

Admissions Policy Consultation 2025-2026

North West Academies Trust is conducting a consultation on its admissions policy for 2025-2026.

Admissions Policy Consultation

North West Academies Trust (the “Admission Authority”) is the admission authority for the schools below (the “Academy”) and will be the admissions authority for Millfields Primary Academy.

The Admission Authority is consulting on the Academy’s proposed Admission Arrangements for 2025-2026 in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

The purpose of this consultation is to create an open dialogue and gather feedback on key aspects of the proposed admissions policies.

Duration of the Consultation

The consultation process is open from Monday 11th December 2023 to Friday 26th January 2024. If you wish to comment on the proposal you must submit your response in writing during this period. Details of how to submit your views are set out below (see “How to respond to the Consultation?”)

Who is involved in the Consultation?

- parents of children between the ages of 2 and 18;
- the local authority.
- other persons in the area who in the opinion of the Admission Authority have an interest in the proposal; and
- all other admission authorities in the local area;

The Proposal

The Admission Authority proposes the following admissions policy for 2025-2026. This consultation is being undertaken to comply with The Admissions Code 2021. A copy of the proposed admissions policy can be found on the Academy Website.

How to respond to the Consultation?

We appreciate your involvement and encourage you to participate in one or more of the following ways:

Respond in Writing:

- You are invited to send any comments in relation to the proposal in writing. Please send your written response to admin@nwatrust.co.uk. Please add in the subject line ‘Admissions’ followed by the name of the Academy.
- or mail it to the following address:

Clerk of Trustees
Admissions consultation
The North West Academies Trust
The Coach House,
15a Union Street,
Chester,
CH1 1QP

What happens next?

Following the consultation period, the Admission Authority will consider any comments received and determine how to proceed by 28th February 2024. The Admission Authority will publish the admission arrangements for the Academy by 15th March 2024. A copy of the Admission Arrangements 2025-2026 will be published on the Academy's website.

North West Academies Trust's proposed changes to Admission Arrangements for 2025-2026 at the following schools.

A review of the admission arrangements for the schools in North West Academies Trust (the 'Trust') has taken place. Following this review the Trust is consulting on the changes proposed to the schools' admission arrangements for 2025-2026.

Having reviewed the oversubscription criteria for all of the schools in the Trust, The Trustees propose to amend the oversubscription criteria as follows.

Children of Staff

Several schools within the Trust, but not all has **Children of Staff** criteria included in its Admissions Policies;

Trustees therefore propose to treat all Trust employees fairly, the admission arrangements for each of its schools should include this criteria and that, to allow all staff members an equal opportunity to benefit, it should appear at position 3.

The proposal is that the wording of the criteria is as follows:

Children of staff of the Academy who have been employed for two or more years at the time of the application or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. To qualify under this criterion, the staff member must be a 'direct employee'. This includes any member of staff (teaching or non-teaching) with two years continuous employment with the school or seasonal employment totalling two years. Staff contracted in to provide services to the school do not count as 'direct employees'. For the purposes of this criterion, 'children of staff' is taken to include a son, daughter or step-son/daughter, or child who is adopted or fostered or for whom a special guardianship order is in place, in all cases providing they are living at the same address as the parent who is employed by the school

For clarity, applicants in this category will be ranked by distance.

Distance

Trustees recognised that schools need to align the calculation of distance with their local authority. Several schools did not align the process for calculating distance with their local authority's process for calculating distance and therefore this will be amended to ensure that the local authority for each school will be able to determine the distance for each admission request.

Proposed change of text for the **Distance** criteria.

Pupils living nearest to the Academy measured using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) which measures straight line distances in miles from the Academy's coordinate point to the place of the child's residence coordinate point.

Pupil Premium and Service Premium

Several schools within the Trust, but not all, has **Pupil Premium and/or Service Premium** criteria included in its Admissions Policies. Trustees therefore propose to remove pupil premium and service premium as oversubscription criteria, to align all of the schools within the Trust.

Nursery places

Several schools within the Trust have their own onsite Nursery or Pre School which is run by the local governing board. Trustees recognise the benefits of ensuring consistency for early years children and therefore propose to add nursery criteria to those schools with early years provision as an oversubscription criteria.

Proposed text for the **Nursery places** criteria.

Children who attend the onsite Nursery School or Pre School – Children will be classed in this category if they attend the (Name of Academy) Nursery School or Pre School at the time of application. NB: Children who go to a nursery or pre-school based at a school do not get a guaranteed place at the school. You must still make a reception application.

Increase of Pupil Admission Number (PAN)

There is only one school which is being consulted on, in regard to an increase in PAN, as below.

St Martin's Academy

The Local Governing Board and Trustees have agreed to formally increase the published admission number (PAN) from 25 to 26 and therefore the Trustees wish to consult on this increase in PAN.

Summary of proposed alterations to the oversubscription criteria.

The schools within North West Academies Trust are either consulting on admission arrangements on a 7-year cycle and/or consulting on changes to their admission arrangements. Where changes have been proposed, details are given here:

Acresfield Academy	No change
Acton Church of England Primary Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria
Calveley Primary Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria
Delamere Church of England Primary Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria
Ellesmere Primary School	No change
The Grosvenor Park Church of England Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria
Kingsbourne Academy	No change
Millfields Primary School and Nursery to be known as Millfields Primary Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria

The Oak View Academy	No change
The Rudheath Senior Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria
St Martin's Academy Chester	Change to PAN
Weaverham Primary Academy	Alteration to oversubscription criteria

The consultation documents and further information can be found on the individual school websites and on the North West Academies Trust website <https://northwestacademiestrust.co.uk/> under 'About the Trust', Admissions tab.

Summary of proposed oversubscription criteria for 2025-2026

Oversubscription criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6
Acresfield Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Nursery children	Distance	
Acton Church of England Primary Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Catchment	Distance	
Calveley Primary Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Nursery children	Catchment	Distance
Delamere Church of England Primary Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Distance		
Ellesmere Primary School	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Catchment	Distance	
The Grosvenor Park Church of England Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Faith 50%	Distance	
Kingsbourne Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Distance		
Millfields Primary School and Nursery to be known as Millfields Primary Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Nursery children	Catchment	Distance
The Oak View Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Nursery children	Distance	
The Rudheath Senior Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Catchment	Distance	
St Martin's Academy Chester	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Distance		
Weaverham Primary Academy	Looked After Children	Siblings	Children of Staff	Catchment	Distance	

Appendices: Proposed Admissions policies follow for all schools and proposed schools within North West Academies Trust.

