

Consultation on a proposed reduction in the published admission number for St John's Catholic Primary School, Chapel Lane, Burscough L40 7RA with effect from September 2027.

## **Background**

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for St John's Catholic Primary School is 25. This means that the number of children admitted into the school at Reception each year is limited to 25. Reducing the PAN to 20 will assist the Governing Body in their long-term planning (while reflecting the contemporary legislation on infant class sizes) and continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future Catholic pupils.

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. The school's Governing Body, as the admissions authority, is therefore seeking comments on the proposed change.

## **Specific Proposal**

The Governing Body propose to reduce the published admission number of the school from 25 to 20 with effect from September 2027.

This means that the number of places available for children in Reception in 2027 – and all subsequent cohorts – will be 20. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change; the admission number for all other cohorts remain at the previous planned admission number.

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

A school might justify the reduction in pupil admission numbers (PAN) for several reasons:

1. **Space Constraints:**
  - The school may have reviewed its physical capacity, including classroom sizes and shared spaces like the hall, library, or playground. They might determine that reducing the PAN will ensure a more comfortable learning environment for students.
2. **Optimal Class Sizes:**
  - A PAN of 20 allows for 7 classes of 20 students. Reducing the PAN ensures equitable and manageable class sizes, enhancing educational delivery.
3. **Quality of Education:**
  - Larger class sizes can impact the quality of teaching and individual attention students receive. By slightly reducing the PAN, the school might argue they can maintain or improve educational outcomes.
4. **Local Demographic Trends:**

- If the local area has seen a slight decline in the number of children requiring primary school places, the reduction might align with demand to avoid unnecessary oversubscription or underutilization of resources.
- 5. **Staffing Considerations:**
  - If staffing levels do not support the previous PAN effectively, the reduction could ensure that teacher-to-student ratios remain reasonable and sustainable.
- 6. **Financial or Operational Efficiency:**
  - Running a slightly lower PAN might align better with the school's budget and operational capacity, ensuring efficient use of resources without compromising on education quality.
- 7. **Support for Special Educational Needs (SEN):**
  - With growing numbers of students requiring additional support, a reduced PAN might provide the flexibility to better accommodate SEN students and deliver tailored interventions.

#### How to Respond

This consultation will run from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 until 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (to comply with requirements within the Admissions Code 2021) and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the above proposal to school. Please mark all correspondence for the attention of Chair of Governors.

Alternatively, you may wish to e-mail: [bursar@burscough.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@burscough.lancs.sch.uk)

Please submit any comments no later than 12 noon on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Following the consultation period the Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admission arrangements for 2027 will be determined by 28 February 2026 and published on the school website by 15 March. Any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2026