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**ST THOMAS CATHOLIC ACADEMIES TRUST**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**Important:**

There are two separate consultations contained within this document:

* Consultation 1: Significant Change to St Peter’s Catholic Primary School
* Consultation 2: A proposed change to the Pupil Admission Number for St Peter’s Catholic Primary School

**Who will be consulted:**

In line with paragraph of section 1.47 of the admissions code, this consultation will be circulated to:

a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;

b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;

c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area

d) the admission authority;

e) adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and

f) the Diocese of Northampton.

**Duration of consultation:**

In line with the guidance for making significant changes to an open academy, both the consultation on the significant change and the change to pupil admission number shall run for a minimum of four weeks (Wednesday 6th July – Wednesday 3rd August.)

**CONSULTATION 1: SIGNIFICANT CHANGE**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO ST PETER’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MARLOW**

**Proposal:**

For St Peter’s Catholic Primary School to change from a single form entry primary school with a Pupil Admission Number of 30 to mixed age primary school with a Pupil Admission Number of 15.

**Background:**

St Peter’s Catholic Primary School is situated in the town of Marlow. Across this area there has been a significant and sustained reduction in pupil numbers and no indication of any change to that demographic pattern. As a result, there is significant over-capacity in primary place numbers across Marlow, and this is impacting on the operation model for some schools.

St Peter’s serves a parish and the wider community in Marlow and the numbers applying to the school have stabilized at around 15 students per year.

In recent years, the school has worked carefully with Buckinghamshire Council to manage an ever-diminishing budget and entered the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust with a structural deficit position that all stakeholders understood had to be addressed.

**What we are doing:**

The school is being redesigned around mixed age teaching with four classes:

* Class 1: Reception
* Class 2: Year 1 and Year 2
* Class 3: Year 3 and Year 4
* Class 4: Year 5 and Year 6

We have looked very carefully at schools across the country that implement mixed age teaching very successfully and determined that the structure outlined above will offer three key benefits:

1. Students in Reception will enjoy the benefits of highly focused support meaning they make the very best start to their education. Early intervention is shown to have the greatest educational benefit and setting students on the right path and narrowing gaps where students arrive behind their peers.
2. There are established mixed age teaching schemes that work very well that are aligned to the age groupings we have established above.
3. There is sustainability to the model outlined above that will remove the pressure of leaders to look to manage an increasingly demanding situation, taking them away from the core business of loving the children and teaching them well.

**How this change will benefit the children:**

The Academy Trust team has already been working with the school to make the adjustments that are required for this change as the current pupil numbers in the school demanded a different approach. We have sought the advice of excellent schools with strong experience of mixed age teaching and are currently working to implement changes for year groups where that is required. We are confident that the curriculum that we are implementing will support the school in its improvement journey as we seek to provide excellence for all children in our care.

**How this change will benefit the wider education community:**

In taking this action we believe that the pressure on other schools to make similar changes will be reduced. As noted previously, there is significant over-capacity right across the town. Many of the students at St Peter’s travel in from different areas, passing more local schools as they do so. The reduction in PAN will reduce the impact of overcapacity on all schools and allow more schools to continue without the need for the significant change we are implementing at St Peter’s Catholic Primary School. This is a significant benefit to the wider community and sees St Peter’s Catholic Primary School and St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust working in partnership with the Local Authority and being sensitive to the wider needs of the wider education community.

**Responding to this consultation:**

You are invited to respond to this which will remain open until 3rd August 2022.

Please complete the Significant Change form here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9B_irnoNTE-7ofkNr3Yw-m0TnbyBD55Ijg02EwEua8tUMEhFU0hHTVJWWTVSWEE0SkcyMklNWDVTUi4u>

*Please continue onto page 4 for the Pupil Admission Consultation*

**CONSULTATION 2: PUPIL ADMISSION NUMBER**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE CHANGE TO THE PUPIL ADMISSION NUMBER FOR ST PETER’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MARLOW**

**Proposal:**

The Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for St Peter’s Catholic School to change from 30 pupils per year to 15 pupils per year. It is proposed that this change is implemented for the intake September 2023 onwards.

There are no proposed changes to the admissions selection criteria or admissions authority.

**Background:**

St Peter’s Catholic Primary School is situated in the town of Marlow. Across this area there has been a significant and sustained reduction in pupil numbers and no indication of any change to that demographic pattern. As a result, there is significant over-capacity in primary place numbers across Marlow, and this is impacting on the operation model for some schools.

St Peter’s serves a parish and the wider community in Marlow and the numbers applying to the school have stabilized at around 15 students per year.

**How this change will benefit the children:**

The Academy Trust team has already been working with the school to make the adjustments that are required for this change as the current pupil numbers in the school demanded a different approach.

We have sought the advice of excellent schools with strong experience of mixed age teaching and are currently working to implement changes for year groups where that approach is required.

We are confident that the curriculum that we are implementing will support the school in its improvement journey as we seek to provide excellence for all children in our care.

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