

Report on the consultation of the admission arrangements of Chesterton Community College effective from 1 September 2026.

The Proposals

This report considers the consultation undertaken by Eastern Learning Alliance for Chesterton Community College.

The Admissions Code requires schools to undertake a consultation on admission arrangements every time there is a proposed change or within 7 years of the last consultation even when no changes are proposed.

No changes have been proposed to the current admission arrangements.

The admission arrangements are proposed to come into effect from 1 September 2026 for the 2026/2027 admissions.

The Consultation

The consultation ran from 29 November 2024 for six weeks in term time until 17 January 2025

The documents were shared by email, school websites and available as hard copies. Online consultations were also carried out (copies can be located in Appendix A).

Consultation documents were sent to;

- Parents and pupils at the academy
- The governors and staff at Academy
- The feeder primary schools
- Schools in the school cluster groups
- Diocesan Boards of Education
- Trade Unions who represent staff at the schools
- Local Members of Parliament
- Local County Councillors, District Councillors and Parish Councillors

Respondents were invited to share their views in the following ways:

- Completing an online survey
- Completing the form attached to the consultation document
- Emailing the school consultation email address
- Writing to the school office

Summary Analysis

The full analysis is available in Appendix B.

Overall, there were 21 responses to the consultations. The response rate is low.

- 6 people strongly agreed or agreed (28.6%)
- 2 person neither agreed or disagreed (9.5%)
- 13 people strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposal (61.9%).

Key comments and concerns raised were:

- UCPS is not a feeder school for CCC
- Students living in the catchment area should be prioritised regardless of primary school attended

Conclusion

Eastern Learning Alliance has a duty to ensure the admission arrangement for its schools are fair and reasonable. Over summer 2024 an independent School's Adjudicator reviewed the admission arrangement for the school in relation to concerns raised from a parent at UCPS. The School's Adjudicator collated evidence from Chesterton Community College, the Local Authority and the parent. Upon review of this evidence, it was concluded that the arrangements for the school were fair and reasonable and in alignment with the Admissions Code.

There was a full consultation to designate UCPS as a feeder school to Impington Village College. The school is in an area that is outside of the catchment area for Chesterton Community College. There have never been any plans for Chesterton to amend its catchment area to take account of the new school. It is therefore considered that it is reasonable to proceed with the admission arrangements with no amendments.

Response rates to the consultation were low.

The main areas of concern raised during the consultation relate to:

Children living in the catchment area who attend a primary school outside of the catchment area that is therefore not a feeder school for Chesterton Community College.

These concerns can be addressed by:

- There have been no changes to the catchment area for Chesterton Community College and UCPS has therefore not been excluded from this.
- When it was proposed that UCPS join Impington Village College a full consultation was held.
- An independent Schools Adjudicator has reviewed all of the points that have been raised and they determined that the admission arrangements are fair and reasonable.

Recommendation

In balancing the responses and comments received during the consultation it is recommended to the Governors of Chesterton Community College, on behalf of Eastern Learning Alliance that it is **agreed** that from 1 September 2026, unamended admission arrangements will come into effect.

Appendix A

Consultation on the proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Chesterton Community College

Gilbert Road, Cambridge, CB4 3NY

Effective from September 2026

In line with statutory obligations, Eastern Learning Alliance are running a consultation of the admission arrangements for Chesterton Community College. Eastern Learning Alliance is the Admission Authority for the college.

There have been no substantive changes made to the admissions arrangements for the college, this consultation ensures compliance with the Admissions Code.

Admission Authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group.

As you may be directly or indirectly impacted by the admission arrangements of the college, we are seeking your views on them as a part of a six week consultation. The consultation will run from 20 November 2024 to 17 January 2025. There are several ways you can share your views with us:

- You can complete the online survey via the school <https://ccc.tela.org.uk/admissions-consultation/>
- You can complete the attached form and hand it in to the school office
- Email us as at admissionsconsultation@ccc.tela.org.uk
- Write to us at Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Road, Cambridge, CB4 2NY

It is proposed that these arrangements will come into effect from September 2026, so pupils applying for places from September 2025 for a September 2026 start will be under these admissions arrangements.

