

Amendment of Published Admissions Number (PAN) for St Helens Catholic School

Lambeth Council, on behalf of St Helens Catholic School, are providing notice of a proposed change to the determined admission arrangements for 2020/21.

This proposal is part of a wider undertaking by the council to reduce Published Admissions Numbers (PANs) due to falling population across the borough. The PAN is the maximum number of pupils that the school can admit into its Reception classes each year.

St Helens Catholic School is located at Knowle Close, SW9 0TQ, within the London Borough of Lambeth.

The Admission Authority is proposing to decrease the school's published admission number for the academic year 2020/21 from the current PAN of 60 pupils to a new PAN of 45 pupils for 2020/21 onwards.

This is in accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. This would apply to each Reception intake from 2020 onwards and not to children already in the school.

There was an increase in demand for Reception places in Lambeth schools between 2009 and 2014 and Lambeth built, refurbished and redeveloped schools across the borough to account for the fast-growing resident population. More recently a range of factors have occurred, including a drop in the number of births, lower fertility rates, the impact of welfare reform and the impact of the uncertainty of Brexit on migration that have led to a year-on-year fall in Reception numbers, which is expected to continue until 2021/22.

Given that there are already spare Reception places in the Brixton area, there will be no discernible effect on other primary schools within the locality and will not lead to a shortage of school places in the area.

There are places available at other schools within the area that can accommodate in-year demand for a school place. In the long-term it is financially unviable for a school if it doesn't fill up so long term value for money will be achieved by ensuring that the school is the right size to reflect local demand.

Your views on this proposal are important to us and will be presented to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) for approval. Lambeth Council want to hear the views of everyone who feels they might be affected by this proposed reduction to the Published Admission Number and are therefore consulting with parents, carers, governors, local councillors and other stakeholders.

You can provide your feedback by email to Maggie Harriott - mharriott@lambeth.gov.uk

Cathy Twist - Director: Education & Learning