

Appendix 1

Proposed change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Broadstone Hall Primary School

Following an approach to Stockport Council by the governing body of the school, the Council requested a variation to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Broadstone Hall Primary School from 75 to 60 for September 2027. This was approved the School Adjudicator in July 2026 [Broadstone Hall Primary School: 14 July 2026 - GOV.UK](#).

This agreed variation only applies to the school year 2027/28 and so this consultation looks to reduce the Published Admission Number at Broadstone Hall Primary School from 75 to 60 for September 2028 onwards.

The request to reduce the PAN for Broadstone Hall Primary School is driven by a significant surplus of Reception places across the Heaton planning area and the resulting financial impact this has.

The school currently operates with 19 classes across seven year groups, including mixed Year 1 and 2, and mixed Year 3 and 4 classes. Maintaining a PAN of 75 in the context of falling demand would require the continued use of mixed-age classes and/or under-capacity classes, leading to inefficiencies in staffing and resource allocation.

Reducing the PAN to 60 from September 2027 will enable the school to operate with two full classes in each year group, reducing reliance on mixed-age provision and avoiding the need to maintain underfilled classes. This would support a more balanced class structure and reduce the number of classes from 19 to 16 initially, with a further reduction to 14 classes by the 2031/32 academic year and operate as single age classes across the school.

If offers were to exceed 60 places, the school would be required to organise provision across three classes in order to comply with Infant Class Size legislation. Reducing the PAN would therefore align staffing more closely with pupil numbers, providing greater certainty in future planning, supporting long-term financial stability, and enabling the school to maintain high-quality educational provision.

In addition to this, with a PAN of 75, this results in mixed-aged classes across school. While mixed-age classes can offer benefits in certain contexts, they can also present challenges that can negatively impact teaching and learning when they arise primarily as a consequence of low pupil numbers rather than educational design (for example, where a mixed age class contains the majority of one year group and a small minority of pupils from another year group due to low numbers). Mixed-age classes increase the complexity of curriculum planning, assessment, and teaching, as staff are required to deliver learning objectives from two different year groups simultaneously. This reduces the time available for focused instruction and make it more challenging to ensure that

all pupils receive age-appropriate challenge and support - as well as assessment of academic, social and personal progress and development. Teachers must balance differing curriculum expectations, which can place additional demands on workload and limit opportunities to provide targeted interventions for pupils. Furthermore, pupils may experience interruptions to curriculum continuity, particularly where programmes of study need to be adapted to avoid repetition or gaps in learning across a two-year cycle. As a result, while effective teaching can mitigate many of these issues, mixed-age classes often require significant additional planning and resources to ensure that educational standards and pupil outcomes are maintained.

The governing body of Broadstone Hall Primary School has approved the consultation to reduce the Published Admission Number at the school from 75 to 60 for September 2028 onwards.