



Our Ref: SMA/FAZ

29 November 2022

### **Proposal to reduce PAN for The Holy Family Catholic School**

To whom it may concern

#### **Background**

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at The Holy Family Catholic School is 165. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in Year 7 each year is a maximum of 165.

The population growth in Bradford from 2010 increased pressure on primary and secondary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand. As a result of this The Holy Family Catholic School increased their PAN in September 2016, from 150 to 165.

Currently, across the Bradford District, there is a decrease in the number of younger children registered with the NHS. This has led to a high level of surplus places in primary school planning areas across the District and some surplus in the Keighley secondary school planning area, where The Holy Family Catholic School is situated.

According to data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the number of live births nationally has fallen in five of the last seven years, with the total number of live births in 2020 being the fewest since 2002. There was a slight increase in 2021 but still fewer births than in 2019. Given the falling number of births nationally and across the District, there has been a significant reduction in the number of primary school places required across this planning area; the Council does not anticipate that there will be a significant increase in the number of secondary school places required in the near future. This is a unique situation in the Keighley planning area but overall, there is a shortfall of secondary school places across the District.

#### **Specific Proposal**

The Holy Family Catholic School proposes to reduce the PAN from 165 to 150 from 1 September 2024.

This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Year 7 in 2024, and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts, will be 150. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

Factors that have been considered by the school when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- A large portion of funding received by school is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Therefore, the School is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.

- The total number of pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 recorded by the school on the October 2022 census was **859**, which is below the current capacity of **973**.
- Since the increase of PAN in 2016, we have never admitted to full capacity.
- Due to the lower numbers of younger children registered with the NHS who will require a school place in the coming years, the School expects that there will be sufficient school places available for local children if the PAN is reduced. If agreed, the overall capacity for the School will be 950 from 2024.

The Holy Family Catholic School Governors and The Diocese of Leeds believe that reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in our long-term planning and allow us to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll. The reduction in PAN will ensure that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils.

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. As the Admission Authority, the Trust Board is seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN for The Holy Family Catholic School.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), the Trust is consulting with key stakeholders, including:

- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- Bradford Council (the Local Authority in which the school is situated)
- All other Admission Authorities within the District
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed changes

The proposal will be published on the school's website.

This consultation will run for six weeks between Tuesday, 29 November 2022 and Tuesday, 31 January 2023. If you would like to make representation or require any further information, please contact the school on [office@holyfamilyschool.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilyschool.uk) .

Yours sincerely



S Mather  
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Blessed  
Christopher Wharton  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST