



## **Secondary Consultation on a proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number St Bede's Catholic School, Peterlee**

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust is the Admissions Authority for the Academy and wishes to consult on a proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) to support the leadership team in managing numbers of pupils around the school in the spaces available and to provide a financial model that is affordable and does not impact adversely on staffing.

### **Proposal**

The Trustees propose to reduce the PAN from 210 to 180 with effect from September 2026. For children already in the school, there will be no change and year groups of above 180 children will be managed appropriately as they progress through the school to Year 11. The Local Governing Committee will continue to review its PANs on an annual basis and will be flexible to react to demographic trends.

### **Rationale**

Our school is not full and has 274 surplus places. Even with this number of surplus places the management of large numbers of pupils is extremely difficult, particularly due to the significant amount of students with complex needs. We do not wish to compromise the efficient use of teaching and other resources or increase class sizes as this will negatively affect pupil outcomes.

Moving from a 210 entry to 180 would alleviate the issues of overcrowding and provide a more conducive environment in which to learn. If the PAN was reduced to 180 then the number of classes can be reduced from 7 to 6. This provides the optimum solution in terms of delivering the curriculum and the cost-effective deployment of school resources. Failure to deal with this issue now would certainly provide financial challenges in due course.

### **Consultation Response**

The consultation period will commence on 20 December 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Comments are invited and can be submitted via email at [Enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:Enquiries@st-bedes.org)

On completion of the consultation period the Trust Board will consider all responses received and decide how it will proceed.

Admission arrangements for the 2026/27 academic year will be determined by 31 January 2026. Any objections after that date will need go to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2026.