

Summary of proposed changes to Cheshire West and Chester school admission arrangements for 2026-2027 academic year.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, September 2021, admission authorities must consult on any changes to the admission arrangements and coordinated admission scheme. Cheshire West and Chester are consulting on the following changes for admission in the school year 2026-2027 and for subsequent years, subject to any review:

Admission authorities are required by law to consult when changes are proposed to their admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission scheme. They must also consult at least every 7 years even if there are no proposed changes to either the arrangements or the scheme. Regulations require that consultations must be completed by 31 January in the preceding year.

In response to changing demographics and forecast numbers on roll, the Council is consulting on reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at five primary schools.

- **Cherry Grove Primary School – reduction in PAN from 45 to 30**
- **Tarporley CE Primary School – reduction in PAN from 45 to 30**
- **Tattenhall Park Primary School – reduction in PAN from 45 to 30**
- **Wharton CE Primary School – reduction in PAN from 60 to 30**
- **Wincham Community Primary School – reduction in PAN from 45 to 30**

The Infant Class Size legislation states that no infant class may contain more than 30 pupils when there is only one qualified teacher. A PAN of 30 enables the schools to operate one class for the cohort, without the need to employ an additional teacher. This will help to secure financial stability and enable the schools to focus on teaching and learning for their young pupils.

Aligning PANs with local demand helps to support the sustainability of schools in the area enabling individual schools to efficiently manage their resources.

The proposed reductions will benefit future outcomes for pupils, whilst still enabling the schools to meet the demand for places. School place planning requirements for the areas will still be met once these proposed changes have been made. There will be no other changes to the schools' admission arrangements. The proposed reductions will not affect current pupils on roll.

The Council will continue to monitor pupil place demand as part of its strategic responsibilities and statutory duty of ensuring sufficient pupil places. Should there be any change in the forecast picture over the coming years, the Council will continue to work with schools in determining appropriate admission numbers.

The accommodation can be brought back into use, if or when, in the future, the demand for places in the planning areas meets or exceeds the supply of places.

The consultation will run from 14 November 2024 to 8 January 2025. This falls within the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code to consult for at least six weeks between 1 October 2024 and 31 January 2025.