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Mrs L Hackett
Headteacher

Miss E Hainsworth
Acting Deputy Headteacher

30 October 2023

Dear Parent & Carers

Discovery Trust Admissions Consultations: Proposal document to reduce the Published Admission Number for Danemill Primary School

Discovery Trust is its own admissions authority as prescribed in the National Admission Code 2021, and it is our responsibility to consult on any proposed changes to our admissions criteria.

We seek to reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for Danemill Primary School, effective from September 2025/26 reception intake year and all subsequent years thereafter. The rationale behind the proposed changes lies within the core values of the Discovery Trust. As we aspire to make all schools sustainable, inclusive, and equitable to the communities that that we serve.

Background

Discovery Trust works closely with the Local Authority to monitor and evaluate the predicted future demand for places in its schools. It has become apparent that there is a declining birth rate locally to which we are not immune to. The demand for places is forecasted to reduce for Danemill Primary School to such an extent that it is necessary to propose a PAN reduction for the school to ensure it remains financially sustainable and continues to be able to meet the changing demand for school places in its catchment area. We believe it is unlikely that the school will fill up to the existing PAN in the next several years, based on the number of births and forecast need for school places in the future.

The Proposal

We propose to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception Year Group for Danemill Primary School for intake September 2025/26 from 60 to 45 pupils.

What does this mean?

This means that the number of school places it offers for reception intake starting from September 2025/26 will be reduced. For pupils who already have a place at the school, we will manage any changes in class sizes as necessary. This will mean that some classes will adapt and move to mixed-aged year groups in future years.

This is the only proposed change to the admissions criteria; all other criteria will remain the same. There will be no other changes to the admission arrangements. The proposed change will not affect families seeking a first-time admission place at the school for September 2024.

The proposed change will help our schools to effectively focus its teaching and learning resources to match the demand of school places in the catchment area. The Trust and school staff are working hard to continue to improve the outcomes of all our children and feel strongly that the proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for our young learners, whilst still enabling us to meet the changing demand of places.



National Support School
designated by



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Danemill
Primary School

Only the best is good enough.

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The Consultation

We place great importance on seeking views of our families, staff colleagues and the wider community. We hope all current, future families and any other interested stakeholders will provide feedback on this proposal.

As set out in the Schools Admission Code, we are entering into a 6-week statutory consultation. Following the consultation, Discovery Trustees shall consider the consultation results and determine the subsequent admission arrangements.

The consultation will run for six weeks starting Monday 30th October until Friday 8th December 2023.

All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal. Please complete our online form <https://forms.office.com/e/DT3qZGRHZ6> or alternatively email consultation@discoverytrust.org (Please ensure the 'Subject or Title' of your email states "PAN Consultation").

You will find a copy of the proposed Admission Policy for September 25/26 intake on the school's website [Danemill Primary School – Only the Best Is Good Enough](#)

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Danemill Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Paul Stone, Trust Leader Discovery Schools



QR Code to the Consultation Form.