



Forest Academy

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12th October 2026

Consultation on the proposed reduction of Forest Academy's Published Admission Number (PAN) from September 2028

Introduction

Forest Academy is consulting on a proposal to reduce its Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception from 45 (effective from 1st September 2027) to 30 for admissions from 1st September 2028.

The school's PAN was previously 60. Following consultation, a PAN of 45 was determined for September 2027. Having considered the Local Authority's latest pupil-place forecasts and anticipated demand for Reception places within Brandon, the Trust is now consulting on a further reduction to 30 for September 2028.

The proposal is intended to bring the number of available places more closely into line with forecast local demand, while supporting a stable and sustainable school organisation and the effective use of staffing and resources.

No pupil who already has a place at Forest Academy will lose their place or otherwise be affected by this proposal.

Specific proposal

Forest Academy proposes to reduce the PAN for Reception from 45 to 30 for admission in September 2028. If approved, 30 Reception places would be offered for the 2028/29 academic year. The Trust will continue to review local demand and pupil-place forecasts when determining its admission arrangements in subsequent years.

Why is this change being proposed?

School leaders and the Trust Board have considered the Local Authority's latest pupil-place planning information alongside the educational and organisational needs of the school.

The latest Local Authority figures provided to the school forecast Reception arrivals for Forest Academy of 20 in 2028, 31 in 2029 and 26 in 2030. Across Brandon, the corresponding forecast Reception arrivals are 37, 57 and 48. If Forest Academy's PAN were reduced to 30, the combined PAN of Forest Academy and Glade Academy would be 60 places, which remains above the currently forecast Reception arrivals across Brandon in each of those years.

The Local Authority has also advised that expected children arising from known housing developments have been incorporated into its forecast population figures and that the latest changes to those assumptions are negligible.

Forest Academy has experienced Reception cohorts below its existing admission number for a number of years. Maintaining a PAN significantly above anticipated demand makes it more difficult to establish a stable and sustainable staffing and class structure. The school already operates mixed-age classes in response to variations in cohort size and is seeking to move towards a one-form-entry model.

A PAN of 30 would therefore:

- more closely align the number of available places with forecast local demand;
- support effective pupil-place planning while retaining sufficient Reception capacity within Brandon on the basis of current Local Authority forecasts;
- support stable and sustainable class organisation and staffing;
- enable staffing and other resources to be deployed efficiently for the benefit of pupils;
- support effective curriculum and financial planning; and
- provide a clearer and more sustainable basis for future school organisation.

Forest Academy remains committed to working with Suffolk County Council on pupil-place planning. If forecasts or local circumstances change significantly in future, the Trust can review the PAN as part of the annual admissions process.

Consultation period

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the consultation will run for a minimum of six weeks between 1 October and 31 January.

This consultation will run from Monday 12th October 2026 to Monday 23rd November 2026.

Who is being consulted?

The Trust welcomes views from those with an interest in the proposed admission arrangements. Consultation will include the groups required by the School Admissions Code, including:

- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- other people in the relevant area who have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- other relevant admission authorities within the relevant area, in accordance with the School Admissions Code; and
- Suffolk County Council as the Local Authority.

For the duration of the consultation, the proposed admission arrangements, including the proposed PAN of 30, will be made available on the school's website, together with details of how comments may be submitted.

How to respond

Forest Academy welcomes your views on this proposal. Please submit any comments by Monday 23rd November 2026 using either of the following methods:

Email: enquiries@forestacademy.co.uk Please use the subject heading: **Forest Academy PAN Consultation**

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