

# Walmsley CE Primary School

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**Headteacher: Mrs Joanna Atherton**

10th December 2024

Dear Parent & Carers

## **Walmsley CE Primary Admissions Consultation: Proposal document to reduce the Published Admission Number for Walmsley CE Primary School**

We seek to reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for Walmsley CE Primary School, effective from September 2026 reception intake year and all subsequent years thereafter.

The rationale behind the proposed changes lies within the predicted future demand for places in schools within our locality. It has become apparent that there is a declining birth rate locally to which we are not immune to. The demand for places is forecasted to reduce for Walmsley CE Primary School to such an extent that it is necessary to propose a PAN reduction for the school to ensure it remains financially sustainable and continues to be able to meet the changing demand for school places in its catchment area.

We believe it is unlikely that the school will fill up to the existing PAN in the next few years, based on the number of births and forecast need for school places in the future.

### **The Proposal**

We propose to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception Year Group for Walmsley CE Primary School for intake September 2026 from 45 to 30 pupils.

### **What does this mean?**

This means that the number of school places it offers for reception intake starting from September 2026 will be reduced. For pupils who already have a place at the school, we will manage any changes in class sizes as necessary. This will mean that some classes will adapt and move to/from mixed-aged year groups in future years. This is the only proposed change to the admissions criteria; all other criteria will remain the same. There will be no other changes to the admission arrangements.

The proposed change will not affect families seeking a first-time admission place at the school for September 2025, the intake is however expected to be well below our PAN of 45 for this year also. The proposed change will help our school to effectively focus its teaching and learning resources to match the demand of school places in the catchment area. The



**Resilience**



**Trust**



**Aspiration**



**Hope**



**Respect**



**Love**

*'Growing as a family to flourish in God's Love'*

school staff are working hard to continue to improve the outcomes of all our children and feel strongly that the proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for our young learners, whilst still enabling us to meet the changing demand of places.

### **The Consultation**

We place great importance on seeking views of our families, staff colleagues and the wider community. We hope all current, future families and any other interested stakeholders will provide feedback on this proposal. As set out in the Schools Admission Code, we are entering into a 6-week statutory consultation. Following the consultation, the Governing Board shall consider the consultation results and determine the subsequent admission arrangements.

The consultation will run for six weeks starting Wednesday 10th December until Friday 31st January 2025. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal. Please email [office@walmsley.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:office@walmsley.bolton.sch.uk) (Please ensure the 'Subject or Title' of your email states "PAN Consultation"). You will find a copy of the proposed Admission Policy for September 2026 intake on the school's website.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Walmsley CE Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Atherton  
Headteacher