

Admission Arrangements for 2027

Achieving for Children is currently consulting on the admission arrangements for community infant, junior and primary schools in the Richmond borough for the academic year 2027-28. Governors of Heathfield Schools' Partnership, along with the Local Authority have agreed to consult on a permanent reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN) in Reception and Year 3 from September 2027.

What is the Published Admission Number (PAN)?

The Published Admission Number (PAN) reflects the total number of children the school can accommodate within a year group. This number is set as part of our admission arrangements. At Heathfield this number does not include children placed within our Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs).

Why are we consulting on a decrease in PAN?

Historically our PAN in Reception and Year 3 was set at 90. To reflect an increase in birth rate, we were asked to increase our PAN to 120 (4 forms of entry) and increase the size of the school. A reduction back to 90 reflects the current local picture of falling rolls, due to a number of factors, including a national decline in birth rate and fewer families living within the area due to affordability of housing.

How will this affect our school?

School funding links directly to the number of children on roll. Reducing our PAN is a proactive step that we can take to ensure that our budget is stable and class sizes are affordable. This ensures we can plan strategically for the future of the schools.

There is a legal maximum class size in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 of 30 children to one class. At Heathfield, our mainstream and provision classes are all taught by a class teacher, along with additional adults who support the teaching and learning. Within the Junior School, we also aim to keep classes sizes at 30 and make use of setting arrangements and additional adults to support teaching and learning.

As always, the quality of education and care we offer our children at Heathfield is our absolute priority. Reducing our PAN will enable school leaders and governors to plan for the future and ensure the schools continue to grow in strength, in line with our shared ethos of inclusion and high expectations for all.

Full details regarding the consultation affecting a number of local schools, including the rationale for the proposed changes, are available here: [Public consultation on the admission arrangements for the academic year 2027/28](#).