



Nexus Education Schools Trust

CHANGE OF PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER (PAN) FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 ADMISSIONS

PAN Reduction Consultation at Goose Green Primary School (Southwark)

Grove Primary School (Southwark) - Formally Dog Kennel Hill Primary School

Consultation information

Goose Green Primary and Grove Primary Schools are situated in the East Dulwich area in the Local Borough of Southwark.

Southwark Local Authority has seen a birth rate drop of 37% since 2011, with nearly 1950 fewer reception children each year. This significant decline in pupil numbers has an impact in school's organisation and their budgets.

Local authority (LA)	Region	Percentage change in pupil numbers in primary schools from 2021 to 25	Number of primary schools in 2020/21	Number of primary Schools in 2024/25
Southwark	Inner London	-12.4%	74	68 (-6)

(information Education Policy Institute 2025)

In the next five years

The decline in births seen over the last five years is not predicted to return to the former levels for the foreseeable future. For primary schools, the decrease in pupil numbers over the next five years is projected to be more pronounced in London compared to the rest of the country, with predicted declines across almost all London local authorities. Islington, Lambeth, and Southwark are expected to experience the largest declines, ranging from 14 to 20 per cent

By 2028/29, the numbers of primary school pupils in Islington and Lambeth are projected to have fallen by around 30 per cent compared to a decade earlier.

Southwark and their partner schools have been working together in the management of pupil places. Nexus Education Schools Trust and its schools are committed to supporting the Local Authorities manage and implement the planning of pupil placement, whilst retaining education provision for our communities.

At **Grove Primary School**, creativity is at the centre of teaching and learning, enabling and inspiring all children to learn and contribute. There is a strong inclusive ethos throughout the school with, partnership centric to supporting learning throughout the school. OFSTED 2022 stated *Pupils enjoy coming to this school. When asked what it is they enjoy, they are united in saying that it is because they love learning. - 'Adults have high expectations of every pupil in this school' – 'Pupils constantly spoke about the kindness they receive from adults and other pupils'* Grove primary is a caring community with high aspirations, where everyone is welcomed and are proud of their community.

In line with reducing pupil numbers in the local area, Grove Primary has reduced its staffing structure and operations to meet the needs of its pupil intake moving informally to a one form of entry in September 2024. The formal change and reduction in PAN from admitting 60 pupils to 30 pupils into Reception in 2027. This will enable the school to operate at its current size and continue to provide high quality academic, staffing and excellence for families as a one form of entry primary school.

Goose Green Primary School is a vibrant and diverse community. The talent committed staff team inspire pupils to be curious, knowledgeable and caring learners. OFSTED stated, *'The school's high expectations are realised as pupils achieve well across the curriculum.'* In line with reducing pupils in the local authority Goose Green has been working towards becoming a one form entry. Fluctuations in pupil numbers have impacted on the staffing structure and development plans for the school.

A formal reduction in PAN will enable the school to operate efficiently without requiring reorganisation of classes, enabling the school to focus on the academic excellence, breadth of the curriculum and provision of upgraded facilities.

Proposal

The proposal is to reduce PAN from admitting 60 pupils per year to 30 pupils per at both schools from 2027 (Reception intake). This would reduce the overall capacity over time, from 420 pupils to 210 pupils. Present pupil and families would not be affected.

Main benefits

- Staffing changes minimised with a clear focus on the excellence of provision.
- Minimise class organisation changes for families
- Retain family centre small school, child centre ethos.

Consultation Process

The consultation will be sent to families, schools, Local Authorities, and the Department of Education.

The consultation runs from 24 November until 4 January 2026. Please send any comments to consultation@nestschools.org

Following the consultation period and analysis of the responses; representation to DfE is required, for a formal determination of admission.