The outcome of the consultation will be made public by 28 February 2025 in a determination notice on the school website

Consultation on the proposed changes to the admission arrangements for
Chesterton Community College

Gilbert Road, Cambridge, CB4 3NY
Effective from September 2026

How far do you agree or disagree with the admission arrangements of Chesterton Community College, from September 2026? Please tick a box.

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree

Disagree Strongly disagree

Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision of the children? Please write in the box below.

We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether or not we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to change Admission Arrangements at Chesterton Community College, from September 2026.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Eastern Learning Alliance's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Eastern Learning Alliance will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please tell us who you are, (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): _____

At which school? _____

What is your postcode? _____

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by returning this completed form by:

- completing the online survey via the school <https://ccc.tela.org.uk/admissions-consultation/>
- returning this form to the school office
- Emailing us at admissionsconsultation@ccc.tela.org.uk
- Posting this form to Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Road, Cambridge, CB4 3NY

This consultation ends on 17 January 2025

Appendix B

Chesterton Community College Admission Consultation responses

Consultation comment	ELA response
The admission arrangements are clearly outlined and relatively fair.	This has been confirmed by the Schools Adjudicator.
It's a pity that there is no way to control distance lived from the school after a place has been offered. For example, we know children commuting to Chesterton from the Shelfords and Northstowe to attend the school. As a consequence, we also know families whose children did not get a place but still live within a mile of the school.	There is no mechanism to control students attending the schools who move outside of the catchment area once they have secured a place.
It seems appropriate as an approach and in line with the approach elsewhere. In particular I think it wise that staff can feel that their child has a reasonable chance of receiving a place as this must help with retention.	Staff well-being and retention is a priority for ELA.
The proposed changes are minor. Meanwhile, the existing admission principles appear to be working satisfactorily. They are clear and based on comprehensible reasons. The Appeal system seems to work satisfactorily (although understanding how it works takes some research).	There have been no changes to the Policy. See comments above.
The arrangements look very reasonable.	See comments above.
Admission criterion 6.2 ii penalises residents in the catchment area, especially if they have only one child.	Staff retention is very important to ELA and ensures that the very best teachers can be retained in our schools.
6.2 ii should be moved after 6.2 vi	See comments above
My children attend University of Cambridge Primary school and Chesterton Community College is our closest secondary school. We live between the 2 schools and would have to drive to get to any other secondary school. I do not understand why Univeristy of Cambridge Primary school is not classed as a "feeder school". I also think it is unfair that my children would rank lower in the case of over subscription to Chesterton than those who go to feeder primary schools, even though we are likely to live much closer.	There was a consultation with UCPS to determine that it would be a feeder school of Impington Village College due to Darwin Green not having been built. The criteria have been reviewed by a School Adjudicator and it has been determined that they are fair. The proposed criteria is crucial in terms of equity of access to Chesterton because it ensures that students attending catchment primary school but living in the less affluent areas are not disadvantaged due to distance lived from the school.
I would advocate for removing the prioritisation of children in feeder primary schools over those in non-feeder primary schools	See comments above

