



Forest Academy

Bury Road, Brandon

Suffolk, IP27 0FP

Tel: 01842 810309

E mail: forestadmin@forestacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Grimes

September 2025

Consultation to reduce Forest Academy's Published Admission Number from September 2027

Introduction

Forest Academy is consulting on a reduction in the published admission number (PAN) from 60 down to 30 effective from 1st September 2027.

The current PAN for Forest Academy of 60 was agreed when it met demand for places at that time. Owing to falling birth rates, the current published admission number of 60 is much higher than the estimated pupil numbers and the Local Authority pupil place plan for 2027 and going forward.

The proposed change will enhance the ability of our school leaders and Trust Board to support resource management and planning to ensure both the academy and its learning environment remain both viable and suitable for the delivery of its current high standard of education.

No pupil who already has a place at the academy will be affected by this proposal.

Specific Proposal

Forest Academy is proposing to reduce the published admission number from 60 to 30 effective from September 1st, 2027. This means the number of places available for pupils in Reception will be 30 and will remain at 30 for all subsequent Reception cohorts going forward.

School leaders and the Trust's Board have considered a number of key factors in deciding to hold a consultation in regard to the proposal:

- The ability of the academy to support pupil place planning and provide sufficient places for local pupils.
- The school places which are available at other local primary schools.
- A falling local birthrate, which shows no sign of reversing.
- There is unlikely to be any large estates built in Brandon over the next few years but Thetford and Lakenheath are growing rapidly with new estates which attract young families with children.
- The difficulties of providing a sustainable staffing model with Reception cohorts of fewer than 45 pupils for the past two years.
- Management and resource planning and its efficiency in supporting the required pupil cohorts.
- As a two form entry school with lower numbers, we may need to mix two year groups to be sustainable for a while before we can move to a one form per year group model.

Forest Academy is committed to supporting pupil place planning within each local authority in which we operate and would consider reviewing the published admission number in future should the need in the area require this support.

Consultation period

The consultation period is running for six working weeks from 6th October 2025 to Monday 17th November 2025

Mrs Grimes
Headteacher

Who is being consulted

The consultation of this proposal is for the attention of the following:

- Local parents with children at the school or under school age
- Residents/people in the area with an interest in the proposal
- All other relevant admission authorities within the local area
- The local authority
- Neighbouring local authorities.

How to respond

Forest Academy welcomes your views on this proposal, and you can engage in the following ways:

Email: enquiries@forestacademy.co.uk with the subject header **Forest Academy PAN**

In writing: **Mrs A Grimes, Forest Academy, Bury Road, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 0FP**