

8 December 2025

## **Consultation regarding a proposed variation in the published admissions number (PAN) for King David Primary School Manchester with effect from September 2027**

### **Background**

The current Published Admissions Number (PAN) for King David Primary School is 60.

Since its inception the King David Primary School has been at the forefront of providing academic excellence in Manchester whilst being a major pillar within the Jewish community having served generations of Manchester Jewry's children.

King David Primary School, which is under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, went through Academisation and a substantial rebuild 14 plus years ago, part of which is shared with the High School with new buildings, classroom facilities and provisions. Over the last two years, the King David Primary School has experienced a decline in applications. The school has started to see a trend of further reductions in applications - evidenced by this year's cohort of 34 and a similar number predicted for this coming year. This is also supported by recent community and forecasting data which has shown that we are unlikely to come close to the current PAN in subsequent years leaving a financially unsustainable situation. This has been caused by a number of factors including a reduced birth rate within the typical catchment market of the Manchester Jewish community for which the school serves, an outward migration out of Manchester, an increased number of schools places now available within both the private and state sector across different authorities.

King David High School have also seen a decline in admissions whereby they also reduced their PAN number as well which took effect in the September 2025.

For all the above reasons, the Trustees of King David Primary School seek to reduce the PAN from 60 to 30 places in Reception to Year 6 with effect from September 2027.

As per the Admissions Code 2021 there is a requirement for an admissions authority to consult when decreasing a school's PAN, which includes a requirement to notify other schools within the relevant area as well as other

parties when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. King David Primary School Manchester as the admissions authority is therefore seeking to formally notify the required parties of the proposed change.

### **Specific Proposal**

The Trustees of King David Primary School propose to reduce the Published Admissions Number of the school for Reception to Year 6 from 60 to 30 from September 2027.

This means that the number of places available for children in Reception September 2027 and all subsequent cohorts will be 30. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change but the admissions number for all other subsequent years will reduce to 30.

This is the only proposed change to the admissions criteria. All other criteria including oversubscription, will remain the same.

We firmly believe that a reduced PAN is in the best interests of current and future pupils of the school, in terms of improving the provision for education, health and safety of the children and securing our financial stability and ethos.

Factors that have been considered by the Trustees in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

**Over supply of school spaces and declining demand** - After observing across the local and neighboring authorities an oversupply of Jewish faith school places and drop in pupil numbers, the school has undertaken a forecasting exercise to try and forecast sibling take up over the coming years. In addition, there has been a decline in the birth rate within the typical catchment section of the Jewish community the school serves as well as outward migration of the local Jewish community which would naturally contribute to lower demand for Jewish school places. The school is therefore forecasting admissions to be materially below previous years to the extent that it will only be viable to continue and maintain its ethos and character with a reduced Pupil Admission Number.

**Financial pressures** - The financial pressures on the school's budget meaning the costs to meet the educational needs of each enrolled child has become harder to cover, with the school now operating at a deficit. The current inflationary environment has also contributed to the financial challenges facing the school

in operating the school site and maintaining all buildings and equipment to a high standard. Reducing the PAN allows the consolidation of some classes.

### **Maintaining the School Ethos and Educational Diversity:**

King David Primary School is the local authority's only Jewish primary school. This is significant and plays an important role in preserving educational and cultural diversity in Manchester, it also serves and promotes a sense of strong interfaith dialogue between both faith schools and none faith schools.

### **Promoting Manchester and Making it Attractive to Anglo Jewry:**

Manchester boasts a rich Jewish heritage, marked by an inclusive environment and a close-knit relationship with local organisations. The Trustees strongly believe that King David Primary School can continue to be a beacon of educational/academic excellence, and can continue to promote Manchester as an attractive city to Jewish families nationwide, who wish to provide their children with a high standard of education in a Jewish setting, alongside all the amenities and opportunities Manchester has to offer. This in turn would bring to Manchester many benefits such as investment, expertise and much more.

### **Who is Consulted?**

This consultation is for the attention of:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen.
- b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions.
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools)
- d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority.
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority;
- f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

### **How to Respond**

This consultation will run from 8 December 2025 to 26 January 2026 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to C/O,

Head of Admissions committee, King David Primary School, Wilton Polygon,  
Bury Old Road, M8 5DJ, by 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 or by email to  
[chair.governor@kdprimary.co.uk](mailto:chair.governor@kdprimary.co.uk) please mark the subject “KDPS PAN  
Consultation”. Following the consultation period, the Trustees will consider all  
comments received and determine admissions arrangements for September  
2027 by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The King David Primary School Admissions Committee (admissions authority)

On behalf of the Trustees