Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust

Consultation on PAN reduction and removal of Fair Banding proposal at Bradford Girls Grammar

The purpose of this communication is to provide an opportunity for stakeholder views on the change of the PAN from 145 to 140 per year group and:

- the removal of the Fair Banding Process as well as clarification from the Admissions arrangements.
- removal of the SIF form
- Clarity that the school is a single sex girls school.

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Bradford Girls Grammar School is 145. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in Year 7 each year is a maximum of 145.

Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT are proposing to reduce the PAN to 140.

This proposal would mean that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Year 7 in 2027, and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts, will be 140. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

Currently, the net capacity of the school is 725, made up of 145 places in each year from Year 7 to Year 11.

When planning secondary school places, the Bradford District is split into 9 secondary school planning areas. Bradford Girls Grammar School sits in the Bradford West planning area.

Across the Bradford West planning area there are 1255 Year 7 places. Bradford Girls Grammar School currently has 8 surplus places (there are currently 137 children on roll in Year 7).

Current published forecasts indicate that the numbers of Year 7 places required in Year 7 for the next four intake years across Bradford West planning area will fall from 2026. Forecasts for Year 7 places needed over the next five years for Bradford Girls Grammar School are:

2026/27:	111
2027/28:	123
2028/29:	110
2029/30:	100
2030/31:	101
2031/32:	99

The school has considered the following three options:

a) Do nothing and keep the PAN at 145 – School are predicting less than 140 on roll for the Year 7 classes and are not forecasting to fill to 145 meaning the school will not receive the maximum funding. Although the forecast indicates that Year 7 will not fill, there would be an expectation from the Local Authority that the school can still take up to 145 pupils throughout the whole intake year. This may result in a high number of in-year allocations that could potentially require changes to class organisation during the school year which is detrimental to the pupils and the school.

b) Reduce the PAN to 140, the Year 7 cohort is forecast to have between 99 and 123 allocations in the forecast years (2027 - 2031)– There will be sufficient places to meet the forecasted demand for places.

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT are therefore seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN for Bradford Girls Grammar School in the Bradford West planning area.

Specific proposal: Amend the PAN from 145 to 140

Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT propose to reduce the PAN from 145 to 140 from 1st September 2027.

This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Year 7 in 2027 and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts, will be 140. For children who already have a place in the school there will be no change.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT are consulting with key stakeholders, including;

- Bradford Girls Grammar School, Staff
- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- All other Admission Authorities within the District including Bradford LA.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed changes

A copy of the proposal has been published on the BDAT and Bradford Girls Grammar School website.

This consultation will run for six weeks from Monday 1st December 2025 to Friday 23rd January 2026, after which time any representations received will be considered and a report taken to BDAT for a decision to be made on the PAN for Bradford Girls Grammar School. Any questions in relation to the consultation should be sent to the school via School contact email address. office@bggs.bdat-academies.org

Factors that have been considered by Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT when deciding to consult on these proposals include:

- A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many pupil vacancies mean that the school will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Therefore, the school is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively whilst not having a detrimental effect on the education it offers its pupils.
- The school is located in Bradford West planning area where there is a falling demand for secondary places from 2027 / 2031, resulting in a significant surplus across the area. There are also significantly lower numbers of younger children across Bradford West and the wider Bradford District, registered with the NHS who will require a school place over the coming years.

- The total number of pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 recorded by the school on the October 2025 census was 665, which is below the current capacity of 725, using 91.7% of the school capacity.
- Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT are more than willing to look creatively at solutions in conjunction with Bradford Local Authority in the future which may help to solve any problems resulting in a shortage of school places in the Bradford West e.g. a bulge year. Should the LA ask the school to admit children substantially in excess of the published PAN, the LA will employ it's bulge class funding approach.

Other Specific Proposals:

- **The removal of the Fair Banding Process as well as clarification from the Admissions arrangements.**
  The Fair banding process is legacy from when Bradford Girls was an independent school. Both the school and BDAT propose that this is removed. The removal of this will provided a more simplified admissions process, removing the need for additional tests of assessments. It reduces administrative burden on the school and makes the process more transparent and easier for parent to understand.
- **The removal of the SIF form,** will reduce barriers for families who may struggle with paperwork, language or understanding of forms and it makes the process more straightforward for parents and carers.
- **Provide clarity that the school is a single sex girls school.** This will enhance transparency and that families are fully informed from the outset.

This consultation paper will be published on the BDAT and school website

Bradford Girls Grammar School and BDAT believe that reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in their long-term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll and prospective pupils. The reduction in PAN will ensure that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts. Alongside the administration changes which will provide admissions arrangements that are transparent and accessible for all.