

Admission Arrangements – Consultation: Wymondham College Prep School

1. Introduction:

This consultation relates to admissions for September 2021 and sits outside of the usual admissions consultation timescales. It is our considered view that there have been significant changes since the consultation was undertaken for the September 2021 admissions round and that these changes justify consulting on the proposed change to the existing policy.

The consultation runs for a six-week period starting on Wednesday 9th December 2020 and ending on Wednesday 20th January 2021.

Comments should be sent to Catriona Mitchell
Either by e-mail: EA@Se-trust.org

Or by letter:

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Golf link Road
Morley
Wymondham NR18 9SX

Please note, that should Trustees determine to proceed, following consultation, this would be ‘in principle’ only and is subject to Department for Education approval.

2. The Proposal:

To add a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 14 Year 5 day places.

This would enable the school to run one class of Year 5 pupils, made up of up to 16 Year 5 boarding pupils and 14 day pupils. Our boarding pupils will come from a range of backgrounds and are likely to include several highly vulnerable pupils. There is a strong

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educational argument to widen the experience of our boarders by mixing with a roughly equal number of day pupils, mirroring the experience provided at Wymondham College. It is our long-standing view that both day and boarding pupils benefit from such arrangements.

3. Significant Changes:

Since the formal consultation process there have been several significant changes, summarised below.

- a) Housing growth and demographic changes have affected the availability of school places in the current Year 4 cohort in the Wymondham and Attleborough area. A number of local schools are currently full and places are now being allocated via the Fair Access Protocol. Several Schools are now over existing PANs. It is our view that offering 14 day places will ease this existing pressure and ensure local school places are available, whilst alleviating pressure on those schools that are currently at or exceeding their PANs.

14 Day places, allocated according to our admissions policy, will have limited, if any, impact on existing schools. It is interesting to note that our reception intake of 60 pupils in September 2020 served to ease existing school place pressures, without significant detriment to other schools in the wider area.

- b) At the time of the original consultation planning permission had not been granted for the Prep School and there was no timescale for completion of the main building. Planning permission has now been granted and the building is on schedule to open in September 2021. Therefore, a purpose built school will be in place, with space to take a day cohort.

4. Further Considerations

The Trust continues to work in partnership with a range of partners as Wymondham College Prep School develops. This includes Morley Parish Council, Norfolk Local Authority, parental groups and other local schools.

Our Travel plan is in place to help mitigate the impact of the school's opening and we do not anticipate that a further 14 places next September will add significantly to traffic accessing the site. In reality a large number of the 14 pupils may well have siblings already attending provision on site – which would potentially slightly reduce car journeys in the wider area.

The Trust has had a number of requests from parents to offer Year 5 day places and doing so is likely to be popular with parents who secure a place.
