St. Paul's Catholic School

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Consultation on Proposed Changes to Admission Arrangements for St Paul's Catholic Primary School for the 2028/29 Academic Year

Consultation period Monday 9th November 2026 to Monday 21st December 2026

Date: **09.11.2026**

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders,

In accordance with the Department for Education's statutory School Admissions Code 2021, St Paul's Catholic Primary School, as the admission authority, is consulting on a proposed change to its admission arrangements for the 2028/29 academic year. The governing board is conducting the consultation on the school's behalf.

Proposal:

Reduction of Published Admission Number (PAN)

We are proposing to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception from 45 (forty-five) to 30 (thirty). This means that the number of places available for children joining Reception in September 2028 would be reduced from 45 (forty-five) to 30 (thirty).

Nursery statement added to the policy

St Paul's Catholic Primary School intend to open a nursery school setting. Admission policy updated to reflect the admission expectations.

Reason for the Proposal

The governing board has carefully considered this change and believes it is in the best interests of the school and its pupils. The proposed reduction is based on:

- Local demographic trends, including a sustained fall in demand for Reception places
- Educational considerations, including class organisation and maintaining high-quality teaching
- Efficient use of resources, ensuring staffing and accommodation are used effectively
- Financial sustainability, recognising the impact of lower pupil numbers on school budgets

We are confident that this proposal will support the continued delivery of a high-quality, inclusive education for all pupils.

MUSIC MARK PROUD TO BE A MUSIC MARK SCHOOL 2022 - 2023

What Will Not Change

All other aspects of our admission arrangements, including oversubscription criteria, waiting list arrangements, and in-year admissions will remain unchanged. Our full proposed admission arrangements, including the revised PAN, are available on the admissions page of our website [add link] Copies can also be requested from the school office.

Who We Are Consulting

In line with the School Admissions Code 2021, we are consulting with:

- Parents and carers of children aged 2–18
- Other persons with an interest in admissions in the local area
- The local authority
- Other admission authorities for schools in the relevant area
- The Diocese of Portsmouth
- Neighbouring local authorities where the school is situated close to the local authority boundary

How to Respond

We welcome your views on this proposal. Please send any comments or representations by the consultation closing date by email to rgonzalez@stpauls.reading.sch.uk or by post to Rachel Gonzalez, Clerk to the Governing Board, St Paul's Catholic Primary School, City Road, Reading RG31 4SZ.

Next Steps

Following the consultation, the governing board will consider all responses before determining the admission arrangements by 28 February 2027. The final determined arrangements will be published on our website by 15 March 2027.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this consultation. Your views are important to us.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs R Gonzalez, Clerk to Governors

St Paul's Catholic Primary School URN 110006