



Consultation on proposed Admission Arrangements for Aspire Educational Trust for entry into Reception from September 2026

Introduction

The Aspire Educational Trust is the admission authority for the schools named below:

Ash Grove Academy
Broad Oak Primary School
Hollinhey Primary School
Holmes Chapel Primary School
Hurdsfield Primary School
Ivy Bank Primary School
Parkroyal Community School
Peover Superior Endowed Primary School
Puss Bank School & Nursery
Sandbach Primary Academy
The Wilmslow Academy
Underwood West Academy
Victoria Road Primary School
Wilbraham Primary School

As admission authority, this means that The Aspire Educational Trust are responsible for the admission arrangements for these schools. When an admission authority wishes to make

changes to their admission arrangements, they must consult to ensure all views are heard. The Aspire Educational Trust is consulting on changes to the admission arrangements for the 14 schools within its MAT. This consultation invites you to give your views.

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including information about what happens if there are more applications than places available (oversubscription criteria.)

All admissions authorities must include the oversubscription criteria in their arrangements. The criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation.

It is for admission authorities to decide which criteria are most suitable for the school according to the local circumstances.

Proposed changes to the oversubscribed criteria:

- Reduce the PAN size at Underwood West Academy to 60
- Addition of Hurdsfield Primary School, Hulley Road, Macclesfield SK10 2LW and Broad Oak Primary School, 19 Broad Oak Lane, Manchester M20 5QB as members of the Aspire Educational Trust.

Why are we proposing these changes?

The school has grown due to the addition of a 52-place nursery provision and the high pupil mobility and demand for in year places within this part of Crewe. However, this growth caps at mid-sixties which is not economically viable when school budgets are so constrained. In order to allow us to sustain the delivery of an effective curriculum with the resources available we are consulting to reduce our PAN back to 60.

The children in Reception and Year One are taught two different curriculums – The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and the National Curriculum. In order to ensure that every child is taught the appropriate curriculum, in-line with other children in those year groups across the country, we teach all the Reception children together and don't mix any of them in a class with Year One children.

Due to the School Admissions Infant Class Size Regulations, children in Reception cannot be taught by a single teacher in classes that are larger than 30. Ordinarily, a school would have one teacher for every 30 children. At UWA, in Reception, there are three teachers for up to 75 children but sometimes the number of children in the cohort has been as low as 61. The school is required to divert significant resources to meet this requirement, which could otherwise be used to benefit other children.

Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the Aspire Educational Trust website <https://www.aspireeducationaltrust.co.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=73>

Who are we consulting with?

According to the School Admissions Code 2021 1.47:

Admission authorities must consult with: a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen; b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions; c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools); d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority; e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority;

How can you respond?

We would like to hear your views on these proposals. Responses should be sent in writing. Please send any comments regarding the above proposed changes by emailing to: rswann@aet.cheshire.sch.uk

Please mark your email AET PRIMARY AND NURSERY CONSULTATION

If you have any trouble with responding to the consultation, or require accessibility adjustments to access any of the information, please let us know on rswann@aet.cheshire.sch.uk and we will be happy to help.

The consultation takes place between 4th October 2024 and 15th November 2024.

All responses must be received before 23.59 on 15th November 2024. Due to the need for us to consider the responses and make changes as necessary, we will unfortunately be unable to consider responses received after this time.

What happens next?

After the close of the consultation, the responses will be collated and presented to the Admissions Committee at the Aspire Educational Trust who will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposed changes and determine the admission arrangements. The outcome of the consultation will be published on the school website as soon as possible once we have reached a decision, and the final admissions arrangements will follow shortly after. Hard copies of the final arrangements and consultation outcome will be made available upon request to all respondents of the consultation.

This consultation document applies to all Academies of the Aspire Educational Trust