ACADEMY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for the 2028/29 Academic Year

Date: 30th November 2026

Introduction

The Wensum Trust and the Governing Body for Alderman Peel High; Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School; Burnham Market Primary and Nursery School; Firside Junior School; Garrick Green Infant School; Heather Avenue Infant School; Hellesdon High School; Kinsale Infant School; Kinsale Junior School; Lodge Lane Infant School; Wells-next-the-Sea Primary and Nursery School is undertaking a formal statutory consultation regarding proposed changes to our admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria. This consultation is conducted in full accordance with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code and runs in accordance with Norfolk County Council's admissions arrangements.

Where a school receives more applications than there are places available in the Published Admission Number (PAN), oversubscription criteria are applied to allocate places in an objective, transparent, and fair order of priority. We are seeking feedback from parents, carers, feeder schools, community partners, and neighbouring admission authorities on our proposed rules before they are formally determined by the Trust Board.

Background and Rationale for Change

Over recent academic years, patterns of pupil admissions and local demographics across our school's area have evolved. In partnership with Norfolk County Council's school admissions and planning teams, the Trust has reviewed our allocation arrangements to ensure they remain straightforward, equitable, and reflective of local community needs.

Priority Placements Outside Oversubscription (Statutory Requirement)

Under national legislation and the School Admissions Code, children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that specifically names a school must be admitted to the school. Because this is a legal obligation, these children are allocated places before the oversubscription criteria are applied to the remaining applicants.

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria

If the number of applications exceeds the remaining places available, places will be allocated strictly in accordance with the following order of priority:

1. Looked After Children (LAC) and all Previously Looked After Children, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.
2. Siblings: Children living at the same address who have a brother or sister attending the school (or the adjoining/designated feeder school) at the time of admission

3. Catchment Area with Feeder Status: Children living within the designated catchment area served by the school who attend a designated feeder school.
4. Catchment Area: Children living within the designated catchment area served by the school.
5. Outside Catchment Area with Feeder Status: Children living outside the designated catchment area who attend a designated feeder school.
6. Children of Staff: Children of staff members where:
    - The member of staff has been employed at the school or within the trust for two or more years at the time the application is submitted, OR
    - The staff member is recruited to fill a vacant post with a demonstrable skill shortage.
7. Other Applicants: Children living closest to the school.

Consultation Period and Next Steps

As the Admission Authority, the Wensum Trust is required to consult with stakeholders, including parents, staff, other local schools, and Norfolk County Council (the coordinating Local Authority).

The statutory consultation period will run for a minimum of six weeks, from Monday 30th November 2026 until Friday 22nd January 2027.

We welcome your comments and views on this proposal.

Any comments regarding this consultation should be submitted by email to:

office@kinsalejunior.norfolk.sch.uk

The deadline for comments is Friday 22nd January 2027.

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.