



## **BDMAT ADMISSIONS POLICY**

### **FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2027 – 2028**

**THIS POLICY WILL APPLY IF THE CHANGES IN THE CONSULTATION (see Appendix 1) are agreed by the DfE**

**Austrey CE Junior School** is run by the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust ('BDMAT'). The board of directors of BDMAT are the Trust's admissions body but the day-to-day administration of school admissions is delegated to our headteachers and local academy boards. The board of directors sets a standard policy for our schools to use (this policy) but the individual criteria for over subscriptions are established by the local academy board. Proposed changes to a school's over subscription criteria or amendments to this policy need approval from the BDMAT board of directors.

*We welcome children of all faiths, backgrounds and beliefs into our inclusive community.  
We seek inspiration from the life and teaching of Jesus Christ to help our children achieve their full potential.*

***Austrey CE Primary School, St Nicholas Close, Austrey, Warwickshire. CV9 3EQ***

Our admissions process is part of the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme. Applicants must apply to their home Local Authority by the closing date.

The school's admission number is **32**. Where the number of applications is lower than the school's admission number, all applicants will be admitted.

***The priority area for Austrey covers the village of Austrey.***

To check if you are in our priority area, please click the link below

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals/priority-area-map-infant-primary-schools/2>



## Oversubscription criteria

If the number of applications for a particular year group exceeds the number of places available, each application will be given a priority and places will be allocated in the following order:

Priority 1: Children looked after by a Local Authority (in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order. This includes those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Priority 2: Children living in the priority area who have a brother or sister in school at time of admission

Priority 3: Other pupils living in the priority area

Priority 4: Children living outside the priority area who have a brother or sister at school at time of admission

Priority 5: Other children outside the priority area

## **Notes:**

1. Children with an EHC Plan that names *Austrey CE Junior School* be offered a place first. This may reduce the number of places available.
2. Under priority 2 and 4, a brother or sister must live at the same address and could be:
  - A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
  - A half-brother or sister, where two children share one parent; a stepbrother or stepsister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage or civil



partnership (a formal arrangement that gives same-sex couples the same legal status as married couples);

- The separate children of a couple who live together; or
- An adopted or fostered brother or sister.

3. For the purposes of education law, the Department for Education considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative;
- any person who, although not a biological parent and not having parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

4. A child's home address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her Parent(s). When a child lives between two addresses, the address used for offering a school place will be where the child lives for most of the school week (Monday to Friday). If care is split equally, the parents can choose which address will be used.

[In the event of a dispute between parents who each have parental responsibility, the matter may ultimately need to be resolved by the courts.]

5. If offering places within any one of the criteria would cause the school's admission number to be exceeded, then children living nearest will be offered first. The distance will be calculated by the Local Authority using a straight-line measurement from the address point location coordinate of the applicant's home address (as set by Ordnance Survey) to the centre point ('centroid') of the school in question. (The centroid is a predetermined point set by Warwickshire County Council and all distances are subject to changes which may occur with updates of mapping data). If two or more applicants share the same distance to a school and only one place is available, the applicant to whom the place will be offered will be determined by the Local Authority by random selection (unless this involves multiple births, in which case, all the siblings will be admitted).



6. Applications received after the Local Authority's designated closing date for receipt of applications will be deemed to have been made late and will be considered after applications with the same priority that were received on time.
7. **Waiting lists** are produced in strict order of priority, against the over-subscription criteria. Waiting lists are kept until the end of the end of December in the year of admission.
8. Applications made outside the normal admissions round (for in-year admissions) should be made directly to the Local Authority <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions>

The **Local Authority** will notify parents of the decision in writing within 15 school days and will notify the local authority of both the application and its outcome to allow the Local Authority to keep up to date with figures on the availability of school places in their area.

9. **Appeals:** Parents who wish to appeal against a decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to the Diocese of Birmingham for a hearing. Appeals will be heard by an independent Panel.
10. **Fair Access Protocol:** The Local Academy Board recognises its duty to participate in the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol.

### ***Section removed about deferred entry into reception***

#### **11. Admission of children outside their normal age group**

11.1 Parents may seek a place for a child outside of their normal age group in special circumstances, for instance if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Such applications should be made in writing to the Chair of the Local Academy Board of the school, via the school office, setting out the reasons for the request. A decision will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

11.2 Summer-born Children (those born between 01 April and 31 August)

11.2.1 Parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following the child's fifth birthday, when they will apply for the child to



enter Year 1. There is no guarantee that a place will be available at the school at this stage, as the year group may well already be full.

