2028/9 Admissions Policy Consultation

The Good Shepherd Trust is the Admissions Authority for

Ashley Church of England Primary School, Ashley Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 1HX.

The Trust is consulting on a proposed change to the 2028/9 admissions policy for Ashley Church of England Primary School (Ashley) and would like to hear your views. The Trust has a statutory duty to consult on admissions arrangements if we intend to make a change.

The consultation period will run from Monday 23rd November 2026 to Monday 4th January 2027.

Information about the consultation will be provided on the Trust website, https://www.goodshepherdtrust.org.uk/our-schools/admissions and the school website during the consultation period.

What is the proposed change?

The proposed change to the policy is to reduce the pupil admission number (PAN) at Ashley from 90 to 60.

In line with the reduced birth rate in the local area, a projected reduction in pupil numbers is forecast. Ashley is in the Walton and Hersham place planning area with forecasts for surplus places in the coming years as follows:

Walton & Hersham						
School year	Year R places	Year R Forecast	Surplus / Deficit	Year 3 places	Year 3 Forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2027-28	420	355	65	450	409	41
2028-29	420	359	61	450	391	59
2029-30	420	367	53	450	396	54
2030-31	420	366	54	420	335	85
2031-32	420	365	55	420	338	82
2032-33	420	369	51	420	345	75
2033-34	420	371	49	420	344	76
2034-35	420	370	50	420	343	77
2035-36	420	371	49	420	346	74

We have already begun to see the impact of the reduced birth rate in admissions at Ashley.

Current numbers (Nov 2026) on roll are detailed as below:

Year Group	**Number on roll (PAN 90)**	**Surplus places**
R	55	35
1	88	2
2	82	8
3	75	15
4	90	0
5	77	13
6	79	11

Taking all this information into account, if the PAN remains at 90, it is likely that the school will be unable to meet this in future years. If the school were to have pupil numbers far in excess of 60, they would be required to continue operating four forms of entry but would be significantly underfunded to do so. Reducing the PAN to 60 would meet the forecasted need and be educationally and economically viable. Operating at over 60 pupils (but with a PAN of 90) would impact significantly on the school budget, deployment and efficient and effective use of resources and the Trust's overall financial position.

Comments are not being sought on any other area of the policy or associated documentation.

How can I respond to the consultation?

If you would like to submit a response to the consultation, please email the Trust on: admissions@goodshepherdtrust.org.uk or write to: Admissions Consultations, The Good Shepherd Trust, Larch Building, Larch Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1JY.

Please ensure that your response is entitled: 2028/9 Admissions Policy Consultation.

You can submit a free text response.

However, the Trust Board would find it helpful if you could include your name and the name of the school to which you are submitting a response. Also, if you are able to indicate whether you will be affected by the proposed change and if so, in what way.

Further details on the admissions consultation process can be found in the School Admissions Code:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

What happens next?

Please note that you will not receive an individual response to your submission and no changes to the proposed policies will be made during the consultation period. After the consultation has closed, all responses will be collated and presented to the Trust Board during the first half term of the spring term 2027. The Board will then decide whether to proceed with the proposed change as well as determining the admission arrangements for all other Trust schools for which no changes are proposed. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all schools will be placed on the websites of the individual schools and sent to the Local Authority and Diocese.