

## ACADEMY ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION

### Arden Grove Primary and Nursery School Proposal to Reduce Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2027/28

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### Introduction

The Wensum Trust and the Governing Body for Arden Grove Primary and Nursery School is undertaking a statutory consultation on a proposal to reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception (Year R) intake. This proposed reduction would take effect from the start of the academic year **September 2027**.

#### Background and Rationale for Change

The number of children residing in the school's catchment area and applying for a place at Arden Grove Primary and Nursery School has been declining in recent years. This is consistent with the latest demographic data and forecasting models provided by Norfolk County Council.

- **Financial Stability:** Our school is funded based on the number of children on roll. Year groups that fall below the planned admission number can result in class sizes that are not financially sustainable for effective long-term operation.
- **Optimum Capacity:** The proposed reduction will align the school's admission number more closely with the projected demand for places in the local area, ensuring that we continue to manage our resources effectively and provide a high-quality educational environment for all pupils.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Reducing the PAN will assist the Trust and the school in securing stability in its long-term financial and strategic planning, allowing us to continue focusing on strong educational outcomes for all children.

#### The Formal Proposal

The Wensum Trust and the Governing body formally proposes to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception intake at Arden Grove Primary and Nursery School from the current number of 60 to 45.

This reduction will apply to all new admissions to the Reception year group starting in **September 2027** and for all subsequent academic years.

### **Consultation Period and Next Steps**

The consultation period will run for a statutory minimum of six weeks, from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

We welcome your comments and views on this proposal.

Any comments regarding this consultation should be submitted by email to:  
[office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk).

**[office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk)**

**The deadline for comments is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Following the consultation period, all responses will be considered before the final decision is determined by the Wensum Trust Board. The determined arrangements will then be published in accordance with the School Admissions Code.