

Questions for the school

1	<p>When was the school's PAN last calculated and is it available to the public?</p> <p>The PAN was last assessed by Walsall Council on 11/07/2019.</p> <p>It is available to the public on the admissions section of the school website and appears on page 14 of the booklet "information for parents" issued by the Local Authority.</p> <p>The PAN is published in the school's Admissions Policy each year.</p>
2	<p>Has there been any significant building work at the school since the PAN was last calculated? If so what has been built?</p> <p>No</p>
3	<p>As there are 243 pupils, which is divided into 9 groups of 27 students, I would like to know how many students will be removed from the teaching groups on the basis of SEND on average. Are those students removed every single lesson for that particular subject?</p> <p>Ours is an inclusive school and our policy is that SEND students, whenever possible, are not removed from lessons and receive support within mainstream lessons. When a students with SEND are removed form lessons it is based on reasonable adjustment for the students individual needs. There are "break away" groups for SEND and EAL that are planned for a set period of time rather than specific lessons.</p>
4	<p>Is every single class size in each teaching group of core subjects – Maths, English, Science, RE, History ,Geography, Language 30</p> <p>- Class sizes in core subjects are not all 30 - they range from 31 to 20 dependant on ability.</p>
5	<p>If the capacity of DT and ICT rooms is 22 and 25 respectively, so there are there more than 9 groups for those subject areas? If not how many groups are there and how many students are in each group?</p> <p>Capacity in DT is 22 and a result they will have 6 classes per year half not 5 - ICT the capacity is 30 with some at 25.</p>
6	<p>What practical difference would one more child make?</p> <p>More pupils will prejudice the provision of efficient education and its quality. More will equal worse not better. - More children will not only increase existing strains on resources and facilities but will, in some cases, take these strains to breaking point resulting in poorer standards of attainment. - The education of existing pupils will be at risk and compromised by the admission of more pupils in each Year Group. Standards of learning and achievement are likely to fall - the exact opposite of the purpose of the school. Statistical data about pupil progress is showing that they are not doing as well as they might. The school has a singular duty and responsibility in this respect to its existing pupils.</p>

	<p>It is clear that there are serious health and safety issues in respect of parts of the building arising because of the size of the pupil population. These cannot be ignored nor must they be made worse.</p>
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Panel's questions for the school

1	<p>Who does the measurement of distance from home to school?</p> <p>Walsall Local Authority using Ordinance Survey Software</p>
2	<p>Timetable for the process of sorting the applications. Dates etc...</p> <p>Applications Submitted by 31 October 2019, Admissions Committee Meeting Held 16 December 2019, Offers Made 01 March 2020</p>
3	<p>Average class size is 27, does this allow enough flexibility for different situations i.e.IT, sport, crafts, and students with SEND?</p> <p>Capacity in DT is 22 and a result they will have 6 classes per year half not 5 - ICT the capacity is 30 with some at 25 Physical Education groups are a maximum of 24 students Class sizes allow for wheelchair access and movement</p>
4	<p>What are the SEND/PP percentages for the school?</p> <p>21.5% of our students are SEND, with 22 on EHCP's. 43.2% Y7-Y11 students are Pupil Premium.</p>
5	<p>Is there much mobility out of the school?</p> <p>No, Current Year 7 lost 2 students in the past 12 Months</p> <p>Mobility tends to be Year 10 onwards.</p>
6	<p>How many teaching assistants work with Year 7?</p> <p>TAs are not allocated by year group but by educational need Students with EHIC plans will have specific hours and TAs will be allocated to individual students according to the requirement of their plans. These hours are funded by the students LA. The school employs TAs and pays them out of our funds. These are usually allocated across the core subjects through years 7-11.</p> <p>We are not fully aware of the ability levels of our new intake at this stage of any school year as this information is collated through our transition process. However the Covid 19 crisis has exacerbated this situation even further, and we are only now collating information form our 40+ feeder primary schools.</p> <p>However, at the start of each academic year we allocate a TA to work with a Year 7 form group for pastoral reasons for the first two weeks, in order to settle the students in.</p>
7	<p>What is the staff to pupil ratio?</p> <p>187/1503 (this includes all staff) 98/1503 (Teaching staff including part time)</p>

8	<p>You comment that pupil progress suggests pupils are not doing as well as they might? Is this across all year groups? In all subjects? What measures are the school putting in place to deal with this? Do any of these measures have financial implications?</p> <p>This is in all year groups across the core subjects. We have addressed this by looking at our curriculum model and increasing the number of groups, this decreasing the number of students in these groups.</p> <p>Our main areas of underachievement are: WBRI, especially boys PP SEND</p> <p>Our actions do not have financial implications for the school. We are fully staffed, with a little over staffing in core subjects.</p>
9	<p>Are there any classes that have 31+ and how does this affect attainment</p> <p>There are only very exceptional circumstances where class sizes are ever 30+. This is normally at the discretion/ request of the relevant Head of Department and it usually would be in the highest set only. It would have no impact on attainment.</p>
10	<p>How are classes made up? (E.g. are there smaller SEND groups?/are core subjects in sets?)</p> <p>Each year group is divided in roughly equal halves of roughly equal ability. Within each half year group (known as T and M) .</p> <p>In the core subjects this enables setting groups within each half year and whilst higher sets will have more students (maximum 31) and lower sets have less students, there are no discrete SEND groups.</p> <p>In option subjects at KS4 groups are taken from all the year group and setting can only take place where option numbers allow it.</p> <p>There is a discrete Princes Trust option group for each year group in KS4 which caters for the needs of SEND students.</p>
11	<p>How is pupil movement around the school managed? How is the start and end of the day managed in terms of Health & Safety?</p> <p>St Thomas More Catholic School was built at a time when there were fewer pupils – around 1,100 - and there was less of a requirement for pupils to move around the building. In the current climate these areas become seriously congested at certain times of the day when over 1,500 students are seeking access to classrooms via corridors and stairwells. There is congestion which could lead to danger for the pupils. Such congestion is not compatible with good behaviour.</p> <p>However, in order to ensure smooth and safe movement of students around the school there is a movement process that staff and students follow, students entering school at key doors depending on which lessons they have. Students are expected to keep to the left in corridors and on stairs. Staff meet and greet students at the start of each lesson, and are in the corridors to dismiss them, and are on corridors and classrooms doors to ensure students follow the process.</p> <p>There is a designated duty team led by a member of SLT at the start and end of the school day, and at break and lunchtimes.</p> <p>At lunchtime and the end of the day there are staff at key points throughout the school to ensure a safe exit.</p> <p>However, with the Covid 19 crisis the school is introducing a staggered start and end to the day, , enforcing 2 metre social distancing and a one way system. These will have to be reviewed for September.</p>

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Is there any building work planned in the future?

No