



December 2025

Consultation on Admissions Arrangements for Sixth Form Entry – September 2027

The Russell Education Trust (RET) is the admissions authority for Bristol Free School. The Local Governing Body reviews proposed changes to the school's admissions policy and undertakes consultation. Following this process, the Governors report the outcomes to RET and make recommendations before RET determines the final policy.

This consultation is carried out in accordance with the **School Admissions Code 2021** and provides the local community with an opportunity to share their views on the proposed arrangements.

Proposed Change: Sixth Form Published Admission Number (PAN)

Bristol Free School Sixth Form has a **Target Admission Number (TAN)** of **150 students** for Year 12. The Sixth Form Centre has limited physical capacity, and exceeding this number would significantly reduce available space, increase class sizes, and adversely affect the quality of education for both current and future students. Maintaining the TAN is essential to ensure a safe, effective learning environment and uphold high standards of teaching and student support.

Internal students are automatically entitled to a place in Year 12, provided they meet the minimum academic entry requirements. While some students choose alternative post-16 options, demand varies each year. With a Year 7 PAN of 200, there is a risk that internal transfers alone could exceed the Year 12 TAN. In 2025, **127 students progressed from Year 11 to Year 12** (a 64% retention rate based on the Year 7 PAN). This figure is likely to rise due to inclusive entry requirements and strong Key Stage 4 outcomes, where **80% of students achieve at least five grades at 4+, including English and Maths**—the minimum entry requirement for BFS Sixth Form.

Our current Year 12 **Published Admission Number (PAN)** for external students is **30**, which is significantly higher than comparable local sixth forms with a similar ratio of Year 12 TAN to Year 7 PAN.

We remain committed to serving our local community by offering places to external students in Year 12. However, to reduce the risk of exceeding our Target Admission Number (TAN) of 150, we are proposing to **reduce the Year 12 PAN for external applicants from 30 to 10**.



Please note:

- The Year 12 PAN represents the **minimum number of external applicants who will be admitted**.
 - This change will have **no** impact on internal Sixth Form applicants. We will continue to offer all internal candidates who meet our entry criteria a guaranteed place in Sixth Form.
 - Additional external applicants may be admitted, provided the total Year 12 intake does not exceed the TAN of 150.
-

How to Respond

We welcome feedback from members of the local community who may be affected by these proposed changes. For school leaders, please share this consultation with parents/carers of children in your school where appropriate.

- **Consultation period:** The statutory six-week consultation will run from **Friday 12 December 2025 – Friday 23 January 2026**
- **Responses:** Please send comments to: admissions.consultation@bristolfreeschool.org.uk or by post to: Bristol Free School, Concorde Drive, Bristol, BS10 6NJ.
- **Documents:** The full consultation documents are available on our website at <https://bristolfreeschool.org.uk> . Paper copies can be requested from the school office if required.