

Proposal document: Consultation on admission arrangements at Cowes Enterprise College

October 2018

This document outlines a formal consultation relating to the Cowes Enterprise College admission policy. The consultation period will run from 1st October 2018 until 12th November 2018. Interested parties are invited to express their views and contributions they may wish to make about the proposed change to the admission arrangements as outlined below.

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for Cowes Enterprise College is 270. This means that the number of children admitted into the academy in Year 7 each year is a maximum of 270.

Under the terms of the School's Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the overall capacity of the Academy (number on roll) has been set at a final maximum roll of 1,350 made up of 270 children in each year from Year 7 to Year 11.

While the PAN for the academy is 270, the actual numbers each year have historically always been significantly below this level. For example, the current year 7 stands at 202 students.

The number of secondary school places available across the Isle of Wight shows a significant surplus. In order to more effectively match the PAN at Cowes Enterprise College to the provision it is actually making, the proposal is to reduce the PAN from 270 to 210 places starting with Year 7 in September 2020.

The Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions requires the academy to consult with any proposal to reduce a PAN.

Specific Proposal

Cowes Enterprise College reduces the Published Admission Number of the school from 270 to 210 with effect from September 2020.

This will mean that the number of places available for children in Year 7 in 2020 and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts will be 210. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change and the proposal will have no impact on their schooling. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria, all other criteria will remain the same.

There are key factors involved in this proposal:

Reducing the PAN at Cowes Enterprise College will assist the academy in providing stability in its long-term planning and allow Cowes Enterprise College to continue to secure high quality educational outcomes for the students currently on roll, while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers in line with projected demand.

The reduction in the PAN will also enable the academy to have stability for forward planning on yearly intakes.

The Isle of Wight is an area where there is a surplus of secondary school places in general and at Cowes Enterprise College, which is not full in any year group.

Census information confirms that there are more school places than children able to fill them on the Isle of Wight and that this situation is set to continue in the future year on year. Specifically, across the next seven years, the Island Census information shows that the total number of children each year fluctuates between a low of 1,294 and a high of 1,355 while the current number of places offered is 1,555. This means that with the Cowes Enterprise College PAN reduction in place there will still be an excess of places by at least 140 per year on the Isle of Wight. This situation is the same within Cowes itself, with more places available at the academy than students to fill them in our local feeder primaries.

This proposal will support the best interests for the provision of education for our current and future pupils.

All responses to the consultation should be made in writing and submitted before 12 noon on 12th November 2018 to Jill Wareham, Clerk to the Governing Body by post to the address: Jill Wareham, Cowes Enterprise College, Crossfield Avenue, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8HB or by email to: jwareham@cowesec.org.