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## **Consultation Report: Determined Admission Arrangements for 2026/27**

### **1 Background**

Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) is the admission authority for all schools within the Trust. The admission authority constitutes an admission committee of trustees and governors for each school (referred to as the 'committee' hereafter). Admission arrangements are reviewed and determined (agreed) on an annual basis. The committee has the freedom to determine what their admission arrangements will be for each intake. There are no guarantees that admission criteria set in previous years will remain the same in future years for parents wishing to apply and hoping to secure a place for their child(ren).

Whenever a committee for a state school or academy wishes to make any changes to its admission arrangements it is required to conduct a statutory consultation. Changes must be consulted approximately eighteen months before the admission date of the students affected, so changes for admissions in September 2026 must be consulted on in winter 2025/26 following the timetable set out in the School Admissions Code 2021 (SAC) [DfE School Admissions Code](#). It stipulates:

- Who must be consulted; such as parents, other admission authorities, other schools.
- When the consultation must happen - for a minimum of 6 weeks ending no later than 31st January 2025.
- When the arrangements must be determined (agreed) following the consultation - by 28th February 2025.
- When the arrangements must be published - by 15th March 2025.
- Objections to the schools adjudicator - by 15th May 2025.

Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) consulted on the admission arrangements for the following schools within the Trust for children who will be admitted during the academic year 2026/27:

- **Trinity Academy Post 16**
- **Bristol Cathedral Choir School Post 16**
- **Ashton Gate Primary School**

The consultation process ran from Friday 6th December 2024 to 12 noon on Friday 31st January 2025.

Anyone wishing to comment or offer feedback on the proposed admission arrangements was able to complete the online form, ticking the relevant box to show which school their comments referred to or contact CST via email: [enquiries@cathedralschoolstrust.org](mailto:enquiries@cathedralschoolstrust.org) or post.

## **2 The proposed changes for the above schools**

### **Ashton Gate Primary School**

**Proposal 1:** to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for new Reception children from 120 to 90 places, effective from September 2026.

Since 2017, birth rates have fallen in Bristol and there is therefore reduced demand for primary school places across the city. This trend is not unique to our school; across Bristol, there are currently 500 unused primary places and the decrease in overall demand is forecast to continue into the foreseeable future. Managing pupil admission numbers (PAN) down in a controlled and organised way in conjunction with other schools allows for more sustainable place planning across the city and better distribution of places.

We have consulted with the School Place Planning Team regarding future projected pupil numbers in Bristol, and they have confirmed that the planned requirements will still be met once this proposed change is implemented.

**Proposal 2:** to include a children of staff criterion to the priority list for admissions for Ashton Gate Primary School. The option for staff to be able to send their children to the school where they work is important for a range of reasons including making the logistical challenges of childcare more manageable and supporting their wellbeing. Evidence from other trust schools indicates it also supports recruitment and retention of staff.

In addition, CST is consulting on the admission arrangements for:

- **Bristol Cathedral Choir School (Post 16 provision only)**
- **Trinity Academy (Post 16 provision only)**

**Proposal:** Both schools use an on-line admissions portal to administer and process applications to the 6th Form. The proposal is to amend the wording to better explain the application process including how provisional offers are made, and how confirmation and enrolment takes place. The wording in the arrangements has also been amended to provide clarity as to how late applications and applicants with non-standard qualifications are treated.

### **3 Consultation responses and proposed admission arrangements amendments**

The consultation was sent to all parents of students for each school where relevant, published on the relevant school website and/or newsletter of each school and published on the Trust website. It was also circulated to local schools situated in the same local authority with a request to forward to their parents/carers. It was sent to the local authority in which the schools are situated and to neighbouring local authorities and any other relevant body such as the Diocese and local libraries. This includes a mailing list of circa 325 recipients as per the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

The committee was provided with all responses received during the consultation process and has considered all comments made by consultees.

#### **3.1 Responses**

Overall there were 5 responses to the consultation. 1 response related to all schools and 4 responses related to Trinity Academy including 1 response relating to Post 16.

##### **3.1.1 All schools: in conclusion**

Given the low number of responses put forward by respondents, CST recommended that the admission arrangements for schools in the consultation be determined by LGBs as per the consultation version with overall approval by Trustees as the admission authority. Some wording in the arrangements has been varied to improve clarity and to ensure they are compliant with applicable legislation.