<p>In my opinion, everybody living in the catchment area should be treated equally independently to the primary school they are attending.</p> <p>If a child doesn't get their catchment school (assuming it is their first choice), then they are automatically at the bottom of any admission list for other secondary schools making it very likely to be given a place either very far or a bad school.</p> <p>The practicalities of doing the school run in primary school are very different to secondary schools for parents to be able to balance their work and school runs.</p> <p>The Council should ensure that any catchment school offers enough places to host ALL the children living in that area.</p>	<p>The building of Darwin Green and provision of additional places is outside of the control of ELA.</p>
<p>The Council should ensure that any catchment school offers enough places to host ALL the children living in that area.</p> <p>Children should be treated equally independently on which school they have been attending.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Until a new school is built, children attending university of Cambridge primary school (UCPS) but LIVING IN CHESTERTON CATCHMENT should be included in the catchment area criteria, even though the school isn't a feeder school. This is because the county council haven't yet built a suitable school for UCPS students to attend for secondary education and many of them live in the Chesterton catchment. Once a new school is built (proposed site at Darwin green) the children attending UCPS can be taken off Chesterton's catchment list. This should therefore be added as a temporary measure to the prosed admissions policy.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Despite this is the closest secondary school to my postcode, yet we are not in the catchment. I wonder if the catchment can be revisited?</p>	<p>There are no plans to revise the catchment area of the school, which would also require the agreement with all other secondary schools in the same area to be able to make any changes.</p>
<p>My kid is in University of Cambridge Primary School and we live in Eddington. Chesterton is the closest secondary school to us. I don't understand stand why we are not in the catchment for chesterton?</p>	<p>There was a consultation to determine the feeder school, which was proposed as being Impington Village College.</p>
<p>Reduction in Intake Capacity: Reducing the intake capacity from 240 to 190 students has had a detrimental impact on the availability of secondary school places for local children. This reduction seems counterintuitive, especially as Darwin Green continues to grow as</p>	<p>There has been no reduction in the school PAN.</p> <p>Chesterton Community College has not made a decision to exclude UCPS as a feeder school, it was never planned as a</p>

<p>a residential area. By decreasing the number of places, the school is effectively excluding children who live within its catchment area but cannot secure a place due to oversubscription.</p> <p>Exclusion of UCPS as a Feeder School: The decision to exclude the University of Cambridge Primary School (UCPS) as a feeder school for Chesterton Community College is particularly concerning. UCPS is geographically located within the Chesterton catchment area, and many families chose UCPS for their children’s primary education with the reasonable expectation that they would have access to Chesterton as their local secondary school. This policy change has left many children, including those living close to the school, without a practical secondary school option.</p> <p>Impact on Darwin Green Families: Darwin Green is a rapidly developing area, yet its residents are facing significant educational challenges due to the lack of a secondary school and the current policies of existing schools. Families from this area are being forced to send their children to schools located more than an hour away by public transport, causing considerable distress to both students and parents. This not only affects students’ mental and emotional well-being but also imposes unreasonable logistical burdens on families.</p> <p>Broader Context and Long-Term Planning: The ongoing delays in building the planned Darwin Green secondary school have exacerbated these issues. While the development of new housing continues unabated, the corresponding infrastructure to support the community, particularly in education, is lagging behind. In this context, schools like Chesterton should be increasing their capacity and supporting nearby primary schools, such as UCPS, rather than reducing intake or limiting access.</p>	<p>feeder school for Chesterton. At the point it was determined that Darwin Green would not be built in time to accept the first cohort of year 6 students, in conjunction with the Local Authority, it was determined that UCPS be the feeder school for Impington Village College.</p> <p>There has been no policy change with regards to the catchment area for Chesterton Community College.</p> <p>Chesterton Community College has, in recent year, admitted students above PAN, and continues to ensure that this is reviewed and accommodated as far as possible on a year by year basis, while working closely with the admissions team at the local authority to determine where this is necessary.</p> <p>Unfortunately ELA has no control over the development of Darwin Green or the new school that is proposed, but have continuously advocated for the need for a new school in the area.</p>
<p>Reassess the decision to reduce intake capacity and consider restoring it to previous levels or increasing it to meet growing demand.</p> <p>Reinstate UCPS as a feeder school for Chesterton Community College, reflecting its geographic proximity and the needs of the community.</p> <p>Advocate for accelerated progress on the Darwin Green secondary school to provide much-needed educational provision for this rapidly expanding area.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>