11.2.2 Parents of a summer born child may, *at the same time as making an application to the Local Authority for a Reception place in the child's normal age group*, make a request to the school's Local Academy Board that the child may **reapply** the following year to be admitted to the Reception class in the September following the child's 5th birthday instead. The request should be made in writing to the Chair of the Local Academy Board of the school, via the school office, setting out the reasons for the request. The Local Academy Board will make its decision on the basis of the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned and will set out clearly the reasons for the decision.

If the Local Academy Board agrees to the parent's request, the existing application for the Reception place may be withdrawn and the parent must then make a **new** application for a place in Reception as part of the main admissions round the following year which will be considered against the normal oversubscription criteria, (and there is no guarantee of a place being offered at this school at that stage).

If the Local Academy Board does not agree to the parent's request, the parent must decide whether to accept any offer of a place for Reception for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in-year application for admission to Year 1 for the September following the child's fifth birthday (when, again, there is no guarantee of a place being available at this school).

11.3 A decision made by one admission authority in respect of admission of a child out of their normal age group is not binding on any other admission authority. Therefore, a child educated out of their normal age group at this school may not be accepted out of their normal age group when moving to a different school or from primary to secondary school.

11.4 Parents' statutory right of appeal against a decision to refuse admission does not apply if the child is offered a place at the school but it is not in the parent's preferred age group.



*If parents are considering submitting an application for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, it is strongly recommended that they read the DFE guidance to be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school/Academy-admission>*



## Appendix 1

# PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

## 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

### Austrey C of E Primary School and Newton Regis C of E Primary School

#### CONSULTATION 1 Consulting under the DfE's guidance **Making significant changes to an academy**

- The proposed change of age range at Austrey C of E Primary School from Reception to Year 6 to Year 3 to Year 6, to be implemented in September 2027.
- The proposed change of age range at Newton Regis CofE Primary School from Nursery to Year 6 to Nursery to Year 2, to be implemented in September 2027.

#### CONSULTATION 2 Consulting under the DfE's guidance **School Admissions Code**

- The proposed changes to pupil admission numbers (PAN) at Austrey C of E Primary School from half form to one form (32 pupils in each year group Year 3 to Year 6) to be implemented in September 2027.
- The proposed changes to pupil admission numbers (PAN) at Newton Regis C of E Primary School from half form to one form (30 pupils in each year group Reception to Year 2) to be implemented in September 2027.

DfE = Department for Education

These are two separate consultations for two separate change processes that represent a set of linked proposals. This means that the proposals from both consultations will either both be implemented or neither implemented. There is not an instance where one would be implemented on its own and whichever consulted change is agreed to first would be conditional on the other consulted change also being agreed, so that all decision-making processes maintain their integrity.

The ultimate decision for these changes to be implemented require the agreement of the DfE. To have reached this stage of entering into this consultation both the MAT Board and the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Education have given their support for a significant change application to be made.

#### **Both consultations are available and open to:**

- Parents / Carers attending / known to Austrey CofE Primary School and Newton Regis CofE Primary School
- Staff members of both schools
- Governors of both schools
- Immediate neighbours of individual schools
- Birmingham Diocese Multi Academy Trust
- Other schools and Early Years providers in the relevant admission areas
- Wider members of both local communities
- Local Parish, District and County Councillors

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- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Local Member of Parliament
- Relevant neighbouring education providers
- Unions
- Any other stakeholders identified by each school

### What the consultations are proposing and why

Austrey CofE Primary School and Newton Regis CofE Primary School are small village schools that work closely together and are both part of Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust. Through shared leadership and governance, the schools already collaborate to make the best use of resources and to support consistent, high-quality education for their pupils.

The Trust has a clear responsibility to ensure that all its schools remain educationally strong and financially sustainable. In recent years, both schools have experienced rising costs without a corresponding growth in income through pupil numbers due to the size of the local catchment areas and current birth rates. This has resulted in both having mixed-age classes across all year groups which is not ideal when pursuing excellent teaching, and a drive to need to make savings in all areas of discretionary spend. After five years of budgets not balancing the deficit has grown to approximately 10% of the budget. The schools have needed to be subsidised by the group of schools in the Trust ever since Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (BDMAT or 'the Trust') assumed control of them and this is a loss that the trust can no longer continue to overwrite. This model of school organisation is therefore unsustainable and so we are considering how future arrangements might best support outcomes for children both now and for future generations.

