

November 2025

Reduction in PAN Statement.

Rationale for decreasing PAN at St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School in Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT.

Following a comprehensive review of our schools and their Published Admission Numbers (PAN), Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (OLoL CMAT) is formally consulting on a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School from 60 to 30 for the 2027-2028 admissions cycle.

Rationale for the Proposed Reduction:

OLoL CMAT conducts regular reviews of PAN across our schools to carefully evaluate whether to maintain, increase, or reduce PAN. The decision to propose a reduction in PAN for St Edmund Campion has been made after careful consideration.

Over the past four years, pupil numbers have consistently remained below or well below the current PAN of 60. Maintaining a PAN of 60 would lead to underfilled classes, which can negatively impact the school's ability to plan effectively and sustain high-quality provision. Application trends indicate that intake levels are stabilising at or below 36, mirroring the national decline in pupil numbers.

Despite our efforts to raise the school's profile through targeted marketing campaigns within both the Parish and the local community, the impact has been limited.

National and local demographic trends show a significant decline in birth rates, resulting in fewer children entering primary and secondary education.

Key National Trends:

There is an overall decline in the number of pupils in state schools in England is projected to fall by nearly 400,000 by 2030, driven mainly by lower birth rates and demographic changes. [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)

Primary School numbers peaked around 2018 and have been falling since. Between 2019 and 2024, numbers dropped by 85,000 (1.9%), and are projected to fall by another 205,000 (4.5%) by 2028. [infer.ac.uk](https://www.infer.ac.uk)

Falling birth rates are the main cause, with projections showing a long-term decline in school-age population. Lower net migration and changing fertility assumptions also contribute to the trend. [explore-ed...ice.gov.uk](https://www.explore-ed...ice.gov.uk)

