

Aston Community Education Trust
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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE
Chair: John Barton

Dear Parents & Carers,

Aston Community Education Trust (ACET) Admissions Arrangements Consultation 2027-2028

I am writing to notify you of several consultations for ACET academies.

The consultation period will run from Monday 24th November 2025 until Friday 9th January 2026; during this time, parents/carers and other key stakeholders are invited to express their views about the admission arrangements.

In accordance with the DfE's 2021 statutory 'School Admissions Code' guidance, we must consult on our admission arrangements when changes are proposed, and at least once every seven years. For this reason, a consultation is currently being held to meet the Trust's statutory duty; the following amendments to our admission arrangements have been proposed.

In relation to; **Aston Academy, Aughton Primary Academy, Brookfield Primary Academy, Listerdale Primary Academy, Springwood Primary Academy, Swinton Academy, Thurcroft Junior Academy, Waverley Primary Academy.**

- Removal of the "social and medical" oversubscription criteria from the admission arrangement of all Academies listed above.

This change reflects a decision being made by Rotherham Local Authority and aims to ensure that our arrangements remain clear, fair, and objective in line with the 2021 School Admissions Code. The decision to consult on removing this criterion is based on the fact that assessing applications under "social and medical need" can involve subjective judgments, which may lead to uncertainty and inconsistent outcomes. In practice, very few places have been allocated under this criterion in recent years, and where significant social or medical needs exist, these are typically addressed through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Removing this criterion will help make our admissions process simpler, more transparent, and easier for parents to understand, while continuing to prioritise fairness and equality for all applicants

Company number: 07577113

Aston Community Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales

In relation to **Aston Academy ONLY**

- Reduction of Post-16 external applicant PAN from 20-0

This proposal is being made in line with the consultation to close the Post-16 provision at Aston Academy. Following the Significant Change consultation the Post 16 admission arrangements will then cease to exist in their entirety, and the document will be removed, as such there is no set of admissions arrangements for comment.

In relation to **Swinton Academy ONLY**

- Reduction of PAN from 200-180

This proposal is being made to ensure that the academy's capacity aligns appropriately with the accommodation available in the planned new school building, which will be designed to provide high-quality, modern learning environments and specialist facilities sized for Y7-Y11 (180 pupils per year group) model.

The new building's footprint and internal layout will be carefully planned to support optimal teaching and learning experiences, efficient use of space, and manageable class sizes. A PAN of 180 will ensure that the school can:

- Operate within the physical capacity of the new building without overcrowding or compromising the learning environment.
- Maintain effective class organisation (typically six classes of 30 pupils per year group), ensuring manageable class sizes that promote high-quality teaching and individual support.
- Support curriculum delivery and specialist provision, including science, technology, and practical subjects, within the design capacity of the new facilities.
- Ensure long-term sustainability by balancing pupil numbers with available resources, staffing, and accommodation.

The proposed reduction will not affect students currently on roll at the school. The change simply reflects the new building's design capacity and ensures that future admissions are managed in line with the school's physical infrastructure and educational priorities. There is no confirmed date yet for the planned works or opening of the new building, but the Trust need to plan in advance to ensure that admission arrangements are aligned with the anticipated capacity of the new facilities and can be implemented smoothly once the building becomes operational.

- Reduction of Post 16 external applicant PAN from 20 to 0

This proposal is being made in line with the consultation to close the Post-16 provision at Swinton Academy. Following the Significant Change consultation the Post 16 admission arrangements will then cease to exist in their entirety, and the document will be removed, as such there is no set of admissions arrangements for comment.

In relation to **Waverley Primary Academy ONLY**

- Removal of associated nurseries

This change is being proposed to bring the academy's admission arrangements in line with those of our other primary academies, this criterion has not been used to allocate a place in recent years. Removing it will help ensure our admission arrangements remain consistent, transparent, and compliant with the statutory School Admissions Code.

In accordance with statutory DfE guidance, the consultation will run for six weeks and, as an interested party, we are keen to hear your views on the proposed changes; therefore, we invite you to participate in the consultation if you have any concerns regarding the matter.

If you wish to raise any points about an academy's admission arrangements, then please email us at: - contactus@astoncetrust.org

Following the consultation period, any arrangements and accompanying feedback will be taken to the Trust Board meeting in February 2026, ahead of the deadline of 28th February 2026.

Thank you for taking the time to support our consultation.

Yours Sincerely,



Rebecca Scutt
CEO