



Proposed Changes to The Beam Trust's Determined Admission Arrangements

Background

The national falling birth rate has been impacting future admission numbers across the whole country. Forecasts indicate that it will have a significant impact on the financial viability of the primary schools in Lymm. Predictions show that by 2026, intake into reception classes in Lymm will have fallen by nearly 40%. Other schools within Warrington are also being affected by the low birth rate.

Proposal

The Beam Trust is proposing to reduce the published admission number (PAN) at Ravenbank from 60 to 30 in September 2025. Followed by, Oughtrington reducing their pupil admission number (PAN) from 60 to 30 in September 2026.

Aim

Our aim with this strategic decision is that it will protect the future of all four school communities in Lymm. Due to the timescales and the gradual reduction of classes, we should be able to avoid the need for any redundancies. The admission criteria for each school has not been changed.

As we are proposing the change for two schools in two consecutive years our first public consultation is for Ravenbank Primary School to reduce its PAN from 60 to 30 in September 2025.

The public consultation on the reduction to PAN at Oughtrington will follow next year. This is in line with the Schools Admission Code 2021.

The Beam Trust is proposing to:

- Reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception at Ravenbank Primary School from 60 to 30, to take effect from September 2025.

As set out in the School Admissions Code 2021 we are entering into a 6-week statutory consultation period.

Official Consultation

Change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Ravenbank Primary School

Due to changes in demand for places in Lymm over the last few years, the size of Ravenbank's intake has reduced.

The proposed PAN change will help to secure financial stability. The school's most recent Ofsted inspection in 2023 shows that the school is a good school. The proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for its pupils, whilst still enabling the school to meet the demand for places.

School place planning requirements for Lymm will still be met once this proposed change has been made.

There will be no other changes to the school's admission arrangements. The proposed change will not affect the current pupils.

Although the School Admissions Code 2021 does not require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there is a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce.

The Beam Trust is seeking comments on the proposal to change the PAN from 60 to 30 from September 2025 at Ravenbank Primary School.

How to make your views known

It is important to consider the views of our parents and the wider community. The consultation will run from 15th December 2023 to 31st January 2024. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please submit comments in writing about the proposal to:

admissions@thebeamtrust.co.uk.

Please see the additional sheet of Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

