



**Consultation for the Reduction in Planned Admission Numbers for the academic year 2026/27
for Weston All Saints Primary School, Paulton Infant School, Horrington Primary School and
Nunney First School**

Summary

The Partnership Trust is consulting on the following:

Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for one of its academies (known as schools) within the Local Authorities of Bath and North East Somerset as set out below:

- **Weston All Saints Primary School: Consultation to reduce PAN from 90 to 60 for Reception for 2026 onwards**
- **Paulton Infant School: Consultation to reduce PAN from 90 to 60 for Reception for 2026 onwards.**
- **Horrington Primary School: Consultation to reduce PAN from 17 to 15 for Reception admissions for 2026 onwards**
- **Nunney First School: Consultation to reduce PAN from 18 to 15 for Reception for admissions for 2026 onwards**
- **For Castle Primary School, a change in the oversubscription criteria to make application more straightforward**

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

- Intake numbers for Reception cohorts across the last 3 years
- The continued ability of the schools to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils thus facilitating continuing school improvement
- Future resource planning and management

The Trust and the schools will continue to look at local demand and if it is felt that there is a local need for school places in the future the Board of Trustees would consider increasing the PAN as appropriate.

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Emily Massey

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VAT Registration No. 371 6891 66 Registered Office: Fosse Way School, Longfellow Road, Radstock, BA3 3AL

Contextual information

Nunney First School: Consultation on reduction of PAN from 18 to 15

Nunney First School is a small rural first school within Somerset Local Authority accommodating children from Reception to Year 4. The school joined The Partnership Trust in September 2016.

The key reasons for a proposed reduction in PAN are as follows:

- The school has three classroom spaces and as such must operate a three class structure across 5 year groups.
- Infant Class Size Legislation requires that the maximum number of children within an infant class must not exceed 30. An intake of 18 means that the school cannot operate a structure with classes of 30 across just two year groups. This has an impact on the planning and delivery of the school's curriculum because the school cannot operate a consistent structure and curriculum year on year.
- Whilst the school has grown since joining the Trust, it remains under capacity with its current capacity at circa 82% of net capacity. Available pupil planning data does not indicate any significant upward trend in pupil numbers, reflecting the national picture.
- A reduction of PAN will allow for a more secure classroom organisation and support the school and the Trust to provide stability in long term planning of classroom organisation, staffing and curriculum in the most efficient and effect manner to support the best possible outcomes for children attending the school.

The reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of the school but will enhance the provision of education it can provide in a planned way.

Horrington Primary School: Consultation on reduction of PAN from 17 to 15

Horrington Primary School joined The Partnership Trust on 1 December 2022. The school is a small rural school within Somerset Local Authority.

The reasons for the proposed reduction in PAN are as follows:

- Infant Class Size Legislation dictates that the maximum number of children within an infant class must not exceed 30. A PAN of 17 means that it is not possible for the school to operate the following structure EYFS; Y1/2; Y3/4; Y5/6 which in turn brings challenges year on year in terms of curriculum delivery across differing mixed year group classes.
- The school remains under capacity, operating at 87% of net capacity. Available pupil planning does not indicate a significant upward trend in pupil numbers, reflecting the national picture.
- A reduction of PAN will allow for a more secure classroom organisation will support the school and the Trust to provide stability in long term planning in terms of future classroom organisation and staffing and in the delivery of a curriculum which will support the best possible outcomes for children attending the school and high quality school improvement.

The reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of the school but will enhance the provision of education it can provide in a planned way.

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Weston All Saints Primary School : Consultation on Reduction of PAN from 90 to 60

Weston All Saints Primary School is a school within the Local Authority of Bath and North East Somerset catering for pupils from Reception to Year 6. The school joined The Partnership Trust in 2016.

The reasons for the proposed reduction in PAN are as follows:

- The school currently has a PAN of 90 and is operating at 71% capacity of net capacity. Pupil intakes for reception for the past two years have been significantly under PAN (and under 60 at circa 50 and 53). Current forecasts available for pupil projections indicate a very small increase in potential pupil numbers locally with an excess of capacity within the area.
- Infant Class Size legislation provides that infant class sizes should not exceed 30. Reduction of PAN to 60 would enable the school to operate with certainty as a two form entry, allowing for more secure classroom organisation, supporting the school and the Trust to provide stability in long term planning of future classroom organisation and staffing and in delivering a curriculum in the most efficient and effect manner to support the best possible outcomes for children attending the school and to high quality school improvement.
- In the context of the current financial landscape, the school needs to ensure that it operates in a financially sustainable way, this means with classes as close as possible to capacity, ensuring that resourcing is directed to meet the needs of the children attending the school as much as possible.

The reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of the school but will enhance the provision of education it can provide in a planned way.

In partnership with the Local Authority, the Trust and the school will continue to look at local demand and, if evidence suggests that there may be insufficient school places to meet local demand in the future, would consider an increase the PAN to 75.

Paulton Infant School: Consultation to reduce PAN from 90 to 60

Paulton Infant School is an infant school within Bath and North East Somerset that provides an education for pupils from Reception to Year 2. The school joined The Partnership Trust in October 2020.

