that have been considered by Fylde Coast Academy Trust, in consultation with the Local Governing Body and Blackpool Council Admissions team are:

- The continued ability of Unity Academy to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils, thus facilitating continuing school improvement and future resource planning and management.

How to respond

This consultation will run from Friday 15th November 2024 until Friday 27th December 2024.

You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal either by:

Email- Governance@fcat.org.uk

Post-Fylde Coast Academy Trust, Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR.

Following the consultation period, Fylde Coast Academy Trust, in consultation with the Local Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed.

Admission arrangements for September 2026 will be determined by 28th February 2025.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Bamber'.

Sarah Bamber
FCAT Director of Primary