<p>UoCPS is not classed as a “feeder primary” so in terms of admissions priority UoCPS children will be ranked lower than those attending feeder primaries, even if they live geographically closer to Chesterton college. This is unfair. As there are no new secondary schools around UoCPS, where will our children will go? I would like to request that Chesterton Community College changes its admission arrangements to allow UoCPS to be on the list of its feeder schools.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>All the arrangements sound fair.</p>	<p>See comments above</p>
<p>The admissions policy precludes our child on the basis of feeder schools</p>	<p>See comments above</p>
<p>Admissions should be based on distance alone</p>	<p>Students living in catchment and attending feeder schools are prioritised. This means that regardless of where in the Chesterton catchment a child lived they are prioritised for a place if they attend a catchment primary school. This is crucial in terms of ensuring equity of access to Chesterton because this criterion ensures that students attending catchment primary schools but living in the less affluent areas are not disadvantaged due to distance lived from the school. ELA would consider that it would be unfair to determine places based on the distance from the school for this reason. An independent Schools Adjudicator has reviewed the criteria and determined that the criteria are fair and prioritise students in an appropriate way.</p>
<p>Dear Admissions Policy Review Committee, I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed changes to admissions policy, specifically regarding catchment areas and feeder schools.</p> <p>My residential address (CB3 1BG) is no longer within the CCC catchment area, despite being in close proximity to the school (there are current students living in our building). Under the current policy (Section 6.2), our primary school (UCPS) is not listed among the feeder schools. This means my daughter will be required to attend IVC instead of CCC, despite:</p> <p>Living a safe cycling distance from CCC (there is not a safe cycling route to IVC for her) Preferring the GCSE curriculum over IVC's IB course Having potential challenges maintaining her musical pursuits due to increased commuting and lack of strong musical curriculum at IVC.</p>	<p>All students at Impington Village College undertake GCSEs as they do at Chesterton Community College. It is accepted that not all students may wish to use a cycle route and for such students there is a school bus that they can take to and from school daily.</p> <p>The decision to determine UCPS as a feeder school for IVC was not made by Chesterton Community College, a full consultation was held at the time.</p>

<p>We kindly request that you consider expanding the feeder school list to include UCPS, particularly for families living close to CCC but currently excluded by the catchment boundaries.</p> <p>This change would provide more educational choice for local families, support students' continuity of education and potentially reduce transportation challenges</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration of this feedback and hope you will review the catchment and feeder school criteria.</p>	
<p>University of Cambridge Primary School should also be a feeder school for Chesterton, and therefore pupils who are living in Eddington and attending UCPS should be considered as within the catchment area and attending a feeder school of Chesterton, i.e. (v) within 6.2 criteria. This is because Chesterton is geographically the closest secondary school.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>The potential applicants who live in the catchment area but are currently attending feeder schools outside the catchment area are being disadvantaged unfairly. Their alternative options would be quite far away from their home. This condition should be delayed until the planned secondary school at Darwin Green is ready to accept students.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Could CCC apply for short term additional funding to accommodate increased students as the Darwin Green secondary school is behind schedule. This will relieve the shortage crisis in the area over the next few years.</p>	<p>It is not considered that Chesterton Community College currently has any capacity to increase school accommodation or the funding from the Local Authority.</p>
<p>We are living in the catchment of the Chesterton Community College are still not given a place for our child in the school, despite several applications.</p>	<p>The school is currently oversubscribed and there are waiting lists for all year groups.</p>
<p>At least give priority to the people living in the catchment.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>When starting at the UCPS school, we did not know it was not a feeder school to Chesterton Community College. We live close to the school, but may not end up being selected to get in. Other students in the same class have started changing school before the end of the year to be in feeder school. This cause unnecessary disruption to the children and the teacher. The system should be revised to just pick the student closest to the school</p>	<p>See comments above.</p> <p>UCPS has never been listed as a feeder school for Chesterton. It is unfortunate that not all families were aware of that.</p>

