

## Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2027-28

Dear Parents and Carers,

Students at The Woodroffe School achieve incredibly well and consistently do so year on year.

At Woodroffe, we believe in a curriculum that's **broad, ambitious, and built for success**. Students gain the knowledge, and skills needed to achieve **excellent results** and the confidence, creativity, and resilience to go even further. Our teachers are passionate experts, ready to guide, support, and stretch students to reach their full potential.

At KS3, all students follow the full National Curriculum which is never artificially narrowed. Students are offered the largest range of subjects locally at both KS4 and in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. They study nationally recognised qualifications that prepare them for life beyond school, whether that's **Sixth Form**, college, university, an apprenticeship, or work. But it's not just about exams. We want students to thrive as young people: to be reflective and resilient, socially aware, and ready to take on the opportunities and challenges of an ever-changing world. This is achieved through both the curriculum and the extensive extra-curricular opportunities and visits offered.

To ensure we continue to provide the very best education locally, the Governing Body is required to review admissions arrangements and periodically, must consult with parents/carers, local schools and education authorities, by Virtue of Schedule 3 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The outcome of this consultation helps to shape the admission arrangements for the school. This year, we are consulting on a change to admission numbers (AN) following predictions provided by Dorset Council for reduced student numbers in catchment primary schools.

The proposed AN will apply to admissions to the relevant age group (the normal year of entry) commencing from the beginning of the school year 2027/28 and for any subsequent school year. Notice is hereby given for the following changes:

School	Current AN	Proposed AN
Woodroffe School	174	150

The reason for proposing a lower admission number is to set a level which accurately reflects the lower student numbers in our locality and enables the Governing Body to plan more effectively for organisational and budgetary needs based on these numbers. Admissions to the schools will be in accordance with the admissions policy which remains otherwise unchanged.

Currently, Dorset Council has identified that the catchment area of The Woodroffe School has a projection of less than 150 children in year 6 going forward. To make sure that the school can structure itself in an efficient way given these numbers, it is proposed that the school will only allocate 150 places for the year 7 cohort in September 2027 and in subsequent years going forward. This number ensures that all catchment students can attend their local school and provides an appropriate opportunity for those wishing to join the school community from outside the catchment.

**Should you wish to comment on this change of admission arrangements, please email [PAN@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:PAN@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk) from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.**

Woodroffe will continue to offer the broadest curriculum to all students; the same extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities it always has and achieve the highest standards of academic achievement that continues to give students the best possible life opportunities.

Kind regards,



Dan Watts  
Headteacher



Vicki Dixon  
Chair of Governors

## FAQs

### **1. Why is the school proposing to reduce its Admission Number (from 174 to 150)?**

Dorset Council's demographic projections show a sustained reduction in the number of Year 6 pupils living in our catchment area. Setting the Admission Number (AN) at 150 allows the school to plan staffing, resources and budgets efficiently while still providing high-quality education for all students.

### **2. If demand increases in future, can the Admission Number be changed again?**

Yes. Admission Numbers are reviewed periodically. If demographic forecasts change, the Governing Body can consult on revising the number again in the future to meet local need.

### **3. Will this change affect the schools excellent track record of exam success?**

Currently, at both GCSE and A-Level, our school out-performs other non-selective schools in the area. This year, Woodroffe was the highest performing school in Dorset, and we are proud of the tremendous academic results our students achieve every year. More than that, our school is thriving in terms of the breadth of experiences our young people can access and the wide range of ways we support them to grow in confidence and capability for adult life. This decision will not affect this.

### **4. Will the quality of education, curriculum or subjects offered be affected?**

No. Woodroffe will continue to offer the broadest, most ambitious curriculum, including the full National Curriculum at KS3, the largest local range of subjects at KS4 and Sixth Form, and extensive extracurricular opportunities. The proposed change supports the school in sustaining this high-quality provision.

### **5. Will this reduction mean that some local children cannot get a place at Woodroffe?**

No. The proposed AN of 150 has been chosen specifically because Dorset Council projects fewer than 150 Year 6 children in the catchment area for the coming years. This means all local catchment children will continue to be able to attend their local school.

### **6. Will siblings still get priority for a place?**

Yes. The admissions policy, including priority for siblings, remains unchanged.

### **7. Will class sizes increase?**

No. Class sizes are not expected to increase because of this change.

### **8. What will this mean for financial planning?**

All state schools are working with increasingly challenging budgets but for Woodroffe, this is a proactive measure to ensure the school remains financially and organisationally stable considering a reduction in local student numbers. It allows the school to plan staffing and resources more effectively for the long term. It is important we work with accurate figures to create a strategic budget that supports our ambitions as a school.

### **9. How will this affect families applying from outside the catchment area?**

Applications from outside the catchment will still be considered in line with the admissions policy, which remains unchanged. While priority is always given to catchment children, the proposed AN still allows places for students from outside the area. The proposed changes are proportionate to demographic predictions, so we don't expect the proportion of catchment and non-catchment pupils to change significantly.

### **10. Does this affect children already at Woodroffe or those joining before 2027?**

No. The proposed AN applies only to new Year 7 admissions from September 2027 onwards. Current students and those joining before 2027 are not impacted by this change.

### **11. Can I give feedback or ask questions about the proposal?**

Yes. As part of the statutory consultation starting on **Friday 28 November 2025**, parents, carers, and community members are invited to comment. Please email your feedback to [PAN@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:PAN@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk) by **Friday 23 January 2026**.

### **12. Where can I see the full admissions policy?**

The admissions policy can be found at [Admissions – The Woodroffe School](#)

### **13. When will the final decision be made and when will parents be notified of the change?**

The Governing Body will make the decision on the AN for the academic year 2027/28 during February 2026, having considered any feedback from the consultation. Parents will be informed of the decision after this meeting.