

## **Consultation to reduce Caldmore Primary Academy's Published Admission Number from September 2027**

### **Introduction**

Academy Transformation Trust is consulting on a reduction in the published admission number (PAN) at Caldmore Primary Academy from 60 down to 30 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2027.

The current PAN for Caldmore Primary Academy of 60 was agreed when it met demand for places at that time, at a time when the academy was required to expand to meet demand. Owing to falling birth rates and the recent fall seen in migration to Walsall, the current published admission number of 60 has left the academy with 22 unfilled Reception places this current academic year and, early indications from the school's admissions portal, is showing a similar picture for next academic year (2026-27) despite the fact that School Organisation's place planning shows less surplus expected in Planning Area 6 next year. Figures presented by School Organisation in a recent meeting with schools show a predicated 8% surplus of places across Planning Area 6 alone in 2027-2028, meaning that the current PAN on 60 at Caldmore Primary Academy is much higher than the estimated pupil numbers and the Local Authority pupil place plan for 2027 and going forward.

The proposed change will enhance the ability of our Trust Board and Education Directorate to support resource management and planning to ensure both the academy and its learning environment remain both viable and suitable for the delivery of its current high standard of education.

No pupil who already has a place at the academy will be affected by this proposal.

### **Specific Proposal**

The Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Caldmore Primary Academy are proposing to reduce the published admission number from 60 to 30 effective from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027. This means the number of places available for pupils in Reception will be 30 and will remain at 30 for all subsequent Reception cohorts going forward. There are no proposals to change the number of Nursery places available at this time.

Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Caldmore Primary Academy have considered a number of key factors in deciding to hold a consultation in regard to the proposal:

- The ability of the academy to support pupil place planning and provide sufficient places for local pupils.
- The school places available at other undersubscribed primary schools locally, within Planning Area 6 and also more widely across the borough of Walsall.
- A falling local birthrate.
- A falling rate of immigration into the local area, which is likely to continue.
- The difficulties of providing a sustainable staffing model with Reception cohorts of fewer than 40 pupils.
- Management and resource planning and its efficiency in supporting the required pupil cohorts.

- It is easier for a two-form entry school such as Caldmore Primary Academy to reduce its roll and rebalance provision in line with local demand than it is for the other schools locally. It is worth noting that at present, Caldmore Primary Academy hold 50% of the surplus Reception places available in Planning Area 6.

Academy Transformation Trust is committed to supporting pupil place planning within each local authority in which we operate and would consider reviewing the published admission number in future should the need in the area require this support.

### **Consultation period**

The consultation period is running from 18 November until 9 January 2026.



Natalie Deen  
Director of Primary Education, Academy Transformation Trust

### **Who is being consulted**

The consultation of this proposal is for the attention of the following:

- Local parents with children at the school or under school age
- Residents/people in the area with an interest in the proposal
- All other relevant admission authorities within the local area
- The local authority
- Neighbouring local authorities.

### **How to respond**

Academy transformation Trust and Caldmore Primary Academy welcome your views on this proposal, and you can engage in the following ways:

**Email:** [consultations@attrust.org.uk](mailto:consultations@attrust.org.uk) with the subject header **Caldmore Primary PAN**

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