



GEP consultation on a proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN), for Year 3 (KS2) entry for Loseley Fields Primary School with effect from September 2021.

GEP Academies is the admissions authority for the following GEP schools:

- Boxgrove Primary School
- Fullbrook School
- George Abbot School
- Guildford Grove Primary School
- Kings College Guildford
- Loseley Fields Primary School ¹
- Sandfield Primary School.

Department for Education (DfE) guidance states that when changes are proposed to reduce a school's PAN that all admission authorities (GEP Academies) must undertake a consultation process.

In accordance with these DfE Guidelines, consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply.

The Trustees of GEP Academies aspire to stabilise pupil numbers across the school by ensuring that Loseley Fields Primary School becomes a two-form entry school. Therefore it proposes to reduce the published admissions number (PAN) at Year 3 from 26 to 0 with effect from September 2021.

This means that the number of places available for children will be 60 from Reception only from September 2019. Pupils attending other schools who may want to join Loseley Fields at Year 3 will be required to apply via the in-year application process, which is subject to availability of places. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change, but the admission number for all other years will be 60.

Background

Green Lane Infants School and Binscombe Junior School merged in 2005 to create Loseley Fields Primary School. The Published Admissions Number (PAN) however remained at 30 for Reception with an additional 26 at Year 3.

This means that the number of places available for external admission at Year 3 and therefore for those children attending other local infant schools is 26. There are 26 places irrespective of how many children already attend Loseley Fields in KS1 which, because Loseley Fields has accepted bulge classes in recent years, has resulted in large year groups in KS2. This poses inherent

¹ Loseley Fields Primary School: This consultation should be read alongside a consultation on a proposed change to the school's admissions arrangements.

challenges and causes the school to be vulnerable to changes in national policy. Consequently the Governors of Loseley Fields Primary School and Trustees of GEP Academies, have conducted an internal strategic review that has identified the need for a consultation to establish a PAN that is both appropriate and sustainable, whilst continuing to provide high quality educational outcomes for pupils and meet the demands of the local community.

Due to the increase of primary school age children in the area, the school was asked to support the Local Authority by taking bulge years into Reception in 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016. The Governors of Loseley Fields agreed to support the Local Authority, however longer term, this has created challenges in KS2 with vacant places across all year groups.

September 2018 will see a total of 72 pupils in Year 3 and 65 in Year 4. These large year groups result in more classes, however these class sizes are small. In September 2018, Loseley Fields will have 14 classes from Reception to Year 6, with 10 of those classes having less than 25 pupils. Four of these will have only 20 pupils in each. The Department for Education's ideal class size is 30 and our funding is determined on that basis.

Previous years have seen Loseley Fields Primary School create vertically grouped year groups (i.e. mixed 3/4 and mixed 5/6 classes), however internal monitoring demonstrates that this is not best for educational outcomes - particularly since the change to the national curriculum where mixing Year 4 and Year 5 for the teaching of maths and literacy would require a teacher to work from two different curricula.

In order to create a seamless transition from KS1 to KS2, and aiming to resolve the above issues, Loseley Fields Primary School's Published Admissions Number for Reception has been increased from 30 to 60 from September 2019. 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.

We believe this proposed change is not only in the very best interests of all of the children in our school, but is essential in helping the senior leadership team, governors and GEP trustees to plan for long term stability, a consistent structure and a sustainable financial position for the school and in providing a secure foundation for high quality educational outcomes for all students.

We are seeking your comments on this proposed change.

Who is consulted?

This consultation is for the attention of:

1. Parents of children between the ages of two and eleven years old in the surrounding area;
2. Other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements;
3. All other admission authorities within the local area;
4. The local authority; and
5. Adjoining neighbouring local authorities

How to respond

This consultation will run from **Monday 3 December 2018 to Friday 25 January 2019**.

You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to the following email address: consultation@gepacademies.com. Please make the subject '**Loseley Fields Primary School PAN Consultation**'.

Please note that only responses including the respondents' name and address will be accepted.

Following the consultation period the Trust will consider all the comments received and determine admissions arrangements for 2021 by 28 February 2019.

When would changes come into effect?

If a decision to reduce the PAN at Year 3 for Loseley Fields Primary School is agreed and approved, the arrangements would be introduced from September 2021 entry onwards.

Yours faithfully



Chris Tweedale
CEO: GEP Academies