

26 April 2022

To: Parents, Carers and Other Stakeholders

**TRUST IN LEARNING (ACADEMIES)
CONSULTATION STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER
AND INCREASED CAPACITY AT ORCHARD SCHOOL BRISTOL**

This proposal is published in compliance with the Department of Education 'Making significant changes to an open academy' (Departmental guidance for all types of academy trust), January 2022.

Specific Proposal

- Trust in Learning (Academies) propose to increase the capacity (student numbers) at Orchard School Bristol. This is to take effect from September 2022
- It is also proposed that the school increases its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 185 to 216 student places from September 2022

Background and reason for the proposed change

Two key things have emerged over the last 18 months which have resulted in this proposal. Firstly, primary numbers in North Bristol have fallen and will continue to fall for the next four or five years, and secondly, as the primary numbers fall there is a deficit (shortage) of secondary places.

Trust in Learning (Academies) have been occupying a part of the Orchard School site to provide additional primary numbers for Filton Avenue Primary School, another school that Trust in Learning (Academies) operates. Given the reduction in primary numbers it has become necessary for both educational and financial reasons to close the primary provision on the Orchard site. This has already been consulted upon and will take effect from this September.

We therefore have surplus building space/accommodation at Orchard to help overcome the difficulties that Bristol Local Authority has in ensuring there are enough places for secondary students.

The Local Authority has formally approached Trust in Learning (Academies) with a request to provide these additional places. We feel that we have duty of care to assist in this and feel that any increase in capacity should also be reflected in an increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN).

Impact upon Learning

The Trust and the school's leadership are very confident that this proposed increase in student numbers will not have any detrimental effect to the quality of education provided. When Orchard School was originally planned as a new school (in 2005) its capacity was similar to what we are now proposing.

Implementation

If this proposal is supported, then the additional numbers will be admitted from September 2022. We are working alongside Bristol City Council and our PFI Partners to ensure that any modification from the existing primary accommodation to secondary appropriate classrooms will be undertaken. School leaders are planning any additional staffing needs that the additional numbers might require.

How to make your views known

The consultation will run from Tuesday 26th April 2022, until midday on Monday 23rd May 2022. All stakeholders are invited to submit their views via an electronic response form which can be found by following the link below: -

[Response Form for Increasing Capacity at Orchard School Bristol](#)

Alternatively, comments can be made in writing about the proposal to:

Orchard Campus Consultation
Trust in Learning (Academies)
Teyfant Road
Bristol
BS13 0RG

For the duration of the consultation the Trust in Learning (Academies) and Orchard School Bristol websites will display the following:

- Consultation statement
- Stakeholder Response Form

School website: <https://www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk/>

Trust website: www.tilacademies.co.uk

Stakeholders are deemed to be:

- Parents and carers of children aged between 11 and 16 years of age
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area
- Bristol City Council Local Authority
- Any adjoining local admission authorities where the admission authority is the local authority
- Other persons in the local area who may have an interest in the proposed new arrangements

As set out in the 'Making significant changes to an open academy' (Departmental guidance for all types of academy trust), January 2022, we are entering into a period of consultation that will run from Tuesday 26th April 2022 and end at midday on Monday 23rd May 2022.


Following the consultation, the directors of the Trust will apply to the Regional Schools Commissioner to make a decision, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Further information about Trust in Learning (Academies) can be found at: www.tilacademies.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Mark J Davies
CEO, Trust in Learning (Academies)



Julia Hinchliffe
Headteacher, Orchard School Bristol