The following table provides information relating to the current and projected pupil numbers for both schools:

#### Austrey CofE Primary School

Year	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
22/23	14	10	16	13	9	11	15
23/24	14	13	12	13	15	10	12
24/25	11	14	13	11	14	15	11
25/26	15	11	14	13	12	13	15
26/27	<b>AT LEAST 13</b> 29 applications	15	11	14	13	12	13

Footnote 1: 29 applications (13 first choice from Warwickshire)

#### Newton Regis C of E Primary School

Year	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
22/23	13	11	14	9	16	15	16	9
23/24	17	11	20	14	12	15	15	16
24/25	14	9	11	10	14	11	16	13



25/26	13	17	9	11	10	14	11	16
26/27	13	<b>AT LEAST 12</b> (see footnote 1)	17	9	11	10	14	11

Footnote 2: 23 applications (9 first choice from Warwickshire and 3 from out of county) This level of demand is why Warwickshire CC do not wish to increase the places they fund in our schools which in turn is why growth is not currently an available alternative.

### What the consultations are proposing and what the benefits would be

The need in the local area and the size of the school premises mean that neither school site can accommodate all year groups. In dialogue with the DfE, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and the Trust’s legal advisors the Trust has therefore considered a number of alternative ways forward. Given our commitment to local families and the history of Church run schools in the two villages our intention is to continue this provision, while addressing the schools’ losses.

The outcome of the two proposals, if agreed to, would be to maintain two separate schools but to re-organise these and create:

- **Newton Regis CofE Infant and Nursery School** – providing education for Nursery (age 3+) to Year 2, up to 30 pupils per year group.
  - **Austrey CofE Junior School** – providing education for pupils in Year 3 to Year 6, up to 32 pupils per year group.
- Each one form entry, with these significant changes implemented from September 2027

The revised pupil admission numbers (PAN) for September 2027 intake would be public and relevant in the preceding admissions window 2026-2027.

The proposals presented for consultation would allow both schools to remain open with distinct Unique Reference Numbers (URNs) supporting each village with its own education provision but operating increasingly as a single coherent offer. The staff body, governance and leadership arrangements will remain similar to what is currently in place across both schools with the exception of the gathering of teachers by age specialism in the relevant school. Our aim would be to provide a smooth transition between schools from year two to year three with no greater sense of a transition other than the change of site. Our planning for the operation of each school or phase will be developed through the Local Academy Board and conversations with parents so that the practicalities of staggered start and finish times dovetail.

The social and academic benefits of a full class of the same age group are well understood and form a compelling driver for this change, while the closeness of the two schools and the fact that they are run by a single Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher mean that we can continue to offer children the existing benefits of access to the full primary age range. The proposals are intended to:



### **Support long-term financial sustainability**

Securing a long-term sustainable model would reduce reliance on the need to make shorter term efficiency savings. The Trust does not intend to perform a formal restructuring but over time, through natural staff turnover, the new organisational structure will enable staff cost savings with an overall reduction of 1 teacher, 1 teaching assistant and 0.5FTE administrative staff. This would achieve a saving of approximately £90,000 to £105,000 per annum, based on the average cost of current staff in these relevant positions. Securing the financial viability of both settings will maintain the provision of a school in each village whilst responding to ongoing demographic changes affecting pupil numbers. It will support further strengthening and improvement of educational provision, which is the best way to increase the appeal of the schools. Increased pupil numbers results in more income which can then be reinvested to support even better provision.

### **Further strengthen educational provision**

Teaching pupils in single-age classes would allow learning to be more precisely matched to age-related expectations, supporting clearer progression with more effective support. These larger, single-year cohorts would enable clearer assessment, tracking, moderation and comparison to take place with other one-form entry schools. The pupils would benefit from broader enrichment opportunities, wider friendship groups and, ultimately, a smoother transition to secondary school as a larger cohort. Reorganising provision as proposed would create a more effective use of staffing, leadership and resources.

