



THE LEARNING TRUST

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26 November 2024

Summary of proposed change to The Learning Trust's admission arrangements for 2026-2027 academic year.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, September 2021, admission authorities must consult on any changes to the admission arrangements and coordinated admission scheme. The Learning Trust is consulting on the following proposed change to the admission arrangements for Queen's Park High School (QPHS) for the academic year 2026-2027 and subsequent years.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) at QPHS is currently 180. The Trustees, Governors and Senior Leadership Team at QPHS wish to reduce this by 30 places, which will result in an annual pupil intake of 150, with effect from September 2026 onwards.

The rationale behind the proposal to reduce the PAN is as follows:-

- There are no other proposed changes to QPHS's admission arrangements, and the proposed reduction will not affect current pupils on roll.
- In making this proposal, consideration has been given to changing demographics and forecast numbers on roll. QPHS has had excess places for the past 19 years and even with a reduction in PAN from 180 to 150, QPHS will still be able to meet the local demand for places. Another local secondary school also has unfilled spaces. Aligning the PAN with local demand will help to support the sustainability of QPHS and other schools in the area and enable schools to efficiently manage their resources.
- Although the number of students admitted into Year 7 has gradually risen since 2019, there is no guarantee that entries to Year 7 will continue to rise; numbers in QPHS' feeder primary schools are fairly consistent for the next few years, and then drop off.
- A reduction in PAN by 30 students will enable QPHS to reduce from a six-form group entry to a five-form group entry.
- Reducing the PAN would help to alleviate some space issues. QPHS has lost significant classroom space since the building of Chester International School (CIS), (8 classrooms and corridor space), this adds additional pressure to both timetabling, and staff and students having access to usable, effective classroom space.
- In addition, due to the building of CIS, QPHS lacks the social and outdoor space, which includes a reduction in the size of the canteen. During the winter and wet days, QPHS has, at times, large numbers of students in a confined space. There is no access to suitable all-weather outdoor space resulting in students remaining inside throughout the poor weather.
- Toilet facilities are lacking currently and further growth will exacerbate this situation. QPHS has two main toilet spaces for students, which can result in queues to use the facilities.
- Local infrastructure is overburdened.



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- School funding and its associate challenges with 'lag' makes it difficult to have the spare finance for building work.

The consultation period will run from 28 November 2024 to 22 January 2025. This falls within the Statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code to consult for at least six weeks between 1 October 2024 and 31 January 2025.