

Amplify Education

Consultation Report – Hotwells Primary School
Admission Arrangements 2027/28

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1 Background

Amplify Education (formerly Cathedral Schools Trust) is the admissions authority for all schools within the Trust. Admissions are overseen by the trustees. Admission arrangements are reviewed and formally determined each year, and the admission authority has discretion to set the admissions arrangements for each intake. As a result, parents should note that admission criteria may change from year to year, and criteria applied in previous years cannot be guaranteed to apply in future admissions rounds.

Whenever an admission authority wishes to make any changes to its admission arrangements it is required to conduct a statutory consultation. Changes must be consulted approximately eighteen months before the admission date of the students affected, so changes for admissions in September 2027 must be consulted on in winter 2025/26 following the timetable set out in the School Admissions Code 2021 (SAC) [DfE School Admissions Code](#). It stipulates:

- Who must be consulted; such as parents, other admission authorities, other schools.
- When the consultation must happen - for a minimum of 6 weeks ending no later than 31st January 2026.
- When the arrangements must be determined (agreed) following the consultation - by 28th February 2026.
- When the arrangements must be published - by 15th March 2026.
- Objections to the school's adjudicator - by 15th May 2026.

Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) consulted on the admission arrangements for Hotwells Primary School for children who will be admitted to reception with effect from 1st September 2027

The consultation process ran from Monday 15th December to 12 noon on Friday 30th January 2026.

Anyone wishing to comment or offer feedback on the proposed admission arrangements was invited to complete the online form or contact CST via email; consultation@cathedralschoolstrust.org or post.

2 The proposed change for Hotwells Primary School

The proposed change is to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (the PAN) from 30 to 15 pupils who will be admitted to reception from 1st September 2027.

The factors which have been considered by the Trust Board in deciding to consult on this proposal to reduce the PAN include;

- the falling birth rate in Bristol which has also caused our reception entry numbers to fall for several years;
- support the city with the aim of reducing places across primary schools;
- maintain curriculum provision on the school site and ensure that there continues to be a school serving the Hotwells/Harbourside community;
- future resource planning and management; and
- the ability to manage the capacity of school resources more effectively.

3 Consultation responses and proposed admission arrangements amendments

The consultation was sent to all parents of students for Howells Primary School, published on the school website and/or newsletter and published on the Trust website. It was also circulated to local schools situated in the same local authority with a request to forward to their parents. It was sent to the local authority (Bristol City Council) in which the school is situated and to neighbouring local authorities and other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions as per the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

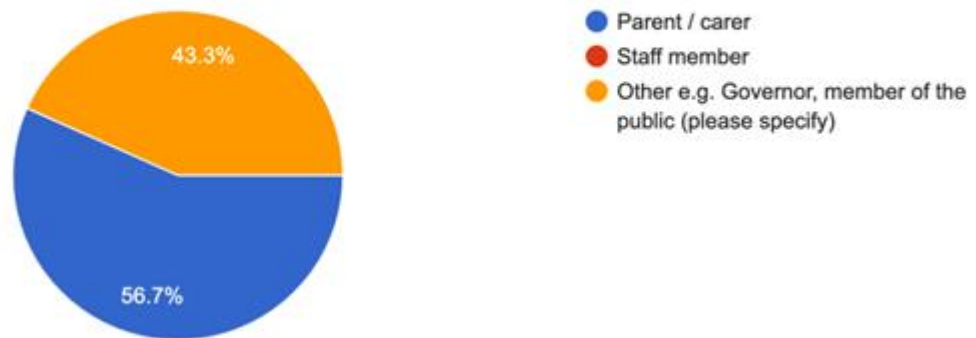
Trustees were provided with all responses received during the consultation process and have considered all comments made by respondents.

3.1 Responses

Overall, there were 60 responses to the consultation submitted via the google form (see below for respondent type). 95% of the respondents opposed the proposal to reduce the PAN from 30 to 15.

There were a further 17 comments submitted via email. All respondents opposed the proposal.

Are you a.....?
60 responses



3.2 Outcome

Having considered the views that were expressed, the decision of the Board is that the PAN for Hotwells School should remain at 30 for 2027 entry. This decision recognises the consultation and an ongoing commitment to the school. Trustees were mindful of the educational challenges of running the school whilst small but also recognised the commitment of the community to maintaining educational provision in as close to its current form as possible.