EMMAUS

CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

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Admissions Consultation

Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026.

Introduction

Dear Consultee,

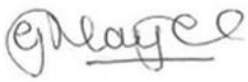
Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust is commencing a period of consultation on proposed changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for three primary schools identified within this document.

The PAN is the number of pupils that a school ordinarily intends to admit into its Reception Class each academic year. The PAN is determined by the Admissions Authority, which in this case, is Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust and should reflect the capacity of the school, available resources and local demand for school places.

This consultation provides stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on these proposals before any final decisions are made. Should these changes become approved following consultation, they will take effect from 1st September 2028 onwards.

On behalf of Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust and our schools, can I take this opportunity to thank you in advance of any contribution that you may wish to make towards this consultation process.

Your sincerely,



George Hayes
Director of Governance, Risk and Compliance

Background

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that education provision across its schools remains sustainable, financially viable and capable of delivering high-quality Catholic education.

Over recent years, the schools identified within this consultation have experienced a sustained reduction in pupil numbers, which are recognised to be reflective of broader demographic trends including:

- Falling birth rates across the local area;
- The inability for young families to afford housing nearby to some of our schools;
- Reductions in the number of applications for Reception Class places;
- Increased surplus capacity within some schools;
- The need to align admission numbers with actual current and forecast future demand

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has therefore gathered pupil place planning information from Local Authorities and reviewed this alongside school capacity, which have led to these proposals to reduce the PAN at three of our primary schools.

The proposed changes are intended to:

- Better align admission numbers with projected demand;
- Support the effective and efficient use of resources;
- Protect the long-term sustainability of schools;
- Maintain educational standards and the quality of provision for all pupils

In the interests of shared clarity – no changes are proposed to the admission criteria or oversubscription arrangements as part of this consultation process.

The Proposals

The following schools are those that this consultation applies to. The table below outlines the school, current PAN, proposed PAN and the change that this constitutes.

Consultees are encouraged to reference specific proposals (A to C) within their responses, if their response relates to a particular school.

School	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Change
Proposal A: St Patrick's RC Primary School, Livesey Street, Manchester, M4 5HF	30	15	Reduction of 15
Proposal B: St Dunstan's RC Primary School Bacup Street, Moston, Manchester, M40 9HF	45	30	Reduction of 15
Proposal C: St Patrick's RC Primary School, Lee Street, Oldham, OL8 1EF	30	15	Reduction of 15

These schools have been identified for the proposed reductions outlined because Reception Class applications at these schools have been consistently below the current PAN over a number of years and Local Authority Pupil Place Planning data does not forecast for these to improve or increase to these levels over the course of the next five years.

Whilst the changes being consulted upon are permanent, Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust seeks to work with our Local Authority partners. Thus, if the proposals are approved and come into effect, Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust remains open to the prospect of the potential to increase the PAN in the future, should population demands require this.

Maintaining admission numbers significantly above demand can lead to:

- High levels of spare capacity and unfilled places
- Increased financial pressures on schools
- Challenges in staffing and curriculum planning
- Inefficient use of the school estate accommodation.

School funding is mainly driven by pupil numbers. Therefore, where admissions remain significantly below PAN, schools face increasing financial pressures which can impact upon their ability to deploy resources effectively. Reducing the PAN will allow those schools to more accurately reflect anticipated pupil numbers whilst maintaining financial stability.

The proposed PAN reductions are also anticipated to support schools in:

- Planning class structures more effectively;
- Maintaining appropriate staffing levels
- Delivering a broad and balanced curriculum
- Preserving the high standards of Catholic education expected by pupils, parents, parishes and communities.

Impact Assessment

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has assessed the likely impact of these proposals and considers that:

- Parents will continue to have the opportunity to apply for places and the proposed PANs remain sufficient to meet the forecast demand and do not remove parental choice.
- There will be no impact upon pupils currently attending the schools. The proposals apply to future Reception Class admissions.
- The consultation relates solely to admission arrangements. There are no staffing decisions that form part of this proposal and should any staffing changes become required, these would be subject to a separate full consultation process.
- It has reviewed local pupil forecasts and believes that these changes will still ensure sufficient primary school places will remain available across the area to meet the anticipated demand.

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has similarly considered its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and is satisfied that the proposed changes relate solely to admissions numbers and do not alter the admissions criteria, oversubscription criteria or the schools' commitment to fair access and inclusion.

Therefore, Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has determined that the proposals outlined would not have a disproportionate adverse impact upon any group or protected group.

The Consultation Process

As part of this consultation process, Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust welcomes views from:

- Existing and prospective parents and carers
- Pupils
- Staff
- The Local Governing Body
- Parish communities
- Local Authorities
- Neighbouring schools and academy trusts
- Diocesan representatives
- Other interested stakeholders

Respondents are invited to comment on:

- The proposed PAN reductions
- The rationale for the proposed changes
- Any potential impacts that you believe the Trust should consider
- Any alternative approaches that you believe should be explored

Consultation responses should be submitted by no later than Friday 18th December 2026 via email to admissions.consultation@emmauscat.com

Responses should include:

- Your name
- Any organisation you represent (if applicable)
- Your contact details
- Your comments on the proposals – identifying specific proposals if applicable

Following the close of the consultation all responses will be reviewed and considered. A report summarising the consultation responses will then be prepared, based upon which the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust Board will determine whether to approve the proposed PAN reductions, which, if approved, would take effect from 1st September 2028.

Consultation Timeline	
Consultation opens	Monday 2nd November 2026
Consultation closes	Friday 18th December 2026
Trust Board decision	Monday 8th February 2027
Any new PAN arrangements take effect (if approved)	1st September 2028 onwards