Consultation on Proposed Changes to Admission Arrangements for 2028/29

Proposed Reception PAN reductions at Greystoke, Danemill and Mowmacre Hill Primary Schools, and changes to oversubscription criteria at Wellington Place and Farndon Fields Primary Schools.

Consultation period: Monday 2 November 2026 to Monday 14 December 2026
Proposed implementation: Academic Year starting from September 2028
Admission authority: Discovery Schools Academies Trust Ltd ("Discovery Trust" or "the Trust")

The proposal

Discovery Trust is consulting on proposed changes to its admission arrangements for 2028/29 intake. The consultation covers:

(1) reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry to Reception by 15 places at Greystoke Primary School, Danemill Primary School and Mowmacre Hill Primary School, from 45 to 30;
(2) changing both Wellington Place Primary School and Farndon Fields Primary School's oversubscription criteria so that sibling priority is ranked ahead of catchment priority.

The proposed arrangements would apply to children starting in Reception year in September 2028 and, where relevant, to subsequent admission cohorts unless changed through a future lawful determination. No final decision has been made. All responses received by the closing date will be considered by the Board of Trustees before it determines the admission arrangements.

Proposed Published Admission Numbers 2028/29

School	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Change
Greystoke Primary School, Narborough	45	30	Reduction of 15 Reception places
Danemill Primary School, Enderby	45	30	Reduction of 15 Reception places
Mowmacre Hill Primary School, Leicester	45	30	Reduction of 15 Reception places

The PAN is the number of places the admission authority must offer in the normal admissions round where sufficient applications are received. The PAN element of this consultation concerns reductions of 15 places, from 45 to 30, at the three schools listed above.

The consultation also seeks views on changing the oversubscription criteria at Wellington Place Primary School and Farndon Fields Primary School so that sibling priority is ranked ahead of catchment priority. The full draft 2028/29 Trust Admissions Policy accompanies this consultation. Its consolidation of Badgerbrook Primary School and Barwell Junior School's existing arrangements is explained below and is not presented as a separate proposed change to admission arrangements.

Consolidated Trust Admissions Policy: background information

The draft 2028/29 Trust Admissions Policy brings Badgerbrook Primary School and Barwell Junior School's existing admission arrangements together within Part B – Primary and Junior School Arrangements 2028. This consolidation is intended to provide a single reference document, rather than change either school's admission arrangements. The consultation proposals concern the PAN reductions and oversubscription changes described in this paper. Respondents may also comment on the clarity of the consolidated policy through the general comments question. The full draft policy should be read alongside this consultation paper.

Wellington Place and Farndon Fields Primary Schools: oversubscription criteria

For Wellington Place Primary School, the proposed change is to reverse the relative priority of catchment and sibling applicants. The current ordering in Appendix 1 of the Trust Admission Policy 27/28, Tables 3 and 4 gives catchment priority above sibling priority. The proposed ordering will follow Appendix 1, Tables 1 and 2, so that sibling priority is considered before catchment priority. All higher-priority statutory categories and the remaining published criteria will continue to operate in the order set out in the proposed arrangements. The word 'older' has also been removed from 'older sibling', so the sibling criterion refers simply to a 'sibling', rather than only an older sibling.

For Farndon Fields Primary School, the Trust also proposes to rank sibling priority ahead of catchment priority. Where applications exceed the places available, this would give sibling applicants priority over applicants qualifying through catchment alone, subject to the higher-priority categories and definitions in the proposed arrangements. For consistency the word 'older' has also been removed from 'older sibling', so the sibling criterion refers simply to a 'sibling', rather than only an older sibling.

The full draft policy should be read for the complete proposed order at each school.

Background and case for change

Discovery Trust is the admission authority for these academies and is responsible for determining clear, fair and lawful admission arrangements. The Trust has reviewed first-time admission trends, local birth data, local authority pupil forecasts, available capacity, housing trajectories and the operational implications of maintaining PANs that are consistently above likely demand.

The Trust's April 2026 analysis identified continuing surplus primary capacity. Across Leicester City, forecast demand for 2028/29 was 4,069 places against capacity of 4,768, a projected surplus of 699 places (14.67%). Across the group of Discovery schools in Leicestershire considered in the Trust's analysis, forecast demand for 2028/29 was 494 places against capacity

of 525, a projected surplus of 31 places (5.90%). These area-level figures do not by themselves determine the proposal; they provide context for the school-level evidence.

