



# Glastonbury Thorn School

Pigott Drive | Shenley Church End | Milton Keynes | MK5 6BX  
Tel: 01908 504648

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Cursley  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Jo Clay

## Consultation to reduce PAN from September 2027

The governing board and senior leadership team at Glastonbury Thorn School (GTS) are consulting on potential changes to the admissions arrangements for the school:

- A reduction in the school's Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 30 pupils to be admitted to reception with effect from 1 September 2027.

No pupil who already has a place in school will be affected by the proposed change.

## Background

Milton Keynes, like many other local authority areas, is experiencing significant surplus places in the primary sector due to a fall in the birth rate. This means that families have more choice when selecting primary schools and schools that were historically full and popular are being impacted by this reduced demand, particularly in the older and more established areas of Milton Keynes.

The currently Published Admission Number (PAN) for GTS is 60. This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school in Reception is limited to 60. This has been reduced temporarily by application to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to 30 reception places for 2026-2027.

The PAN of 60 was determined in the admission arrangements for the 2020/21 academic year. Since this time, the number of children born in Milton Keynes has fallen, in line with national trends, which has led to a significant surplus of places for children starting school, especially in more established areas of Milton Keynes, like Shenley Church End.

The table below shows the total projected number of places required for children living in the catchment area of Glastonbury Thorn School from 2026 to 2032. It must also be noted that projections are based upon maximum possible catchment demand only and do not take into account parental preference trends. Actual birth data is available up to 2028 and from 2029 births are projected based on historic trends. It is therefore anticipated that 2029 births will reduce based upon previous trends.

Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<b>Number of places available (PAN)</b>	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
<b>Births</b>	33	29	37	37	35	35	35
<b>Total places required for year R</b>	40	34	37	37	35	36	35
<b>Balance of places</b>	10	4	7	7	5	6	5

Infant class size limits are 30, and these projected numbers indicate insufficient local demand to sustain two classes.

These projections should also be considered in the context of the wider projections across Milton Keynes as a whole:

Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<b>Number of places available (PAN)</b>	4,105	4,105	4,105	4,105	4,105	4,105	4,105
<b>Total places required for year R</b>	3,309	3,321	3,445	3,582	3,599	3,659	3,603
<b>Balance of places</b>	796	784	660	523	506	446	502
<b>Surplus places</b>	19%	19%	16%	13%	12%	11%	12%

This is in the context of a significant surplus within the liaison group (schools that feed in to Denbigh) of approximately 130 places, and a wider city surplus of around 800 places.

Therefore, based upon catchment, parental preference trends and future projections a Year R PAN of 30 should meet our community's needs. Reducing the PAN to 30 will assist the school in delivering a strengthened and sustainable offer to meet the needs of the local area providing stability for long-term planning while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers living in the catchment area.

We are running a consultation regarding the reduction in PAN from 60 to 30 for those children entering reception; effective from 1st September 2027.

### **Specific proposal**

The Governing Board proposes to reduce the Published Admission Number of the school from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2027.

This means that the number of places available for children in Reception in 2027, and all subsequent Reception cohorts, will be 30. This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria; all other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.

Factors that have been considered by the Governing Board 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 pupils thus facilitating continuing school improvement.
- Future resource planning and management.
- Effective management of school resources.

GTS would be committed to reviewing the Pupil Admissions Numbers if the local demographic context dictates a need for this in the future, especially if the number of local children requiring an infant school place increases. There is no need to formally consult to increase PAN again in the future and as such an increase can be promptly implemented if required.

### **Who is being consulted?**

This consultation is for the specific attention of:

- Parents of children between the ages of two to seven
- Staff
- The local community
- Other local schools
- Local nurseries and pre-schools
- The Local Authority, Councilors, Parish Council and local MPs.

### **How to respond**

The consultation will run from 5 December 2025 until 31 January 2026. If you wish to get in touch and tell us what you think you can do this in the following ways:

By email to [office@glastonburythorn.co.uk](mailto:office@glastonburythorn.co.uk)

By phone on 01908 504648

In writing to Sophie Sarginson, Chair of Governors, Glastonbury Thorn School, Pigott Drive, Milton Keynes MK5 6BX