

Consultation on a proposed reduction in the published admission number (PAN) for Southway Primary School, with effect from September 2023

Consultation period: 15th November – 30th December 2021

Context

Southway is a three-form entry primary school, currently with 539 pupils (with capacity for 682, including nursery). Over the last four years, there has been a significant reduction in terms of pupils joining our school in EYFS. The school still operates a three-class model and from Year R to Year 3, there are on average only 21 children per class. The projected numbers across our locality for the next 5 years also show that, on average, there will be 100 less school starter children each year across Felpham and Bognor, which means a significant financial impact on the school.

Specific Proposal

The Directors of the United Learning Academy Trust propose that the PAN at Southway Primary School be temporarily reduced from 90 to 60 from September 2023.

This means that the number of places available for children in Reception in 2023 and all subsequent Reception cohorts will be 60. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria, and all other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.

This decision will be reviewed after the first year and if pupil numbers increase, the PAN will revert to 90.

Who is consulted?

This consultation is for the attention of:

- a) Parents of children between the ages of two and eleven years old at the school currently and in the surrounding area;
- b) Other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements;
- c) All other admission authorities within the local area;
- d) The local authority; and
- e) Adjoining neighbouring local authorities.

How to respond

This consultation will run from 15th November 2021 to 30th December 2021. You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to Chair.Governors@southwayprimary.co.uk or post them to:

FAO: Diane Wilson

Southway Primary School; South Way; Bognor Regis; PO21 5EZ

This consultation will end at 5pm on the 30th December 2021 – please send any comments regarding this change before that time.

Following the consultation period the Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admissions arrangements for September 2023 will be determined by 28th February 2022 and published on the school and council website by 15th March 2022. Any subsequent objections after publication should be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15th May 2022.