



Dear Parent / Carer/ Stakeholder,

## **The Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST): Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number at Christ the Sower Ecumenical School**

ODBST and the Leadership Team of Christ the Sower Ecumenical School (CtS) propose to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for new Reception pupils from 60 to 30, to take effect from September 2024. This is because falling birth rates both in Milton Keynes and nationally is leading to an oversupply of YR places.

The change will help our school to focus its resources and continue to improve the education offered to our families. ODBST continues to focus on the outcomes of all our pupils and feel strongly that the proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for our young learners, whilst still enabling us to meet the demand for places.

In the last two years, CtS has had a temporary PAN of 30 to meet the needs of the falling pupil numbers within the Milton Keynes area and The Local Authority has confirmed this change will more closely meet their planned requirements.

There will be no other changes to the admission arrangements.

All current and future parents and any other interested stakeholders can make comments on this proposal, information on how you can do this is detailed at the end of this letter, under the section titled "How to make your views known".

### **Background**

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for CtS is 60. However, Milton Keynes has experienced a fall in the birth rate in recent years that has led to a surplus of places in Year R across the authority. This is particularly an issue within the established communities. This trend is also happening nationally, and births are not expected to rise in the foreseeable future. This means there is a need to work in partnership to reduce the number of places available at our school which, along with others in this community, has experience a fall in demand.

Reducing the PAN will assist the Trust to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow the school to secure high-quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on our roll, while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers in line with demand in the Milton Keynes area.

### **Specific Proposal**

The Trust proposes to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2024. This means that the number of school places for pupils wishing to attend CtS in Reception (YR) in 2024 will be 30, as will all subsequent YR cohorts thereafter.

For pupils who already have a place at CtS in other year groups, there will be no change. This is the only proposed change to the admissions criteria; all other criteria will remain the same.

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Deputy HT: Mrs Saeeda Wilson-Andoh

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Email: [school@cts.odbst.org](mailto:school@cts.odbst.org)  
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It is important ODBST and our Local Governing Body consider the views of our parents and the wider community. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please complete the Stakeholder Response Form available on our [website](#).

### How to make your views known

The consultation will run from **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022** until **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal to:

Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School  
Singleton Drive  
Grange Farm  
MK8 OPZ

Or email to: [school@cts.odbst.org](mailto:school@cts.odbst.org)

For the duration of the consultation the school and ODBST websites will display the following documents:

- Proposed new Admissions Policy (2024 - 2025)
- Current Admissions Policies for 2022 -23 and 2023 24
- Stakeholder Response Form
- Stakeholder letter

As set out in the Schools Admission Code, we are entering into a 6-week statutory consultation which will last from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Following the consultation Trustees will consider any comments or objections and then confirm the arrangements for admissions in the 2024 – 25 academic year.

Further information about ODBST can be found [here](#)

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Mill**  
Chairman of Trustees ODBST

**Janet Hatfield & Revd. Ruth Harley**  
Co-Chairmen of the Local Governing Body

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