

Consultation on Pupil Admission Number (PAN) Reduction

Benton Park School

We are opening a consultation to seek your views on a proposed reduction of our Pupil Admission Number from 300 to 270 per year group at Benton Park School from September 2027.

All other general admissions criteria remain unaffected, including that for oversubscription.

Currently, the number of children admitted to the school in Year 7 each year is 300.

Benton Park School and Moorlands Learning Trust are proposing to reduce this number to 270.

This proposal would mean that the number of pupils admitted in Year 7 in September 2027, and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts, will be 270. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

The school has a current PAN capacity of 1500 pupils, plus 300 in the Sixth Form, with 300 places available to allocate to each year group from Year 7 through to Year 11. However, due to a declining birth rate in the area, the current number of children enrolled across all year groups from 7 to 11, stands at 1312; at present, there are 55 surplus places in Year 7 alone.

Data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Leeds City Council shows that the number of births nationally has fallen. Current published forecasts indicate that the number of places required in Year 7 for the next four intake years across North West Leeds planning area will continue to fall.

This shortfall in pupil numbers creates unpredictability and financial planning challenges for schools. In the best interests of the school's long-term viability therefore, we are taking steps to establish a more sustainable model moving forward.

As a result, this strategic decision to consult on reducing our PAN has been made in collaboration with Leeds City Council, drawing on their understanding of the current landscape. Reducing the PAN will assist the school in providing stability in long-term planning and allow Benton Park School to deliver high-quality educational outcomes for all pupils.

A copy of this proposal has been published on Benton Park School and Leeds City Council website.

This consultation provides an opportunity for you to share your views and will run from **Wednesday 3rd December 2025 to Wednesday 28th January 2026**. After this time, any representations received will be considered by governors and Moorlands Learning Trust for a decision to be made.

Any questions in relation to the consultation should be sent to the school via the school contact email address: admissionsconsultation@bentonpark.mlt.co.uk