

The King David High School



Headteacher:

Mr J Dalziel BSc (Hons) PGCE

Deputy Head:

Mrs T Basger BEd (Hons)

Assistant Head:

Mr J Pitt BA (Hons) MTeach PGCE

Assistant Head:

Mr A Cheetham BA (Hons) MA QTS

SENDCo:

Mrs H Morrissey BA (Hons) PG Dip NASENCO

7TH December 2023

Consultation regarding a proposed variation in the published admissions number (PAN) for King David High School Manchester with effect from September 2025

Background

The current Published Admissions Number (PAN) for King David High School is 115.

Over the last 30 years the King David High School has grown dramatically and has been at the forefront of providing academic excellence in Manchester for much of this time whilst being a major pillar within the Jewish community having served generations of Manchester Jewry's children. The High School, which is under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, went through Academisation and a substantial rebuild 12 plus years ago, part of which is shared with the Primary School with new buildings, classroom facilities and provisions. Over the last two years, the King David High School has experienced a decline in applications. The school has started to see a trend of further reductions in applications - evidenced by last year's cohort of 85 and a similar number the year before that. This is also supported by recent community and forecasting data which has shown that we are unlikely to come close to the current PAN in subsequent years leaving a financially unsustainable situation. This has been caused by a number of factors including a reduced birth rate within the typical catchment market of the Manchester Jewish community for which the school serves, an outward migration out of Manchester, an increased number of schools places now available within both the private and state sector across different authorities.

For all the above reasons, the Trustees of King David High School seek to reduce the PAN from 115 to 90 places in Year 7 to 11 with effect from September 2025.

EATON ROAD, CRUMPSALL, MANCHESTER, M8 5DY

Tel: (0161) 740 7248

Email: admin@kdhigh.co.uk www.kdhs.org.uk

A Charitable Company and an Exempt Charity regulated by The Secretary of State for Education as the Principal Regulator

As per the Admissions Code 2021 there is a requirement for an admissions authority to consult when decreasing a school's PAN, which includes a requirement to notify other schools within the relevant area as well as other parties when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. King David High School Manchester as the admissions authority is therefore seeking to formally notify the required parties of the proposed change.

Specific Proposal

The Trustees of King David High School propose to reduce the Published Admissions Number of the school for Year 7 to Year 11 from 115 to 90 from September 2025.

This means that the number of places available for children in Year 7 Sep 2025 and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts will be 90. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change but the admissions number for all other subsequent years will reduce to 90.

This is the only proposed change to the admissions criteria. All other criteria including oversubscription, will remain the same.

We firmly believe that a reduced PAN is in the best interests of current and future pupils of the school, in terms of improving the provision for education, health and safety of the children and securing our financial stability and ethos.

Factors that have been considered by the Trustees in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

Over supply of school spaces and declining demand - After observing across the local and neighboring authorities an oversupply of Jewish faith school places and drop in pupil numbers, the school has undertaken a forecasting exercise to try and forecast sibling take up over the coming years. In addition, there has been a decline in the birth rate within the typical catchment section of the Jewish community the school serves as well as outward migration of the local Jewish community which would naturally contribute to lower demand for Jewish school places. The school is therefore forecasting admissions to be materially below previous years to the extent that it will only be viable to continue and maintain its ethos and character with a reduced Pupil Admission Number.

It is also important to note that there has been an increase in school places in the private education sector through the establishment of private Jewish

EATON ROAD, CRUMPSALL, MANCHESTER, M8 5DY

Tel: (0161) 740 7248

Email: admin@kdhigh.co.uk www.kdhs.org.uk

A Charitable Company and an Exempt Charity regulated by The Secretary of State for Education as the Principal Regulator

Schools, with a similar Orthodox Jewish ethos, made available within the local and surrounding areas, thereby contributing to the situation of an oversupply of school places for Jewish children within the Manchester area.

Financial pressures - The Covid pandemic has added additional financial pressures on the school's budget meaning the costs to meet the educational needs of each enrolled child has become harder to cover, with the school now operating at a deficit. The current inflationary environment has also contributed to the financial challenges facing the school in operating the school site and maintaining all buildings and equipment to a high standard. Reducing the PAN allows the consolidation of some classes.

Maintaining the School Ethos and Educational Diversity:

King David High is the local authority's only Jewish high school. This is significant and plays an important role in preserving educational and cultural diversity in Manchester, it also serves and promotes a sense of strong interfaith dialogue between both faith schools and none faith schools.

Promoting Manchester and Making it Attractive to Anglo Jewry:

Manchester boasts a rich Jewish heritage, marked by an inclusive environment and a close-knit relationship with local organisations. The trustees strongly believe that King David High School can continue to be a beacon of educational/academic excellence, and can continue to promote Manchester as an attractive city to Jewish families nationwide, who wish to provide their children with a high standard of education in a Jewish setting, alongside all the amenities and opportunities Manchester has to offer. This in turn would bring to Manchester many benefits such as investment, expertise and much more.

Who is Consulted?

This consultation is for the attention of:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen.
- b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions.
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools)
- d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority.
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority;
- f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

EATON ROAD, CRUMPSALL, MANCHESTER, M8 5DY

Tel: (0161) 740 7248

Email: admin@kdhigh.co.uk www.kdhs.org.uk

A Charitable Company and an Exempt Charity regulated by The Secretary of State for Education as the Principal Regulator

How to Respond

This consultation will run from 7TH December 2023 to 25TH January 2024 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to C/O, Head of Admissions committee, King David High School, Eaton Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5DY, by 25th January 2024 or by email to admissionsconsultation@kdhigh.co.uk , please mark the subject “KDHS PAN Consultation”. Following the consultation period, the Trustees will consider all comments received and determine admissions arrangements for 2025 by 28th February 2024.

The King David High School Admissions Committee (admissions authority)

On behalf of the Trustees

EATON ROAD, CRUMPSALL, MANCHESTER, M8 5DY

Tel: (0161) 740 7248

Email: admin@kdhigh.co.uk www.kdhs.org.uk

A Charitable Company and an Exempt Charity regulated by The Secretary of State for Education as the Principal Regulator