



Office of  
the Schools  
Adjudicator

## Determination

**Case reference: VAR2460**

**Admission authority: Worcestershire County Council for Meadow Green Primary School, Wythall.**

**Date of decision: 13 September 2024**

## Determination

**In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by Worcestershire County Council for Meadow Green Primary School for September 2025.**

**I determine that the published admission number for September 2025 shall be reduced from 45 to 30.**

## The referral

1. Worcestershire County Council has referred a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements for September 2025 (the arrangements) for Meadow Green Primary School (the school) to the adjudicator. The school is a community school for children aged 3 to 11 in Wythall.
2. The proposed variation is to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 45 to 30.

## Jurisdiction and procedure

3. The referral was made to me in accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) which deals with variations to determined arrangements. Paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of the School Admissions Code (the Code) say (in so far as relevant here):

“3.6 Once admission arrangements have been determined for a particular school year, they cannot be revised by the admission authority unless such revision is

necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement of this Code, admissions law, a determination of the Adjudicator or any misprint in the admission arrangements. Admission authorities may propose other variations where they consider such changes to be necessary in view of a major change in circumstances. Such proposals **must** be referred to the Schools Adjudicator for approval, and the appropriate bodies notified. Where the local authority is the admission authority for a community or voluntary controlled school, it **must** consult the governing body of the school before making any reference.

3.7 Admission authorities **must** notify the appropriate bodies of all variations”.

4. The local authority has provided me with confirmation that the appropriate bodies have been notified. I have seen confirmation that the school’s governing board has been consulted on the proposed variation. I find that the appropriate procedures were followed, and I am also satisfied that the proposed variation is within my jurisdiction.
5. In considering this matter I have had regard to all relevant legislation, and the Code.
6. The information I have considered in reaching my decision includes:
  - a. the referral from the local authority dated 25 July 2024, supporting documents and further information provided at my request;
  - b. the determined arrangements for 2025 and the proposed variation to those arrangements; and
  - c. my determination, reference VAR2449, published on 25 July 2024 concerning a variation to the 2024 admission arrangements for the school.

## The proposed variation

7. The proposed variation is to reduce PAN for September 2025 from 45 to 30.
8. Paragraph 3.6 of the Code (as above) requires that admission arrangements, once determined, may only be revised, that is changed or varied, if there is a major change of circumstance or certain other limited and specified circumstances. I will consider below whether the variation requested is justified by the change in circumstances.

## Consideration of proposed variation

9. In my determination VAR2449 (which is published on the website of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator) I approved the proposed reduction in the 2024 PAN set for this school from 45 to 30. The reason for this approval was to allow the school to move towards being a one-form-entry primary school (reflecting current and forecast demographic need) with no risk that it might be required to admit more than 30 children into its Reception year group during the school year beginning in September 2024. In that determination I noted that the

local authority had determined a PAN for the school of 45 for September 2025 and that determination VAR2449 did not change this.

10. When VAR2449 was published the local authority immediately submitted a request for the PAN for September 2025 to be reduced from 45 to 30 in line with the objective of becoming a one-form-entry school. I could not, however, consider this request until I had seen evidence that the appropriate bodies had been notified of the proposal and this was received on 11 September 2024.

11. All the demographic and other factors considered in VAR2449 support me reaching the same conclusion concerning the PAN for September 2025 and I will not repeat the argument here. Indeed, my approval of the PAN reduction for September 2024 adds weight to the argument for reducing the PAN for September 2025.

## **Determination**

12. In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by Worcestershire County Council for Meadow Green Primary School for September 2025.

13. I determine that the published admission number for September 2025 shall be reduced from 45 to 30.

Dated: 13 September 2024

Signed:

Schools adjudicator: Phil Whiffing