

ACL/CMF

15 December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers and members of the Local Community

Re: **Consultation on the reduction of the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Smithills School**

We are writing to consult you over proposals to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Smithills School. We are seeking to reduce our current admission number from 250 to 180. This change would take effect from September 2018.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain the reasons behind this proposed change and invite your opinions on this matter. The factors that have prompted us to consult are as follows:

- Other local secondary schools are considering expansion and this will impact on the number of pupils applying to our school
- There is likely to be an expansion of places available across the local authority, again impacting on the number of likely applications for places
- The number of Year 7 admissions in 2016 was 180. Our curriculum and staffing model have been planned around this number.

Reducing our PAN would offer some certainties to the school and would enable us to plan our budget, staffing and curriculum more effectively. This would have a positive impact on outcomes for our students.

The school wants to work positively with other schools in the area. We are committed to reviewing the PAN if the local context dictates the need for this in future years.

The reduction of our Pupil Admission Number requires a period of consultation which we will commence today and will close in six week's time on 26th January 2017. This consultation window fulfills statutory requirements.

During the consultation period should you wish to express your support, concern or any views about our proposals please email or write to Smithills School and mark this for the attention of my PA, Mrs Christine Fleming (c.fleming@smithillsschool.net).

The final decision about whether the school can reduce its Pupil Admission Number will be made by the Academy Trust as the admission authority for the school. Any comments that you make will help to inform this decision.

Yours sincerely



Alec Cottrill
Principal