

THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION RESPONSE

6th February 2025

This is the response to the formal consultation for the admission arrangements of the academies of The Challenge Academy Trust comprising:

Beamont Collegiate Academy
Bridgewater High School
Dallam Community Primary School
Padgate Academy
Penketh High School
Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School
Broomfields Junior School
Appleton Thorn Primary School
Great Sankey Primary School
Meadowside Community Primary and Nursery School
Penketh South Primary School

Overview

The Trust came into existence in 2017 and has grown to include 11 academies within the Warrington area – 6 primary academies, 5 secondary academies and Priestley College whose admissions guidance as a Sixth Form College sits outside of these statutory arrangements.

The Trust is the Admissions Authority for the primary and secondary academies within the Trust. The Trust and its academies have developed a policy which ensures all academies within the Trust have a unified approach to admissions whilst ensuring the individual character of each academy is maintained.

All state-funded schools have a set of admissions rules, published admission number and oversubscription criteria to help them process school applications consistently, transparently and fairly in accordance with the 2021 School Admissions Code. The Trust consulted on the unified policy for the Trust's Warrington academies between 6 December 2024 to 31 January 2025 on admission arrangements for the Trust's academies.

This consultation specifically relates to the following academies in Warrington for whom The Challenge Academy Trust is the Admissions Authority:

- Beamont Collegiate Academy
- Bridgewater High School
- Dallam Community Primary School
- Padgate Academy
- Penketh High School
- Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School
- Appleton Thorn Primary School
- Broomfields Junior School
- Great Sankey Primary School
- Meadowside County Primary and Nursery School
- Penketh South Primary School

The consultation was widely published through:

- Academy individual websites
- The Trust's website
- Direct emails to all schools and academies in the local area
- Direct emails to Warrington Local Authority
- Direct emails to adjoining neighbouring local authorities' admissions departments
- Direct emails to the body/person representing the religion or religious denomination in the case of schools designated with a religious character

Responses to the proposals were invited by email either via the specific academy or directly by emailing admissions@tcat.uk.com

This document presents the feedback received for each element of the consultation presented to the Trust board on 7th February 2025 to be taken into consideration in the Trust Board determining the final Admissions Arrangements for the Trust academies.

Consultation Timeline

Consultation opened	6 December 2024
Consultation closed	31 January 2025
Reviewed by Trust board	12 February 2025
Final determination	By 28 February 2025

Summary of Proposed Changes

Element 1	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN) Specifically a) Broomfields Junior School reducing from 72 to 60 for 2026-2027 b) Penketh High School increasing from 220 to 240 for Year 7 for 2026-2027 c) Padgate Academy increasing from 150 to 180 for Year 7 for 2026-2027
Element 2	Inclusion of Dallam Community Primary School to align its admission arrangements with other primary schools within the Trust.
Element 3	Change in Over-Subscription Criteria for Broomfields Junior School: Criteria 2 amended to read "Children who attend Cobbs Infant School."

Summary of Consultation Responses

Responses to the consultation were received throughout the consultation period. 1 response in total was received as listed below:

Element	Description	No. responses received		
		Parents	Warrington LA	Other Stakeholders
Element 1 a)	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN) Broomfields Junior School reducing from 72 to 60 for 2026-2027	0	0	0
Element 1 b)	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN) Penketh High School increasing from 220 to 240 for Year 7 for 2026-2027	0	0	0
Element 1 c)	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN)	0	0	0

	Padgate Academy increasing from 150 to 180 for Year 7 for 2026-2027			
Element 2	Inclusion of Dallam Community Primary School to align its admission arrangements with other primary schools within the Trust.	0	0	0
Element 3	Change in Over-Subscription Criteria for Broomfields Junior School: Criteria 2 amended to read "Children who attend Cobbs Infant School."	0	0	0
General Response	Overall feedback on the consultation	0	1	0
TOTAL		0	1	0

Feedback Analysis

The table summarised the types of feedback received for each element in the consultation

Element	Description	Feedback
Element 1 a)	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN) Broomfields Junior School reducing from 72 to 60 for 2026-2027	No responses received
Element 1 b)	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN) Penketh High School increasing from 220 to 240 for Year 7 for 2026-2027	No responses received
Element 1 c)	Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN) Padgate Academy increasing from 150 to 180 for Year 7 for 2026-2027	No responses received
Element 2	Inclusion of Dallam Community Primary School to align its admission arrangements with other primary schools within the Trust.	No responses received
Element 3	Change in Over-Subscription Criteria for Broomfields Junior School: Criteria 2 amended to read "Children who attend Cobbs Infant School."	No responses received

Element	Description	Feedback
General Response	Overall feedback on the consultation	Warrington Borough Council (WBC) suggested including a clarification that the oversubscription criteria are applied in the order listed, as raised by the OSA within an objection report regarding another school's arrangements.

Response to Feedback

General Response – Overall Feedback on the Consultation

Clarification of Oversubscription Criteria

Warrington Borough Council suggested including a clarification that the oversubscription criteria are applied in the order listed, as raised by the OSA within an objection report regarding another school's arrangements.

Response:

The Trust agrees with the suggestion to include a clarification that the oversubscription criteria are applied in the order in which they are listed. The Trust will incorporate this clarification into the determined arrangements for the 2026/27 Admissions Policy.

Conclusion

Trustees and Trust and school leaders believe there has been a fair and open consultation in accordance with the requirements of the [School admissions code 2021\(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

Having considered the feedback and queries gathered throughout the consultation process, The Challenge Academy Trust approves:

- Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN): Broomfields Junior School reducing from 72 to 60 for 2026-2027
- Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN): Penketh High School increasing from 220 to 240 for Year 7 for 2026-2027
- Changes to Academy Published Admission Numbers (PAN): Padgate Academy increasing from 150 to 180 for Year 7 for 2026-2027
- Inclusion of Dallam Community Primary School to align its admission arrangements with other primary schools within the Trust.
- Change in Over-Subscription Criteria for Broomfields Junior School: Criteria 2 amended to read "Children who attend Cobbs Infant School."
- Include a clarification that the oversubscription criteria are applied in the order listed in section 7.2 which will read "The oversubscription criteria for the Trust's academies will be published in the parents' guides as shown below and will be applied in the order listed in each section."

Signed



Andrew Moorcroft, Chief Executive Officer



Howard Platt, Chair of the Trust Board

Date: 21 February 2025