



**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Consultation on a proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at St Katherine's School and Nursery from 90 to 60 from September 2024**

St Katherine's School and Nursery is an academy in the Coppice Primary Partnership (a multi-academy trust or MAT). The Trust is the Admissions Authority for the school and wishes to consult on a proposal to reduce the PAN to support the leadership team in managing the numbers of pupils who need a place at the school and to provide a financial model that is affordable and does not impact adversely on staffing.

**Proposal**

- The Trust is writing to notify you that it intends to reduce our current PAN from 90 to 60. This would mean that the PAN could be changed and applied from September 2024.
  - This is a new consultation following advice that our request for an In-Year Variation to PAN was not the correct course of action.
- For children already in school, there will be no change and year groups with more than 60 children will continue to receive the same level of education and support as they progress through the school.
- Were the request to be successful, year groups where intake was 60 or below would be capped at 60 to safeguard the financial security and stability of the school.
- Trustees will continue to review its PAN and will react to changes in demand for school places.

**Rationale**

- The Snodland area is made up of three schools offering a combined total of 180 places. Over the last three years there has been a surplus of spaces, the majority of which have been at St Katherine's.
- Having spoken with the Local Authority to get a better understanding of the future demand for places, their data suggests that this surplus is likely to continue. In short, there are more places in schools in Snodland than there are children to fill them.
- Trustees are confident, based on two of the last three years intakes and preferences expressed for September 2022, that going forward, local parents will be able to specify St Katherine's as their school of choice.



- The impact of operating 3 Key Stage 1 classes with just over 60 children through to Year 2 is putting the school under financial pressure. If the PAN is reduced to 60 the number of classes can be reduced from 3 to 2. This would support the successful delivery of the curriculum and use school resources more effectively.
- Failure to deal with this situation now will undoubtedly raise significant financial challenges within the next 2 years.
- Both the Trust and the school are committed to ensuring the financial security of the school and the high standard of education going forward. It is on this basis that the reduction of the school's PAN is being proposed.

### **What happens next**

- There will be a formal consultation with all relevant stakeholders running for six weeks from 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 until 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- Comments can be submitted using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/LsCcn6HrH7> or can email [office@coppicepp.org](mailto:office@coppicepp.org) (please put PAN in the subject line).
- Following the consultation, trustees will review any responses and use this to guide their decision on determining admission arrangements.