

Bridge Learning Campus: Proposal Document to reduce the Published Admission Number

The Trust (Trust in Learning Academies) and the Leadership Team of BLC propose to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) to new Year 7 pupils from 180 to 150, effective from September 2026. This change aims to help our school effectively focus its learning and teaching resources, thereby significantly improving the long-term viability of the school. The Trust and staff are committed to enhancing the outcomes for all our pupils and believe that this proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for our pupils while still meeting the demand for places.

In September 2023, a new Secondary School (Oasis Academy Daventry Road) opened nearby, also with a PAN of 180.

In the current academic year, there are currently approximately 60 surplus places in Year 7 in the secondary schools serving Hartcliffe and Withywood, Filwood, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park.

The City Council have also identified a substantial and sustained drop in the primary pupil numbers in Bristol, in the next five years. This smaller primary cohort will move up into the secondary phase in due course.

We therefore believe that a reduction in PAN is a sensible long-term decision for the school. We have consulted with the School Place Planning Team regarding future projected pupil numbers in Bristol, and they have confirmed that the planned requirements will still be met once this proposed change is implemented. There will be no other changes to the admission arrangements, and the proposed change will not affect current pupils, those accepting a Year 7 place offer in 2025. Pupils in the Primary phase of BLC will continue to keep their place on roll as they transition into Year 7, as per the current arrangement.

All current and future parents and carers, as well as other interested stakeholders, are encouraged to comment on this proposal. Details on how you can provide your feedback are provided at the end of this letter under the section titled 'How to Make Your Views Known'.

Specific Proposal

The Trust proposes to reduce the PAN from 180 to 150, effective from September 2026. This means that the number of school places for pupils wishing to attend BLC in Year 7 from 2026 onwards will be 150. For pupils already enrolled in other year groups, there will be no change. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria; all other criteria will remain unchanged.

How to Make Your Views Known

It is important to the Trust in Learning and our school Performance Board to consider the views of our parents and the wider community. The consultation will run from 18th December 2024 until 31st January 2025. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of our school community. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal via email to info@tila.school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Maule', written in a cursive style.

Mr R Maule

Headteacher