Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust

Consultation on PAN reduction proposal at Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College

The purpose of this communication is to provide an opportunity for stakeholder views on the change of the PAN from 300 to 270 per year group.

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College is 300. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in Year 7 each year is a maximum of 300.

Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College and BDAT are proposing to reduce the PAN to 270.

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 270. 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 1610, made up of 300 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. Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College sits in the Bradford South West planning area.

Across the Bradford South West planning area there are 480 Year 7 places. Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College currently has 53 surplus places (there are currently 247 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 South West planning area will fall from 2027. Forecasts for Year 7 places needed over the next five years for Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College are:

2027/28:	280
2028/29:	271
2029/30:	291
2030/31:	287
2031/32:	269

The school has considered the following three options:

a) Do nothing and keep the PAN at 300 – School are predicting less than 270 on roll for the Year 7 classes and are not forecasting to fill to 300 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 300 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 270, the Year 7 cohort is forecast to have between 269 and 291 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. Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College and BDAT are therefore seeking

representations on the proposed change to the PAN for Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College in the Bradford South West planning area.

Specific proposal: Amend the PAN from 300 to 270

Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College and BDAT propose to reduce the PAN from 300 to 270 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 270. For children who already have a place in the school there will be no change.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College and BDAT are consulting with key stakeholders, including;

- Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College, 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 Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College 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 Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College. Any questions in relation to the consultation should be sent to the school via School contact email address admin@bbec.bdat-academies.org

Factors that have been considered by Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College 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 South 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 South 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 1338, which is below the current capacity of 1610, using 83% of the school.
- Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College 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 South

West e.g. a bulge year. Should the LA ask the school to admit children substantially in excess of 1.5FE, the LA will employ it's bulge class funding approach.

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

Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College 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.