



Consultation on the reduction of Sheldon School PAN:

- A reduction in the school's Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 280 to 270 pupils effective from 1 September 2024 for all year groups.
- This change is to update the admission number held by the Local Authority and the funding agreement held with the Department for Education.

Background

1.1 The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for Sheldon School is 280 students.

This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school is limited to 280. Over the last 5 years the School has never met this number and has been under subscribed. This has come at significant financial cost by effectively having fewer students in each class.

1.2 As the reduced allocations are due to a reduction in the birth rate across Wiltshire, and particularly in the Chippenham area, there will be no detrimental effect to parents and pupils in relation to the reduction to PAN. Parents/Guardians will still be able to access their school of choice.

1.3 No pupil that already has a place in school will be affected by the change. However, the school will look towards reducing numbers in each year group over time.

1.4 Reducing the PAN to 270 will assist the governors and the Local Authority in providing stability to their long-term planning while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers living in the surrounding area and attending one of the local primary schools.

1.5 Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. Sheldon School is under the local admissions authority, and is therefore seeking comments on the proposed change.

2. Specific Proposal

2.1. The school is proposing to reduce the Published Admission Number of secondary age pupils from 280 to 270 with effect from September 2024. This reduction will come into effect for all Year groups from Yr7-11.

2.2. This means that the number of places available for children in 2024, and all subsequent cohorts, will be 270. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria; all other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.

2.3. Factors that have been considered by the school in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- The continued ability of the school to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils thus facilitating continuing school improvement
- Future resource planning and management
- The capacity of the school resources management will be more effective

2.4 Sheldon School would be committed to reviewing the Pupil Admissions Numbers if the local demographic and context dictates a need for this in the future.

3. Who is being consulted?

3.1 This consultation is for the specific attention of:

- Parents of children between the ages of two and sixteen
- Other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed admissions
- All other admission authorities within the local area

Consultation to reduce Primary PAN from September 2024

- The Local Authority
- Adjoining neighbouring local authorities

4. How to respond

4.1 The consultation will run from Monday 16th October until Monday 27th November 2023.

If you wish to get in touch and tell us what you think you can do this in the following ways:

- By email to enquiries@sheldonschool.co.uk
 - In writing to Mr Peter Lynch (Headteacher) Sheldon School, Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham SN14 6HJ
- Following the end of the consultation period we will provide an update on our website.

Further information

Birth rate fall

Currently the School has 10 forms of entry but a 280 PAN. This means that the school is never quite full as it has the capacity to take 300 students, but only receives on average 269. Therefore, to ensure the school is financially viable moving forward, the PAN needs to be reduced. The numbers on roll and the falling birth rate is shown below.

Year group	Numbers on roll
7	270
8	269
9	255
10	276
11	276
Average	269

Birth rate

The number of students in primary schools locally is falling and reduces over the next 3 years and beyond.

Year Group	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Number of pupils	5156	5493	5380	5544	5485	5605	5758