

Summary of proposed changes to Cheshire West and Chester school admission arrangements in 2023-2024 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. Cheshire West and Chester are consulting on the following changes for admission in the school year 2023-2024 and for subsequent years, subject to any review:

- **The Arches Primary School PAN reduction from 45 to 30**

Due to Infant Class Size legislation, class sizes in Early Years and key stage 1 are restricted to 30 pupils. Revenue funding is allocated to the school per pupil, schools with a PAN of 45 would vertically group classes so that teaching resources are fully utilised across class sizes of 30. When numbers in each year group fall below 45 but above 30 it requires the school to employ staffing for the pupils on roll but with less efficient class sizes. The per pupil funding generated for smaller class sizes is then insufficient to maintain the staffing costs across the school. This has had a detrimental effect on the budget, and the current 3 year financial plan for the school shows an increasing cumulative deficit from 22-23 financial year. The school feel that they cannot remain financially viable operating with the current structure but could achieve a more efficient class structure within a PAN of 30.

Current Numbers are :

Reception - 31

Year 1 - 28

Year 2 - 22

Year 3 - 31

Year 4 - 35

Year 5 - 37

Year 6 - 44

The consultation will run from 17 November 2021 to 5 January 2022. This falls within the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code to consult for at least six weeks between 1 October 2021 and 31 January 2022.