

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



Subject: Proposal to Reduce Published Admission Number (PAN) 2026/2027

The Trust intends to seek an in-year variation to reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2026/2027 from 240 to 180 students. The proposed increase from 180-240 students that was due to commence in September 2026 is no longer required by the Local Authority.

This proposal follows careful consideration of local pupil projections and discussions with the Local Authority. Current data indicates that there is significant surplus secondary school capacity within the local area, and forecasts show that additional places at our school are no longer required. Continuing with an increased PAN would place unnecessary financial and organisational pressure on the school and would not represent an efficient use of public funding.

We have taken pre-emptive measures and allocated up to 180 places for offer day, pending a final decision. This cautious approach reflects the wider context of surplus places locally and ensures that we act responsibly in the interests of both our school and the wider community.

We have worked closely with the Local Authority to review projections and confirm that the proposed reduction aligns with local need. As a result, building work that would have been required to accommodate additional pupils has been postponed until September 2026.

A formal consultation is not required for this type of variation; however, we are required to inform stakeholders of our intention.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please email headteacher@msj.stoccat.org.uk by Friday 27th February 2026. We will consider any feedback received before progressing further after the half-term break.

We would like to reassure families that this proposal does not affect students currently on roll at the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A Devany
Headteacher



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is PAN?

PAN (Published Admission Number) is the number of pupils a school intends to admit into Year 7 each year.

2. What change is being proposed?

We are proposing to reduce our PAN to reflect current and projected local demand for places.

3. Why is this change necessary?

Updated pupil forecasts show surplus capacity across local secondary schools. Additional places at our school are no longer required and could negatively impact the sustainability of other local schools in both the short and longer term.

4. Does this affect current pupils?

No. This proposal only relates to future admissions and will not impact students already attending the school.

5. Will this affect children who have already received an offer?

No. Offers made for the current admissions round remain valid.

6. Why were only 180 places allocated on offer day?

As a precautionary measure, we limited allocations to 180 places while reviewing local capacity and future need. This ensures responsible planning in light of current projections.

7. What evidence supports this decision?

The school has reviewed detailed pupil projection data in collaboration with the Local Authority. This confirms that additional capacity at the school is no longer required.

8. What happens next?

We will gather feedback from stakeholders over the next two weeks. Following this, the Trust will formally consider the proposal and determine next steps.

9. Is a consultation required?

No formal consultation is required for this type of in-year variation. However, we are informing stakeholders and inviting comments as part of a transparent process.