



Dear Parents/Carers,

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Coventry - Proposal to Reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for September 2022

The Board of Directors of the Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company and the Local Governing Body of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School invite you to take part in a consultation about a proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Coventry. The proposal will bring the school admission number in line with its future forecast number of children per year group.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Coventry is located on Knoll Drive, Coventry, CV3 5DE. The Academy’s current PAN is 60 for Reception. The proposal is to decrease the PAN to 30 from September 2022 so that the PAN is a reflection of future forecast numbers. St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Coventry will continue to work in close partnership with Coventry Local Authority to manage the admissions process.

In recent years applications for Reception places at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School have reduced as a result of the changing demographics in the area combined with a falling birth rate and applications to primary schools across Coventry. The following table highlights the impact of these factors on admissions to Reception at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School from September 2015.

Reception Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cohort	57	57	51	51	36	42

This reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of the current school but will enhance the provision of education it can provide in a planned way. St Thomas More Catholic Primary School will continue to be committed to serving the local children and local community.





We are keen to hear your views on this matter and further details are attached in the consultation documentation. The consultation period will commence from **Friday 11 December until Friday 29 January 2021.**

Admissions

Please note that the admissions arrangements for the academic year 2022-23 at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Coventry will not change as a result of this proposal.

Your views are important to us. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will be unable to hold a consultation meeting but please use the attached questionnaire to express your views on the proposal

Please use this link to complete the questionnaire: <https://tinyurl.com/y64dtqy9>

Or complete and return to the Holy Cross Catholic MAC office by email/ post to:

Holy Cross Catholic MAC, Heathcote St, Radford, CV6 3BL

Email the questionnaire to: admin@hcmac.co.uk

Yours Faithfully

Sarah Collins,
Headteacher

Marina Kelly,
Catholic Senior Executive Leader



Consultation on a proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for St Thomas More Catholic School, with effect from 1 September 2022

Consultation Information

Background

1.1 Coventry City Council (CCC) has a legal duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure.

Pupil forecasts showing the demand for places across the South planning area in Coventry has enabled improved accuracy in forecasting future Reception children numbers.

CCC can clearly identify that birth rates are declining throughout the city, until 2024 (after which birth data is not yet available). The declining birth rate means that surplus capacity across primary schools is rising. This rising number of surplus places creates uncertainty for schools and potential financial difficulties.

To assist in this process, the Local Governing Body of St Thomas More Catholic School and the Board of Directors of the Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company are consulting on the reduction of school places at St Thomas More Catholic School.

The School Admissions Code states that consultation must take place on this kind of change to school admission arrangements for a minimum of six weeks. This consultation period allows parents, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any concerns about proposed changes.

1.2 The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for St Thomas More Catholic School is 60. This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school at Year Reception is limited to 60. In 2019 admissions were 36 and in 2020 admissions were 42.

1.3 Reducing the PAN will assist the Governing Body in providing stability to their long-term planning while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers living in the surrounding area and attending one of the local primary schools.

1.4 Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. St Thomas More Catholic School is part of Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company and the school's Local Governing Body and the Directors of the Holy Cross MAC are seeking comments on the proposed change.

2. Specific Proposal

2.1 The Governing Body propose to reduce the Published Admission Number of the school from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2022.

2.2 This means that the number of places available for children in Reception in 2022 – and all subsequent Reception cohorts – will be 30. The admission number for all other years remain at 60 as they progress through the academy except for the current Year 1. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria; all other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.

2.3 Factors that have been considered by the Governing Body in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- The continued ability of the school to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils thus facilitating continuing school improvement
- Future resource planning and management

2.4 St Thomas More Catholic School would be committed to reviewing the Pupil Admissions Numbers if the local demographic and context dictates a need for this in the future.

3. Who is being consulted?

3.1 This consultation is for the specific attention of:

- Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
- Archdiocese of Birmingham
- Other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed admissions
- All other admission authorities within the local area
- The Local Authority
- Adjoining neighbouring local authorities

4. How to respond

4.1 This consultation will run until Friday 29 January 2021. You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above through the admissions consultation survey that can be located here: <https://tinyurl.com/y64dtqy9>

Any queries about the proposal can be submitted to:

Marina.kelly@hcmac.co.uk

4.2 Following the consultation period the Board of Directors and the Local Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admissions arrangements for September 2022 will be determined by 28th February 2021 and any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15th May 2021.

Response form - Please complete the details below and return the form to be received by **29 January 2021** at the latest via:

Email to: info@hcmac.co.uk

Post to: PAN Consultation, Holy Cross Catholic MAC, Heathcote St, Radford, CV6 3BL

Consultation on the reduction of the Published Admission Number of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Name (optional)

Full postcode (of your home address) eg *BD1 1NN*

Please indicate which of the following applies to you - *please tick all that apply*

- Parent/carer
- Birmingham Diocesan Education Service
- Member of school staff
- School Governor at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
- School Governor at another school
- Local Councillor
- Member of the Local Community
- Parent of a younger child, not yet attending a primary school
- Other (If other please give details)

Please indicate your response to this consultation below

I agree with the proposal to reduce the admission number at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Coventry from 60 to 30 from September 2022

I disagree with the proposal and think the admission number should remain at 60

Please use this space to give reasons for your response.

