



The Beam Trust is consulting on its attached proposed Admission Policy which includes the admission arrangements for all schools in the Trust: Oughtrington Primary School, Ravenbank Primary School, Statham Primary School and Thelwall Infant School.

The only change to The Beam Trust's admission arrangements is the proposed change to the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Oughtrington from 60 to 30 in September 2026. All other arrangements, including oversubscription criteria are staying the same.

The consultation is seeking views on the admission arrangements, and specifically the change to the PAN at Oughtrington.

PAN reduction at Oughtrington

Background

The national falling birth rate has been impacting future admission numbers across the whole country. Forecasts indicate that it will have a significant impact on the financial viability of the primary schools in Lymm. Predictions show that by 2026, intake into reception classes in Lymm will have fallen from a peak of 184 pupils to 108, over 40%. Other schools within Warrington are also being affected by the low birth rate.

Proposal

The Beam Trust is proposing to reduce the published admission number (PAN) at Oughtrington from 60 to 30 in September 2026.

Aim

Our aim with this strategic decision is that it will protect the future of all four school communities in Lymm. Due to the timescales and the gradual reduction of classes, we should be able to avoid the need for any redundancies. The admission criteria for each school have not been changed.

The Beam Trust is proposing to:

- Reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception at Oughtrington Primary School from 60 to 30, to take effect from September 2026.

As set out in the School Admissions Code 2021 we are entering into a 6-week statutory consultation period.

Official Consultation

Change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Oughtrington Primary School

Due to changes in demand for places in Lymm over the last few years, the size of Oughtrington's intake has reduced.

The proposed PAN change will help to secure financial stability. The school's most recent Ofsted inspection in September 2024 shows that the school has been graded as 'outstanding' in three areas and 'good' in two. The proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for its pupils, whilst still enabling the school to meet the demand for places.

School place planning requirements for Lymm will still be met once this proposed change has been made.

There will be no other changes to the school's admission arrangements. The proposed change will not affect the current pupils.

Although the School Admissions Code 2021 does not require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there is a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce.

The Beam Trust is seeking comments on the proposal to change the PAN from 60 to 30 from September 2026 at Oughtrington Primary School.

How to make your views known

It is important to consider the views of our parents and the wider community. The consultation will run from 9th December 2024 to 21st January 2025. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please submit comments in writing about the proposal to:

admissions@thebeamtrust.co.uk.

Please see the additional sheet of Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