The reasons for the proposed reduction in PAN are:

- The school is currently operating at 63% of its net capacity and there is insufficient demand for the current PAN.
- Efficient education within infant schools is predicated by Infant Class Size legislations which limit infant classes to 30 pupils. The school needs to operate as close to full class sizes as possible in order to ensure that they are financial sustainable and so that resources can be appropriately directed for the benefit of all pupils. A structure of a PAN of 60 will enable the school to operate single year group classes ensuring the best possible delivery of a consistently high qua
- Whilst available pupil forecasting indicates a small rise to admissions for September 2025 and 2026 entry, the data indicates that number will fall back thereafter.

The reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of the school but will enhance the provision of education it can provide in a planned way.

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In partnership with the Local Authority, the Trust and the school will continue to look at local demand and if evidence suggests that there may be insufficient school places to meet local demand in the future, would consider an increase the PAN to 75.

Castle Primary School: Consultation to change oversubscription criteria

It is proposed to change the oversubscription criteria as below

Current criteria:

1. Children Looked After– Children who are in the care of a Local Authority or have previously been and are now formally adopted or subject to a residence/child 11 arrangement order or special guardianship order. Children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who live within a 1.5 mile radius of the school and for whom there will be a sibling in attendance on the admission date at the preferred school.
3. Children who live outside a 1.5 mile radius of the school **but it is their closest school** and for whom there will be a sibling in attendance on the admission date at the preferred school.
4. Children who live closest to the school, as measured in a direct line from the address point of the school

New criteria

Consolidation of points 2 and 3 above and replacement with the following:

1. Children Looked After– Children who are in the care of a Local Authority or have previously been and are now formally adopted or subject to a residence/child 11 arrangement order or special guardianship order. Children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children for whom there will be a sibling (living at the same address(es)) in attendance on the admission date
3. Children who live closest to the school, as measured in a direct line from the address point of the school

The reasons for this change are to bring the oversubscription criteria in line with other schools within the Trust and to make the application of the criteria simpler. The net effect remains to support families with accessing a single primary setting where there is one child already in attendance and thereafter to prioritise proximity to the school.

Why are we consulting?

Multi Academy Trusts are their own admission authority and must meet all mandatory provisions of the School Admission Code. We consult on our admission arrangements to ensure transparency and openness on the contents of our arrangements and to allow parents, carers and other stakeholders to make a representation that can then be considered as part of the determination of the arrangements.

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The Partnership Trust as the admissions authority is seeking comments on these proposed changes to the PAN. The Partnership Trust Board of Trustees will consider representations and recommendations from the consultation exercise before making any decision on the proposal.

Specific Proposal

- Nunney First School: Reduction in the Published Admission Numbers from 18 to 15 from September 2026.
- Horrington Primary School: Reduction in the Published Admission Numbers from 17 to 15 from September 2026.
- Weston All Saints Primary School: Reduction in Published Admission Numbers from 90 to 60 from September 2026
- Paulton Infant School: Reduction in Published Admission Numbers from 90 to 60 from September 2026

This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception in 2026 onwards, and all subsequent Reception cohorts, will be as set out above. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

- Castle Primary School: A change to their oversubscription.

This means that the criteria for managing applications if the school is oversubscribed will change from September 2026.

Who are we consulting with?

During this statutory consultation we want to consult with as many stakeholders as possible including:

- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
- the local authority and
- any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority.

Consultation Timetable

The School Admissions Code states that when changes are proposed to admission arrangements, admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year.

Our timetable for the consultation is as follows:

Consultation Period begins: Tuesday 17 December 2024

Consultation Period ends: Tuesday 28 January 2025

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The Board of Trustees will make their decision in February 2025

For the duration of the consultation The Partnership Trust, Weston All Saints Primary School; Paulton Infant School; Horrington Primary School; Castle Primary School and Nunney First School websites will display a link to the following documents:

- A copy of this consultation document
- Admission Arrangements for 2024-25 Admissions
- Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2026-27 Admissions

Website addresses:

The Partnership Trust: <https://thepartnershiptrust.co.uk/>

Weston All Saints Primary School: <https://www.wasp-school.org.uk/>

Paulton Infant School: <https://www.paultoninfantschool.co.uk/>

Nunney First School: <https://nunneyfirstschool.co.uk/>

Horrington Primary School: <https://www.horringtonprimary.co.uk/>

Castle Primary School: <https://www.castle.bathnes.sch.uk/>

When would the changes come into effect?

If approved, the arrangements would be introduced for September 2026 entry onwards.

Have your say

Please let us know your thoughts by Friday 10 January 2025.

either by:

- Email – office@thepartnershiptrust.com. Please include Admissions consultation and the name of the school in the email subject line
or
- Post – Please mark your envelope Admissions Consultation, The Partnership Trust, Fosse Way School, Radstock BA3 3AL

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU TELL US WHICH YOU SCHOOL YOU ARE RESPONDING ABOUT IN YOU COMMUNICATION WITH US.

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