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**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

27th February 2025

CONSULTATION FOR PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

Caister Academy recently consulted on an amendment to our admissions policy to adopt the following change to be in effect from September 2026:

- Reducing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 165 to 120
- Selection of up to 10% of our pupils (i.e. 12 pupils) on the basis of aptitude for the Performing Arts

The reasons for proposing the reduction of the PAN are as follows:

- There is a projected reduction in pupils joining the school in future years because of a falling birth rate within the local area.
- By making sure our intake matches demand in the area we can continue to provide the quality of education that we pride ourselves on and ensure education and business efficiency for the school.

The reasons for proposing the selection of up to 10% of our pupils on the basis of aptitude for the Performing Arts are as follows:

- As a Performing Arts specialist school we are committed to excellence in dance, drama and music. This means that students who identify early that this is their passion and likely future career, will excel in achievement within these subjects, and most importantly receive expert teaching that will enable this future success.
- We believe Performing Arts can help students develop creativity, innovation, and communication skills. Performing Arts can also help students express themselves and discover their talents whilst refining skill development. Universities increasingly require applicants to demonstrate these skills and provide examples of well-rounded achievement and successes.

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Consultation Approach

As prescribed by the School Admissions Code, we undertook a statutory consultation process with the parents and other stakeholders for Caister Academy including:

- parents of children between the ages of five and eighteen;
- other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- all other admission authorities within the relevant area;
- whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority; and
- any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority.

The consultation took place for 6 term-time weeks between Thursday 7th November 2024 and Thursday 19th December 2024. The consultation letter, link to the online survey form and proposed admissions policy were accessible via the school's website –

<https://www.caisteracademy.org.uk/page/?title=Academy+Admissions+2026%2D2027+Consultation&pid=92>

Stakeholders were invited to take part in the consultation in the following ways:

Online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Caister26>

By email to: consultation@creativeeducationtrust.org.uk

By post to: Miss Helen Seath, Principal, Caister Academy, Windsor Road, Caister on Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 5LS

Consultation Feedback

The feedback received was as follows:

- Online responses
 - Five responses were submitted, all of which were in favour of the proposed changes
 - Three from staff and 2 from parents/carers
- Written responses
 - Feedback was received on the process for selection by aptitude
 - Ref clause 2.2 of the proposed Admissions Policy for 2026/27, there was a suggestion making it clearer that parents apply online to be considered, then are invited to a process. Currently, it implies that the school obtains test scores from an online application.



- Feedback was received on the list of feeder schools in clause 3.1.5 (Over subscription criteria) as the list is out of date and therefore should reflect a new list, i.e.
 - From: Pupils in the transfer age group at Caister Junior, North Denes, Great Yarmouth, Filby, Ormebsy Junior, Hemsby, Winterton, St Nicholas Priory CE VA, St Georges, Aldermann Swindell and Edward Worlledge Primary Schools.
 - To: Pupils in the transfer age group at the following schools or their equivalent (should the school change name); Caister Junior School, Filby Primary School, Fleggburgh CofE VC Primary School, Hemsby Primary School, Martham Academy, North Denes Primary School, Northgate Primary School, Ormesby Village Junior School, St. Nicholas Primary School and Winterton Primary School
- Feedback was received on the catchment areas in clause 3.1.6 (Over subscription criteria) as the catchment area needs to be broader and the current list should be omitted, i.e.
 - From: Pupils living within the catchment area of Caister upon Sea, Filby, Ormesby, Winterton, Hemsby, Fleggburgh, Great Yarmouth and Southtown.
 - To: Pupils living outside of the catchment area.
- Letter received from Norfolk County Council on 5th December 2024 with the following comments:
 - They support the proposal of selection of up to 10% of pupils on the basis of aptitude for the Performing Arts, as they do not have any concerns with the revised admissions arrangements to include 10% selection on the basis of aptitude. However, they would like to request that parents are advised that pupils who attain a placement due to aptitude in Performing Arts, that NCC transport will only be provided if Caister Academy is the pupil's nearest or catchment school.
 - Request that the Trust delays the full reduction of PAN for the next two years, until the 2028 intake. Their forecasting figures anticipate a higher than expected level of demand for school places in Great Yarmouth Borough in the interim.
 - A subsequent conversation between the Trust and Norfolk County Council agreed the following approach to the reduction of PAN:
 - 2026/27: 150
 - 2027/28: 150
 - 2028/29: 120



Outcomes of the feedback

- It is proposed that the following amendments are made to the Admissions Policy for 2026/27:
 - a. Clause 2.1: Amend the PAN as follows:
 - 2026/27: 150
 - 2027/28: 150
 - 2028/29: 120
 - b. Clause 2.2: Include the statement that parents are advised that pupils who attain a placement due to aptitude in Performing Arts, that NCC transport will only be provided if Caister Academy is the pupil's nearest or catchment school.
 - c. Clause 2.2: Make it clearer that parents apply online to be considered, then are invited to a process.
 - d. Clause 3.1.5: Amend the list of feeder schools to Caister Junior School, Filby Primary School, Fleggburgh CofE VC Primary School, Hemsby Primary School, Martham Academy, North Denes Primary School, Northgate Primary School, Ormesby Village Junior School, St. Nicholas Primary School and Winterton Primary School.
 - e. Amend Clause 3.1.6 to 'Pupils living outside of the catchment area'.

Progress and Next steps

The outcomes of this consultation were presented to Norfolk County Council and on 29th Jan 2025, they advised they had reviewed the content with various parties including their admissions team and stated that our PAN change proposal seems completely reasonable.

We subsequently sought approval from the Department for Education (DfE) and on 20th Feb 2025 they confirmed that they were content that we had complied with all the requirements detailed in the Schools Admissions Code for amending admission arrangements, and that there is nothing further required by DfE.

A recommendation was then made to the Creative Education Trust Board (as the admissions authority) to approve the proposed Admissions Policy for 2026/27 with the changes as listed in the section above, and this approval was given on 25th Feb 2025.

The Local Authority have since been updated with the above approvals and they confirmed on 26th Feb 2025 that they had no further comments to make.

This Consultation Report and the finalised Admissions Policy will now be uploaded to the Academy's website and shared with staff, parents and other stakeholders.