Broomfield Community Primary School

DfE Number: 2168 **Status:** Academy Convertor

Planning Area: Rearsby East Goscote (Planning Area 855 0304), Charnwood Borough Council

Admission Number (PAN): Official/Original number 38 – Temp agreement with the LA 30

School capacity if based on the official PAN: 266

School capacity as reported on GIAS: 226

School capacity as reported by the LA: 210

Aim of the consultation: Broomfield Community Primary School (BRO) is seeking to confirm a permanent PAN of 30. This is a reduction from its original PAN of 38.

Commentary

Leicestershire County Council's(LCC) school place strategy 2026 – 2031 indicates that the Rearsby East Goscote planning area, in which Broomfield Community Primary School (BRO) is located, has two schools with a capacity of 315 places.

The LA's strategy document indicates that there are sufficient places in this development group. LCC modelling already assumes a PAN of 30 for BRO.

BRO previously operated a PAN of 38. Bradgate Education Partnership agreed with Leicestershire Council to operate a temporary PAN of 30 to help the school secure more financial security.

The evidence set out below shows that actual demand for places at BRO, and across the wider planning area, do not require a PAN of 38 as:

- the school has consistently admitted fewer pupils than this to reception
- overall rolls and applications have remained well below the capacity associated with a PAN of 38 (See Fig 1).

Aligning the school's PAN with the school's experience of admissions would:

- preserve effective parental choice
- allow the trust to plan staffing and budgets with confidence.

Justification for a PAN reduction

The trust acknowledges that the LA has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places, and recognises the Code's strong presumption in favour of higher, not lower, admission numbers. The evidence set out in this document demonstrates that a PAN of 30 reflects genuine, sustained reduction in local demand rather than organisational or budgetary preference.

Admissions and 1st preferences for BRO have consistently remained below 38(Fig 1). In addition, the wider planning area (including adjoining areas) retains sufficient capacity to accommodate any residual demand, without requiring unreasonable travel distances for families.

Confirming the PAN at 30 on a permanent basis would formalise the arrangement that already exists between the LA and the school and reflects how families are using the school. A secondary, but genuine, benefit of this alignment between PAN and demand is that it allows the trust to plan staffing and budgets more effectively. This is a consequence of matching provision to need, not the reason for the change itself.

Local demand

The trust is mindful that there is considerable uncertainty in respect of future pupil numbers.

Nationally, the number of primary-aged pupils is falling. This, combined with the infant class size restrictions, raises the likelihood that a school with a PAN (Pupil Admission Number) greater than local demand could experience significant financial hardship.

Local area data (Table 6) suggests that the planning area in which BRO exists will retain a surplus in every year to 2030. Pupil numbers across this period range from a surplus of 38 places in 2025/26 to a low of 7 places in 2028/29 before recovering to a surplus of 15 by 2029/30. The trust recognises that 7 places is a narrow margin in a single year, and does not rely on it in isolation. Taken across the full period, and alongside the following evidence, this single narrower year does not indicate a developing sufficiency problem:

- St Michaels & All Angels Church of England primary in LCC forecasts are consistently under their 105 capacity – On average 12 surplus places (Table 6)
- At least 15 places are available in the adjoining 8550704 (Thrusington area) which is just 2.2 miles from BRO (Table 7)
- Adjoining planning area 855 0204 has on average more than 100 spare places in the years 2026-2031 (Table 8)

Given all of the above, the trust maintains that formalising the PAN for BRO at 30 reflects genuine local demand and is not in conflict with the LA's duty to secure sufficient school places, since spare capacity is retained.

Rearsby East Goscote planning area (855 0304)

School	AN	Cap	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Broomfield Community Primary School	30	210	193	195	197	207	202
St Michael & All Angels C of E Primary School	15	105	84	86	98	101	98
Total	**45**	**315**	**277**	**281**	**295**	**308**	**300**
Spare capacity			**38**	**34**	**20**	**7**	**15**

Table 6: Data drawn from LCC Place planning strategy document

The data in Table 6 is from the LA's place planning strategy document 2026-2031. This indicates that there are sufficient places within the 855 0304 planning area.

