



# St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Spendmore Lane • Coppull • Chorley • Lancashire • PR7 5DH

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Consultation on a proposed reduction in the published admission number for St Oswald's Catholic Primary School (Spendmore Lane, Coppull, PR7 5DH) with effect from September 2027.

## Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for **St Oswald's Catholic Primary School** is **20**. This means that the number of children admitted into the school at **Reception** each year is limited to **20**. Reducing the PAN to **15** will assist the **Governing Body** in their long-term planning (**while reflecting the contemporary legislation on infant class sizes**) and continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future Catholic pupils.

Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. The school's **Governing Body**, as the admissions authority, is therefore seeking comments on the proposed change.

## Specific Proposal

The **Governing Body** propose to reduce the published admission number of the school from **20** to **15** with effect from September **2027**.

This means that the number of places available for children in **Reception** in **2027** – and all subsequent cohorts – will be **15**. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change; the admission number for all other cohorts remain at the previous planned admission number.

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

### 1. Space Constraints:

Due to the successful DFE school-based nursery grant application, a spare classroom will now cater for 3-year-old pupils to attend St Oswald's Catholic Primary School. This means that in the unlikely event that we receive a regular intake of over 15, we would eventually be unable to accommodate the 5<sup>th</sup> class that this would require.

### 2. Optimal Class Sizes:

- A PAN of **15** allows for **4** mixed-age classes of **30** students. Reducing the PAN ensures equitable and manageable class sizes, enhancing educational delivery.





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### 3. Quality of Education:

By reducing the PAN to 15, we will be able to maintain our current class structure, and therefore our curriculum design. This will ensure the continuation of a quality education for our pupils.

### 4. Local Demographic Trends:

The demand for school places in the Coppull area has been under the combined PAN of the local schools for the last 5 years. Birth rate data shows that this situation is unlikely to change. St Oswald's Catholic Primary School has not had Reception intake above 15 for 6 consecutive years.

### 5. Staffing Considerations and Financial Efficiency

Maintaining a PAN of 20 is not economically viable for St Oswald's Catholic Primary School. It requires the employment of a teacher who will have a maximum class size of 20. The mean class size of the stand-alone Reception Class over the last 5 years has been 12. By having 4 classes of 30 pupils, we will be financial efficient in managing teaching staff costs.

The school might present these reasons to stakeholders and local authorities to demonstrate that the adjustment is in the best interests of the students and aligns with broader educational and operational goals.

### How to Respond

This consultation will run from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025** until **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025** (to comply with requirements within the Admissions Code 2021) and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the above proposal to [school](#). Please mark all correspondence for the attention of [Chair of Governors](#).

Alternatively, you may wish to e-mail: [bursar@st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk)

Please submit any comments no later than **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. Following the consultation period the [Governing Body](#) will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admission arrangements for **2027** will be determined by 28 February **2026** and published on the school website by 15 March. Any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May **2026**.

