

Consultation on a proposed reduction in the published admission number (PAN) for Downsbrook Primary School with effect from September 2020

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for Downsbrook Primary School is 90, meaning that the maximum number of children admitted into the school in Reception is limited to 90.

Although the net capacity of the building may be higher, the school is only currently half full due to a number of changes in recent years. The current PAN of 90 was derived from the designation as a primary school in 2015 as a result of the reorganisation of primary schools in Worthing. Since then, numbers entering Reception have varied between 30 and 60 and have not achieved the PAN anticipated in the reorganisation.

Currently the school has cohorts of between 23 and 85, randomly distributed across the primary age range, resulting in uneven distribution of resources. Longer term forecasts of pupil numbers in West Sussex, as published in the Planning School Places 2018 document (May 2018) indicate a steady fall in the number of pupils requiring a primary school place in the Worthing area over the next fifteen years.

Reducing the PAN will assist the the Board of Directors of Schoolsworks Academy Trust and the school leaders at Downsbrook to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow the school to secure high quality educational outcomes for the children currently on role, while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers in line with demand.

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. Downsbrook Primary School, a member of the Schoolsworks Academy Trust, is its own admissions authority and is seeking comments on the proposed change.

Specific Proposal

Downsbrook Primary School proposes to reduce the published admission number of the school from 90 to 60 with effect from September 2020. This means that the number of places available for children in Reception in 2020 – and all subsequent cohorts – will be 60. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria and all other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.

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

- provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils
- future resource planning and management

How to Respond

This consultation will run from 29 October 2018 to 19 December 2018 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to Mr N White at nick.white@schoolsworks.org by 19 December 2018. Following the consultation period the Schoolsworks Trust will consider any comments received and decide how to proceed. Admission arrangements for 2020 will be determined by 28 February 2019.