Adjoining areas:

Two areas of note adjoin the 855 0304 planning area:

- Planning area 855 0704 (Thrusington)
- Planning area 855 0204 (Barkby Syston Queniborough).

Planning area 855 0704 has just one school:

Forecast Data	AN	Cap	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Thrussington Primary	15	105	90	84	83	87	**88**
Total:	**15**	**105**	**90**	**84**	**83**	**87**	**88**

Table 7: *Data sheet from LCC place planning strategy individual area sheets*

Table 7, taken directly from the LA's strategy document, predicts that this area would maintain a spare capacity of between 15 and 22 places across the 2025-2031 period.

Planning area 855 0204 has 4 schools:

Forecast Data	AN	Cap	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
St Peter and St Paul Church of England Academy	75	525	379	370	352	337	323
Queniborough Church of England Primary School	30	210	204	**226**	**244**	**259**	**273**
The Merton Primary School	60	420	420	418	**426**	**433**	**433**
The Pochin School	20	140	**138**	**138**	**139**	**141**	**142**
Total:	**185**	**1295**	**1141**	**1152**	**1161**	**1170**	**1171**

Table 8: *Data sheet from LCC place planning strategy individual area sheets*

The total number of available pupil places in this area is 1295.

Across the period 2026 – 2031 there are typically 100+ spare school places each year.

Queniborough CofE Primary is just 1.4 miles from BRO with St Peter & St Paul CofE being 1.8 miles and Pochin 2.2 miles.

Pupil numbers over time (school-level)

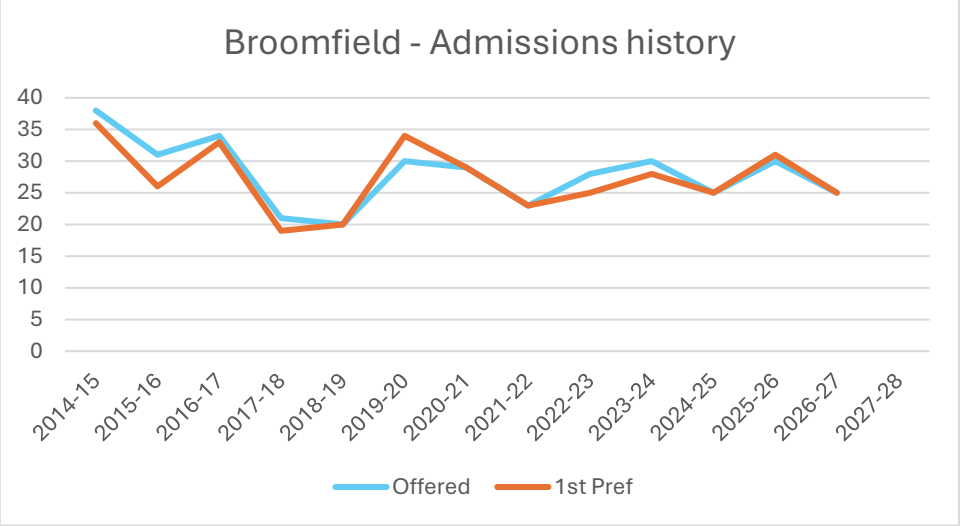
In the case of BRO, neither LA predictions, nor the school's admission history shows any significant volatility. School data does highlight a gradual reduction in pupil numbers over time.

Figure 1 tracks the historical first preference and place offer statistics for the school and shows that offers were already below 38 in 2015 at which point they fell before remaining around or below 30 ever since.

Year	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Pupils on roll	193	195	197	207	202
Available spaces against estimate (Capacity)	17	15	13	3	8
Actual number of pupils	195	195	[redacted]		
Number of pupils admitted in reception	29	27			
Available spaces against school trend	-2	0			

Table 9: Actual admissions compared to LCC forecasts

Figure 1:



Impact and Equalities assessment

The trust has considered the equalities impact of this proposal, including for pupils with SEND, disadvantaged families and other protected groups, and does not consider that a PAN of 30, will disproportionately affect access for any such group.

There are sufficient places, both in the planning area and adjoining areas to ensure that all pupils are able to access a school place, regardless of race, religious, socio-economic status or disability.

As there is no change to the existing temporary PAN, there are no other equalities issues to assess.