



Stanford Infant School

'Exploring and Learning Together, Inspiring Each Other'

Head Teacher – Miss M Denyer

Highcroft Villas

Brighton

BN1 5PS

Tel: 01273 55240

Email: office@stanford-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Website: www.stanfordinfants.co.uk

9th October 2020

Dear Stanford Infant Families

I am writing to advise you that we have received notification from the Local Authority that, following a forecast for future school admission numbers in the City, Stanford Infants is being considered for a reduction in its Published Admission Number.

The Children, Young People and Skills Committee (CYPT) agreed to the recommendation for the Council to consult on reducing our Published Admission Number (PAN) from 90 - 60 in September 2022. The consultation period started on Monday and will run until 27th November 2020, with the results going back to the Committee in January. During this time, you are invited to express your views and any concerns about the proposed changes to the admission arrangements at Stanford Infant School. We are one of nine schools in the City involved in the School Admissions Consultation.

The Local Authority would normally hold a series of public meetings at the school to engage parents/carers in the consultation but given the limitations of Covid-19, the Council will be offering two live webinars per school, one in the morning and another in the evening. For our school, these will be on **Thursday 5th November 2020**, between 10:30-11:30am and 6:30-8:00pm. The format of these live webinars will be to outline the reasons for proposing the changes and then to answer questions that come from the public. Council Officers will chair each meeting and it is hoped that Councillors from the Cross-Party School Organisation Working Group will be able to attend.

Whilst we completely understand that the Local Authority needs to forward plan in terms of projected numbers, especially when they forecast surplus places in the City by the year 2023, it seems surprising to be considering a school that nearly always is full. Our admissions information for the last 5 years shows that our preferences received by the closing date are greater than our PAN number. It is also worth noting that the school was proposed to be expanded from Sept 2013; however, this was rejected by the Children and Young People's Committee due to inadequate space. Therefore, it appears short sighted to now be considering a reduction.

Stanford Infant School is a popular, three-form entry, Infant School. Decreasing the PAN of an Infant School will reduce the amount of revenue funding available to the school and could threaten the financial viability of the school. A change in PAN can have a negative impact on the existing children, staff and school community. This would require a re-structuring process to ensure that the school is not overstaffed for the number of children on roll. The reduction is likely to adversely affect existing facilities and resources, ultimately hampering what we are trying to achieve as a school in a line with our school vision. It could potentially affect parental preference, as we would have fewer spaces to offer to the community. Finally, it will also impact our linked Junior School in the future.

We know how fantastic our school community are and want to engage you in this consultation as much as possible. The council have published the information on the council website, along with the links to the online meetings, which you can view here: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-applications/school-admissions-consultation>.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine Denyer