School-level evidence informing the proposal		
School	**2026/27 Reception offers April 2026**	**Relevant forecast evidence**
Greystoke Primary School	30 against PAN 45	Trust-held local authority forecasts indicated approximately 30-36 Reception pupils per year between 2027/28 and 2030/31. However, these forecast numbers are not being reflected in places taken at the school. Catchment birth rates and first-time admission numbers are also declining. The cumulative impact on the school is significant.
Danemill Primary School	29 against PAN 45	Trust-held local authority forecasts indicated approximately 29-41 Reception pupils per year between 2027/28 and 2030/31. As at Greystoke, these forecast numbers are not being reflected in places taken at the school. A new school being built in the same catchment area is expected to reduce demand further.
Mowmacre Hill Primary School	28 against PAN 45	Leicester City forecasts show substantial city-wide surplus capacity. The school-level proposal is based on sustained local demographic pressure and recent demand; recent City Council planning-area forecasts and birth rate data obtained for 2027/28 and 2030/31 continue the downward trend which needs to be addressed for the financial viability of the school.

The proposal is intended to align the normal Reception intake more closely with sustainable one-form-entry organisation, support stable staffing and curriculum planning, and reduce the risk of repeated in-year changes to class structures. A PAN of 30 also aligns with the statutory infant class size limit of 30 pupils to one schoolteacher, subject to the permitted exceptions in legislation.

What the proposed changes would mean

- Current pupils and pupils admitted before September 2028 would not lose their places.
- The PAN reductions would apply only to the normal point of entry to Reception from September 2028.
- At Wellington Place and Farndon Fields Primary Schools, sibling priority would be ranked ahead of catchment priority, subject to the higher-priority categories and definitions set out in the proposed arrangements.

- Badgerbrook Primary School and Barwell Junior School's existing admission arrangements would be brought together within Part B of the consolidated 2028/29 Trust Admissions Policy, rather than changed through this consolidation.
- The Trust would continue to admit a child where an Education, Health and Care plan names the school, in accordance with section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- Applications would be ranked under the determined oversubscription criteria. Parents would retain the statutory right of appeal where a place is refused.
- The PAN does not operate as an automatic limit for other year groups. In-year applications would continue to be considered under the applicable admission arrangements and the School Admissions Code.
- The Trust would continue to cooperate with the relevant local authority on place planning, Fair Access Protocols and the admission of vulnerable and unplaced children.
- Trustees may approve, amend where lawful, or decline any element of the proposals after considering consultation responses and the relevant statutory requirements.

Equality, access and sufficiency

Before determining the arrangements, the Trust will consider its Public Sector Equality Duty and any potential effect on children with protected characteristics, disadvantaged families, siblings, children with SEND, looked-after and previously looked-after children, and families who may have fewer practical alternatives because of distance or transport. In light of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 provisions on co-operation between schools and local authorities over admissions and place planning, the Trust will work with the relevant local authorities to assess each proposal alongside other schools' admission arrangements and capacity, local demand forecasts and current or expected housing development. This assessment will consider the combined effect on sufficient school places, fair access and the needs of vulnerable and unplaced children, rather than the position of each school in isolation. The Trust will consider any disproportionate impacts and appropriate measures to address them before reaching its decision, taking account of the statutory requirements and guidance in force at that time. Respondents are invited to identify evidence about equality, accessibility, travel or local sufficiency that the Trust should consider.

Who will be consulted

The Trust will invite views from families, staff, local governance bodies, neighbouring schools, relevant local authorities and other interested parties on the proposed PAN reductions and the proposed oversubscription changes at Wellington Place and Farndon Fields Primary Schools. The consolidated draft policy will be available alongside the consultation, including to the Badgerbrook and Barwell school communities. The consultation will be promoted and shared as follows:

- **Families:** parents and carers of children currently attending Greystoke Primary School, Danemill Primary School, Mowmacre Hill Primary School, Wellington Place Primary School, Farndon Fields Primary School, Badgerbrook Primary School and Barwell Junior School, together with prospective families in the relevant areas. Each affected school will place a consultation notice prominently in its reception area; provide information through its usual newsletters, parent bulletins, websites and electronic communication channels; and direct families to the consultation paper, draft admission policy and response form.

- **Staff:** all staff employed at each affected school, including teaching, support and administrative staff. The consultation will be shared through a school staff briefing and presentation.
- **Advisory Boards:** the Advisory Board for each affected school will receive the consultation paper and be invited to submit a formal response. The Board of Trustees will be kept informed but will not determine the proposal until the consultation has closed and all responses have been considered.
- **Trade Unions:** As part of the Trust Trade Union Recognition Agreement and Joint Consultative Committee meetings**.**
- **Neighbouring and feeder schools:** schools and admission authorities serving the relevant local areas, including neighbouring primary schools and relevant early years providers, will receive the consultation directly and be invited to comment on local demand, place sufficiency and any wider effect.
- **Local authorities:** Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland will be consulted, including their admissions and school-place-planning teams. Adjoining local authorities will also be consulted where the proposal may affect their residents or school-place planning.
- **Diocese:** the relevant diocesan authority will be consulted where a school has a designated religious character, a diocesan relationship or where the Diocese may otherwise have a relevant interest.
- **Other interested parties:** relevant community organisations and other persons in the local areas who may have an interest in any of the proposed admission changes will be invited to respond.
- **Public notice and websites:** the full consultation paper, proposed 2028/29 admission arrangements, revised Appendix 1 tables and response information will be published for the full consultation period on the Discovery Trust website and on the websites of all affected schools.

