



Admission Policy 2026-2027 Consultation for Moorings Way Infant School

Dear Consultee,

I am writing to notify you of the upcoming consultation on Moorings Way Infants School's admissions policy.

In accordance with the DfE's 2014 statutory School Admissions Code Guidance, as a school we must consult on our admission arrangements when changes are proposed, and at least once every seven years.

The current proposals are to amend the 'oversubscription criteria' and give higher priority to siblings as well as ensure our policy is in line with other Thinking Schools Academy Trust schools. We are also proposing to make a change to the current Pupil Admissions Number (PAN).

A full version of the proposed admissions policy is available to view on the school's website [moorings way infant school proposed admissions policy 26-27.pdf](#) or a hard copy can be requested directly from the School. You are being invited to review this information and give your views via the feedback link at the end of this letter.

In accordance with statutory DfE guidance, the consultation will run for at least six weeks and, as an interested party of Moorings Way Infant School, we are keen to hear your views on the proposed changes. Therefore, we invite you to participate in the consultation if you have any concerns regarding the matter.

The following information outlines the proposal for a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Moorings Way Infant School with effect from September 2026.

1. Background

- 1.1 The currently Published Admission Number (PAN) for Moorings Way Infant School is 60. The local ward is currently projecting that the birth rate for the city will decrease over the next 5 years creating surplus places in the city.
- 1.2 Reducing the PAN will assist the Regional Governing Body in providing stability to their long-term planning while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers living in the surrounding area.
- 1.3 Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's

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Meon Infant School is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755

PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. Moorings Way Infant School is part of Thinking School's Academy Trust and the school's Academic Governing Body, as the admissions authority, is seeking comments on the proposed change.

2. Specific Proposal

2.1 The Academy Trust propose to reduce the Published Admission Number of the school from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2026. This will then be phased in over subsequent years.

2.2 This means that the number of places available for children in Year R will be 30 and all subsequent Year R cohorts following this change will be 30. As each year group moves up, each year group will have 30 places as opposed to 60. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change; the admission number for all other years remain at 60 as they progress through the academy.

2.3 The rationale for this proposal:

- Birth rate for the city is set to reduce year on year, a reduction in PAN, will result in each year group being full enabling the school to be financially sustainable.
- The school site was built for a capacity of 135 pupils if we reach 180 we will not have the capacity to accommodate these pupils.
- A Published Admission Pan of 60 is not financially viable.
- In addition, the space that we are using to accommodate this increase means it is having a direct impact on the space needed to work with our SEND pupils.
- Moorings Way Infant School have not reached a capacity of 180 in the last 5 years.
- This decision will be reviewed annually and if there is another bulge year we will consider taking on an additional class for that year.

2.4 Factors that have been considered by the Academy Governing Body in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- The continued ability of the school to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all children thus facilitating continuing school improvement
- Future resource planning and management
- The capacity of the school buildings and site and resources management

3. Who is being consulted?

3.1 This consultation is for the specific attention of:

- Parents of children between the ages of 2 and 18
- Other persons in the relevant area who, in the opinion of the admission authority, have an interest in the proposed admissions

- All other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools don't need to consult secondary schools)
- The Local Authority (LA)

4. How to respond?

- 4.1 This consultation will run from 29th November 2024 to 10th January 2025. You are invited to submit comments by email about the proposal above to admissions@meonwayfederation.org.uk or post to:
Admissions, Meon Way Federation, Shelford Road, Southsea, PO4 8NT
- 4.2 This consultation will end at 5pm on the 10th January 2025 – please send any comments regarding this change before that time.
- 4.3 Please note that written responses should outline your personal details, including your name, address and relationship to the school.
- 4.4 Following the consultation period the Academy Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admissions arrangements for September 2026 will be determined by 27th February 2025 and any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by email: osa.team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk.

If you wish to further discuss this matter, please contact Moorings Way Infant School via email admissions@meonwayfederation.org.uk or on 0333 360 2170 (request for Caroline Sage, Office Manager)

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sara Paine
Executive Headteacher