

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref.

Our Ref.

Please ask for: Ann Pearson

Date: 19 May 2026

Dear Colleague

The Local Authority is seeking a variation to the published admission number (PAN) for Burman Infant School. The school currently operates an admission number of 60, and this variation application will seek a reduction to 30 for September 2026 and September 2027. The 2026 reception admission arrangements for community schools were approved by the Council in January 2025; therefore, any change requires approval by the Schools Adjudicator.

The proposed reduction in PAN was considered and approved by the Governing Body of Burman Infant School on 18 May 2026, following a drop in applications for September 2026. By applying for a reduction in PAN, the school will be able to better financially plan for the reduction in pupil numbers which will minimise the disruption to teaching and learning at the school. Even with a reduction of the PAN to 30, we would expect the school to be able to accommodate all the children living in its catchment area that apply for a place and siblings of children already at the school, at its normal point of intake.

This change in PAN is due to a fall in the birth rate in Solihull and therefore a reduction in families applying for a reception place. In September 2026, it is forecast that there will be over 300 (12%) empty reception places in the Borough, the equivalent of 10 reception classes. Officers are working with a number of schools to consider the impact of the falling birth rate.

This request to vary the published admission arrangements will be considered by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, who will determine whether the application is approved. As part of the application process the Authority is required to notify all admission authorities in the area and all community schools.

If you need any further information on this proposed change, please feel free to contact me. Or if you wish to comment on the proposal, please email your comments to annpearson@solihull.gov.uk by noon on **9th June 2026**.

Yours sincerely



Ann Pearson
Team Leader - School Place Planning
Children's Services