How to respond

Please submit your response by **11:59 pm on Monday 14 December 2026** using the **online consultation response form**. Paper responses may be sent to **Admissions Consultation, c/o Parkland Primary School, Six Acres, St Thomas Road, South Wigston, LE18 4TA**. You can also email feedback to admissionsconsultation@discoverytrust.org.

Please identify the school or schools and proposals on which you are commenting. You may respond to any or all of the questions below.

1. Do you support the proposed reduction from 45 to 30 at the school or schools on which you are commenting? Please explain your view.
2. Do you support changing the oversubscription criteria at Wellington Place Primary School and/or Farndon Fields Primary School so that sibling priority is ranked ahead of catchment priority? Please identify which school your response concerns and explain your view separately for each school.
3. Is there evidence about local demand, housing development, travel, accessibility, equality, sibling access or school-place sufficiency that the Trust should consider?
4. Do you have any other comments on the proposed admission arrangements?

Responses may be summarised in a public consultation report. Names and contact details of individual respondents will not normally be published, although responses may be disclosed where required by law. The Trust may contact a respondent to clarify evidence provided. The number of responses for or against a proposal will be reported, but the decision will be based on the substance of the evidence and the statutory requirements, not on a simple majority vote.

Consultation and determination timetable

Implementation timeline for 2028/29 admission arrangements		
Date	**Action**	**Requirement or control**
26 – 29 October 2026	Undertake staff briefings at schools affected by the proposed PAN reductions.	Outline the proposals and provide information and assurance to school teams.
2 November 2026	Launch the statutory consultation and publish this paper with the full proposed 2028/29 admission arrangements.	Consultation falls within the permitted 1 October–31 January window.
14 December 2026	Consultation closes at 11:59 pm.	This provides a full six-week consultation period from 2 November 2026.
15–21 December 2026	Acknowledge and analyse responses; identify themes for each PAN proposal, each school's oversubscription change and any comments on the consolidated policy; consider equality, sufficiency and local authority evidence; seek clarification where needed.	Maintain a complete consultation record and avoid publishing personal data unnecessarily.
By 22 January 2027	Prepare the consultation outcome report, updated equality analysis and recommendations on each proposed PAN reduction and on the oversubscription changes at Wellington Place and Farndon Fields Primary Schools. Include any comments on the consolidated policy and the final draft 2028/29 admission arrangements.	The evidence and consultation responses for each proposal must be considered separately. The Board may approve or decline each PAN reduction and each school's proposed oversubscription change, and will determine the final admission arrangements.
By 28 February 2027	Board of Trustees determines the 2028/29 admission arrangements and records its reasons and consideration of consultation responses.	Statutory determination deadline.
By 15 March 2027	Publish the determined admission arrangements on the Trust and school websites and send a copy to the relevant	Statutory publication deadline; arrangements should remain

	local authority. Complete any notification or consent process required by an academy funding agreement or current DfE significant-change guidance.	accessible for the whole offer year.
By 15 May 2027	End of the statutory period for objections to determined arrangements to be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.	Publish information explaining the right to object and the applicable route.
Autumn 2027–January 2028	Local authorities publish admissions information and coordinate applications for Reception entry in September 2028; primary applications close on 15 January 2028.	Ensure all composite prospectuses, application systems and school websites show the determined PANs, oversubscription criteria and applicable Part B policy.
18 April 2028	Primary National Offer Day, because 16 April 2028 falls on a Sunday and 17 April is the Easter Monday bank holiday.	Offers are communicated by local authorities in accordance with the coordinated scheme.
September 2028	Any approved PAN reductions and oversubscription changes at Wellington Place and Farndon Fields Primary Schools take effect for September 2028 entry, alongside the determined 2028/29 Trust Admissions Policy.	Monitor admissions, appeals, local sufficiency and any need for future variation.

The dates above provide a controlled route from consultation to implementation. If the Board meeting schedule changes, the Trust must still determine by 28 February 2027 and publish by 15 March 2027.

Legal and policy framework

This consultation is undertaken under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Admissions Code 2021. The Code requires consultation where an admission authority proposes a reduction in PAN and where other changes to admission arrangements are proposed. Consultation must last at least six weeks and take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. Arrangements for 2028/29 must be determined by 28 February 2027 and published by 15 March 2027. The Trust will also have regard to the Equality Act 2010, the Children and Families Act 2014, infant class size legislation and its academy funding agreements.

The School Admissions Code is available at GOV.UK. Please read the full proposed admission arrangements for 2028/29 alongside this consultation paper. The consultation paper and proposed arrangements will be published on the Discovery Trust website and the websites of all affected schools for the full consultation period.