



## **Dear Consultee Consultation on a proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number for Penbridge Junior School with effect from September 2024**

### **1. Background**

1.1 The currently Published Admission Number (PAN) for Penbridge Junior School is 150. This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school at Year 3 is limited to 150. In the last 5 years, the admission numbers have never reached 150.

1.2 Reducing the PAN will assist the Regional Governing Body in providing stability to their long-term planning while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers living in the surrounding area.

1.3 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. Penbridge Junior School is part of Thinking School's Academy Trust and the school's Regional Governing Body, as the admissions authority, is seeking comments on the proposed change.

### **2. Specific Proposal**

2.1 The Governing Body propose to reduce the Published Admission Number of the school from 150 to 120 with effect from September 2024.

2.2 This means that the number of places available for children in Year 3 in 2024– and all subsequent Year 3 cohorts – will be 120. 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 years remain at 150 as they progress through the academy. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria; all other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.

2.3 The rationale for this proposal:

- Year 6 children were previously educated at The Bridge, on The Portsmouth Academy site. To free space for a funded inclusion centre in The Bridge, Year 6 moved back to the main Penbridge Junior School site and there are not enough classrooms for 20 classes (150 PAN). Reducing the PAN to 120 was part of the agreement when consulting on the Inclusion Centre.
- Penbridge Junior School have not reached a PAN of 150 in the last 5 years.

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

- The continued ability of the school to provide sufficient places for local children
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all children thus facilitating continuing school improvement
- Future resource planning and management
- The capacity of the school buildings and site and resources management

### 3. Who is being consulted?

3.1 This consultation is for the specific attention of:

- Parents of children between the ages of 2 and 18
- Other persons in the relevant area who, in the opinion of the admission authority, have an interest in the proposed admissions
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools don't need to consult secondary schools)
- The local authority (LA)

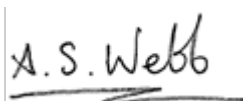
### 4. How to respond

4.1 This consultation will run from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 until Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023. You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above through the admissions consultation survey – <https://forms.office.com/e/yEMAzvs1yS>

4.2 Following the consultation period the Regional Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admissions arrangements for September 2024 will be determined by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

If you wish to further discuss this matter please contact Penbridge Junior School via [office@penbridgeschool.org.uk](mailto:office@penbridgeschool.org.uk) or on 03333602190 (asking for Sarah Arthur, Headteacher's PA)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.S. Webb". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Mrs A Webb

Executive headteacher of Penbridge Schools