

**Consultation on proposed Admission Arrangements for Lewisham Community Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools, including Sixth Form for the 2026/27 Academic Year**

Lewisham is consulting on the following:

1. The proposal to reduce in-year published admission number (PAN) at the schools named in Table B below.
2. The proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) at the schools named in Table A below.

The following schools are requesting an immediate permanent change of in-year PANs, to take effect once agreed by Mayor and Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

**Table A**

<b>Name of school</b>	<b>Year group</b>	<b>Current PAN</b>	<b>Reason for request of permanent reduction/ comments</b>
Rangefield Primary School	Reception: 30	30	Already agreed by OSA as an in-year variation, October 2024
Rangefield Primary School	Year 1: 30	60	
Rangefield Primary School	Year 2: 30	60	
Rangefield Primary School	Year 3: 30	60	
Rangefield Primary School	Year 4: 30	60	
Rangefield Primary School	Year 5: 30	60	
Rangefield Primary School	Year 6: 30	60	
Forster Park Primary School	Reception: 45	60	
Forster Park Primary School	Year 1: 30	30	Already informally capped at this number
Forster Park Primary School	Year 2: 45	60	
Forster Park Primary School	Year 3: 50	60	
Forster Park Primary School.	Year 4: 40	40	Already capped informally at this number
Forster Park Primary School.	Year 5: 50	40	Already capped informally at this number
Lancelot	Reception: 30	60	
Lancelot	Year 1: 30	60	
Lancelot	Year 3: 30	60	

**Table B**

<b>Name of school</b>	<b>Proposed reduction</b>	<b>Current PAN</b>
Elfrida Primary School	30	60
Deptford Park Primary School	60	90
Lancelot Primary School	30	60

**Proposal to reduce PAN at the above names primary schools**

Comments are invited on all elements of the arrangements but would be particularly welcomed in respect of the following proposals to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for entry in the reception class from September 2026 and the reduction of in-year published admissions numbers at Rangefield Primary School, Forster Park Primary School and Lancelot Primary School.

**Rationale:**

The continued decline in demand for Lewisham primary school places has meant that the above schools have received a insufficient number of pupils to utilise all of their available forms of entry. A reduction in PANs will enable the schools to plan with greater certainty in terms of staffing, curriculum delivery and financial viability.

**Areas for consideration:**

- Surrounding boroughs (Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark) are seeing a decline primary pupil numbers and therefore have taken steps to reduce in-year PANs and in some cases closed undersubscribed schools.
- Some schools with declining numbers are considering vertical classes and sharing of resources but this is not sustainable long term.
- Lewisham in collaboration with the schools will have to consider a longer-term strategy if Lewisham Primary school numbers continue to decline in line with current forecast.

**Pros:**

- Lewisham community schools would be on a level playing field with other boroughs.
- Schools can better manage their deficit budgets, where applicable.
- There are sufficient school places within the local areas, to absorb these reductions.

**Cons:**

- Local children may be disadvantaged by being placed in a school further from their home address if local PANs are reduced.

**What will happen next:**

Once the consultation is complete, the proposal will be sent to the Mayor and Cabinet who will have the final decision on whether:

- The PAN reductions can be introduced immediately for the In-Year reductions.
- The reduction of PAN at Rangefield Primary School, Forster Park Primary School and Lancelot Primary School are agreed to be permanently from September 2026 onwards.

The deadline for responses to the consultation is **4pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024** and the responses should be submitted to [schooladmissions@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lewisham.gov.uk), with the subject heading **Admissions Consultation 2026/27**.

CONSULTATION