

Brook Mead Academy Admissions Policy Consultation for in-year variation to 2023 admissions

Monday 31 October 2022 Start consultation
Monday 12 December 2022 Finish consultation

Proposed change

Brook Mead Academy is proposing a change to its policy for admissions arrangements for the 2023-24 academic year.

The change is to reduce the school's Planned Admissions Number (PAN) from 240 to 190. This is for year 7 pupils starting in August 2023 only. The proposal is to return to a PAN of 240 for year 7 pupils starting in August 2024 and subsequent years.

This request for an in-year variation to admission arrangements has been submitted to the DfE.

Rationale for change

Brook Mead Academy is a new free school in Leicester with a PAN of 240. We opened in temporary accommodation in September 2021, with a plan to move to our permanent building in September 2023. However, this has now been delayed to 2025. Our temporary site cannot accommodate us until 2025 as we grow with a new year group each year. To resolve this, the DfE has found us a disused school building nearby where we will move our year 9 in 2023. Our year 7 and 8 will remain at the current temporary St Augustine Road site. We will have a split site until our building is ready in 2025.

We cannot accommodate two year groups of 240 on the temporary site for two years. We only have 16 classrooms and a small canteen which also serves as an assembly hall. We have no lifts so disabled students cannot access the full curriculum. We have a high needs cohort with 20% reading ages below 8 years, high % of SEND and pupils eligible for the pupil premium and new arrivals to England. Therefore, we have to be able to have some small group teaching which is limited if we only have 16 classrooms. We cannot fit any more pupils in assembly and our canteen area is too small to feed the projected 480 pupils we would have if we kept to our published PAN. We have nowhere to do PE so walk to a nearby sports centre but they cannot accommodate any more than 16 sessions per week for us. Our curriculum is already curtailed as we have no design rooms or performance arts spaces.

In 2023, we should like to reduce PAN from 240 to 190 so we would have 430 pupils on site (190 year 7 and 240 year 8 pupils) and run 16 groups. This allows us to run larger groups up to 29 plus smaller groups of 22 to meet the additional needs of our pupils. It also enables us to run reading and literacy interventions for new arrivals and those with delayed reading. It means we have spaces to do music peripatetic lessons as part of our Music Scholarship programme. It means all pupils can get through lunch in 50 minutes and eat. In the following years (2024 onwards), provided our building is on track for completion in 2025, we can revert to our PAN of 240.

The smaller number will enable us to run our planned curriculum, continue to be able to offer PE off site, meet the diverse needs of a deprived cohort, enable all pupils to eat in the canteen and outside spaces and function safely as a school.

Consultation

The consultation period runs from Monday 31 October 2022 to Monday 12 December 2022 and allows anyone with an interest (for example parents, other schools and the local community) to comment about the proposed admission arrangements. You can comment by:

- Writing to: Cathy Brown, The Mead Educational Trust, The Mead Centre, 343 Gipsy Lane, Leicester LE4 9DD
- Emailing: admissions@tmet.uk