

Friday 9th December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Consultation on a proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at All Saints National Academy w.e.f. September 2024

All Saints National Academy is one of twenty academies in the St. Chad's Academies Trust. The Trust is the Admissions Authority for the academy and wishes to consult on a proposal to reduce the PAN to support the leadership team in managing numbers of pupils around the academy in the spaces available and to provide a financial model that is affordable and does not impact adversely on staffing.

Proposal

- The Local Academy Committee (LAC) propose to reduce the PAN from 45 to 30 with effect from September 2024.
- For children already in the academy, there will be no change and existing year groups will be managed appropriately as they progress through the academy to Year 6.
- The 2022 intake of Reception children was 26 children and the Trustees are confident that going forward parents of the local children will be able to choose All Saints National Academy as their academy of choice.
- There is a decline in pupil numbers from the Local Authority and peak in 2026.
- The LAC will continue to review its PANs on an annual basis and will be flexible to react to demographic trends.

Rationale

- The Academy is not full and has 64 surplus places. Even with this number of surplus places the management of large numbers of pupils is extremely difficult, particularly where the layout of classrooms provide limited space and alterations of the space is limited owing to the Victorian architecture.
- Moving from a system of mixed year groups would alleviate the issues of overcrowding, provide a single year curriculum that will aid in better outcomes for children, and provide a more conducive environment in which to learn. The Victoria building was not originally designed to accommodate so many children, especially for KS2 children whose physique is naturally larger.
- Additionally, and very importantly, previous intakes of children close to PAN have provided the financial challenge of having one class of mixed Years 1 and 2, and three classes of mixed Years 3 and 4. If the PAN was reduced to 30 then the number of classes can be reduced to a single form entry academy. This provides the optimum solution in terms of delivering the curriculum and raising outcome, and the cost-effective deployment of academy resources. Failure to deal with this issue now would certainly provide financial challenges in due course.

Consultation Response

- Details of the consultation documents can be located at: <https://www.asna.walsall.sch.uk/academy-letters>
- The consultation period will commence on 9th December 2022 through to 31st January 2023.
- Comments are invited and can be submitted via email at consultation@asna.walsall.sch.uk
- On completion of the consultation period the Trust Board/LAC will consider all responses received and decide how it will proceed.
- Admission arrangements for the 2024/2025 academic year will be determined by 28th February 2023.

Any objections after that date will need go to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15th May 2023 by osa.team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Dean

Executive Principal