2028/9 Admissions Policy Consultation

The Good Shepherd Trust is the Admissions Authority for Waverley Abbey Church of England Junior School, Tilford Street, Farnham, GU10 2AE.

The Trust is consulting on a proposed change to the 2028/9 admissions policy for Waverley Abbey Junior School (WAJS) 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 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 WAJS from 120 to 90.

In line with the reduced birth rate in the local area, a projected reduction in pupil numbers is forecast. WAJS is in the West Waverley place planning area with forecasts for surplus places in the coming years as follows (please see Year 3 data):

West Waverley						
School year	Year R places	Year R Forecast	Surplus / Deficit	Year 3 places	Year 3 Forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2027-28	150	125	25	150	119	31
2028-29	150	118	32	150	117	33
2029-30	150	119	31	150	119	31
2030-31	150	121	29	150	117	33
2031-32	150	122	28	150	111	39
2032-33	150	124	26	150	113	37
2033-34	150	125	25	150	115	35
2034-35	150	127	23	150	116	34
2035-36	150	128	22	150	118	32

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

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

Year Group	Number on roll (PAN 120)	Surplus places
3	56	64
4	94	26
5	116	4
6	121	-1

Taking all this information into account, if the PAN remains at 120, 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 90, they would be required to continue operating four forms of entry, but would be significantly

underfunded to do so. Reducing the PAN to 90 would meet the forecasted need and be educationally and economically viable. Operating at over 90 pupils (but with a PAN of 120) would impact significantly on the school budget, deployment and efficient and effective use of resources and the Trust's overall financial position. This may need further review in the coming years, but we would like to move to a PAN of 90 in the first instance.

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 are able to 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.