

University of Chichester Academy Trust Consultation on 2027-2028 Admissions Arrangements

The University of Chichester Academy Trust (the Trust) is seeking your views on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for academies within the Trust for the school year 2027-2028.

Context

The Trust is the admissions authority for its academies. Under the School Admissions Code (September 2021), we are required to consult on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements to our academies. This must take place over six weeks between 1 October 2025 and 31 January 2026. We will publish our final arrangements by 28 February 2026.

Proposals

The policy for 2027-28 is amended to reflect these changes:

- Addition of Woodlea Primary School in Bordon and Newlands Primary Academy in Waterlooville following their joining the Trust
- Clarification of admission priority for children of staff, to make clear there must be
 - it applies to the academy at which they primarily work,
 - a two-year qualification period is required or that
 - they are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage,

in line with The Admissions Code.

- Proposed reductions in Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN):

ACADEMY	CURRENT PAN	PROPOSED PAN
Fernhurst Primary	30	15

The proposed reduction in PAN at Fernhurst Primary is a result of applications for places being below the current PAN for a number of years and the projected decline in the number of children reaching school age in the area it serves. This is likely to result in underfilled classes and therefore financial inefficiencies which would have a detrimental effect on provision.

Reducing the PAN at Fernhurst is likely to:

- Align intake with actual demand
- Enable pupils to be grouped in a more efficient manner to support their education

- Support financial sustainability by enabling more efficient use of staffing and resources
- Improve the learning environment by ensuring class sizes are appropriate and manageable

Outside of the scope of this consultation is an increase to the PAN at Newlands Primary Academy, Waterlooville from 30 to 45 in line with the growth plans for the academy and the new housing development.

Consultation

In line with the Admissions Code, The Trust is consulting with stakeholders between Monday 8 December 2025 and Friday 23 January 2026. The views of stakeholders of the proposed changes are welcome.

How to respond

If you have any comments please address them to: admissionsconsultation@chi.ac.uk, or send them to:

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If you wish to receive a paper copy of this consultation you should apply in writing to the above address. We will publish our determination by the 28th February 2026. Following publication of the determination any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2026.