### **Provide benefits for the schools' teaching staff**

Removing the complexity of mixed-age teaching would reduce staff workload and enhance their overall wellbeing. It would also enable there to be co-located Early Career Teachers and their mentors on the same site which would strengthen professional support and development. This clearer, more sustainable staffing structure, would subsequently support retention, continuity and consistency for pupils. The proposal would avoid redundancies and the associated risks of destabilisation and demoralisation.

### **Provide benefits for the schools' communities**

Implementation of the proposals would mean both schools would remain open, continuing to serve their village communities, while working together more effectively. At the same time, it would broaden the social mix of pupils, support inclusivity and generate stronger community cohesion. Maintaining viable schools locally would help to safeguard this education provision for future generations.

### **Expand Nursery provision at Newton Regis**

This will help to meet local demand, strengthen early engagement with more families and support strong transition into Reception as well as increase income due to running a larger provision. The proposed change will allow the



school to increase its school nursery admission number from the current 13 to 26. The funding received from the additional places created will pay for a Nursery Manager, additional Nursery staff as required and investment in the Nursery education environment. This improved environment would enhance opportunities for indoor and outdoor continuous provision that could be extended into Reception.

### Costs identified with implementation of the proposals

**Toilets:** The schools will need to install appropriate toilet facilities to reflect the change in children's ages. The facilities at Newton Regis are appropriate for the proposed infant age range. The infant size facilities at Austrey will need to be replaced by junior toilets. These one-off toilet changes will be funded from DfE capital funding grants.

**Outdoor facilities:** The current Reception outdoor area at Austrey will need to be adapted to suit older children. This will require the removal of fencing and levelling off the ground to create a suitable additional outdoor space for Key Stage 2 children. The works would be carried out by BDMAT site managers.

### Risks and mitigations identified with implementation and impact of the proposals

Identified Risk	Planned Mitigation Strategy
Siblings split across sites	Adjusted start/end times to accommodate families
Children from Year 2 at Newton Regis would need to apply for a Year 3 place at Austrey Junior School.	The Trust would hope for all children, for whom an on-time application is received, to have the opportunity to move to the junior school. The risk of a Year 2 Newton Infant child not obtaining a place at Austrey Junior would be helpfully mitigated by the increase in PAN from 30 at the Infant School to 32 at the Junior School.
New Year 2 transition: Children will transition from Newton Regis to Austrey at the end of Year 2.	With the same Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) and shared Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) cover staff on both sites and all children combined in the same class from the start, our plan would be for a joined up educational provision that is continuous and consistent with common approaches to all that we do across the two schools.
Transport: There is no Local Authority guaranteed provision of funded transport to meet all requirements for pupils moving between the villages. Currently the bus funded by the LA picks up children from Alvecote and	BDMAT trust will work with Warwickshire Local Authority to identify any available / relevant capacity within the funded transport arrangements in the short and long term to meet need created by these proposed changes.  If required, the Trust will facilitate a minibus service including chaperones between the 2 schools.



Identified Risk	Planned Mitigation Strategy
<p>Shuttington and drops them off at Newton Regis School. A chaperone will be required on transport for children from Reception to Year 2 and for children with additional needs.</p>	<p>To protect budgets intended for classrooms we will do all we can to make this self-funding / sustainable. Where this is not possible and transport is needed by those in the existing school population of 25/26 the Trust will bear the cost.</p>
<p>Start and end school times: Both schools currently have the same start and end times for the school day which may impact families dropping children off at both sites.</p>	<p>The schools will consider the need to provide care arrangements before / after school and / or staggered start and end times to facilitate drop off and pick up can be safely achieved.</p>
<p>Uniform: Each school currently has a different uniform, and displaced children may wish to adopt the uniform of the new school.</p>	<p>The Infant and the Junior schools will eventually have the same uniform which will be phased in over time to ensure that uniform changes do not come with any additional cost to parents / carers.</p>
<p>Parking / Traffic arrangements  Travel between villages will be increased by this proposal, increasing congestion in particular at Austrey given the nature of the approach to the school. Potential parking difficulties at start and finish times.</p>	<p>We recognise this to be a major concern for busy parents and for local residents. We commit to ongoing discussion over the next 18 months with all those impacted, and with Warwickshire LA / Highways and groups that promote greener approaches to travel. We would explore ways of increasing access to Austrey site. Having only KS2 pupils at Austrey would mean more independent, healthy and positive walking and cycling to school.</p>
<p>Concern for existing pupils who will face the greatest levels of change, for example the youngest who will make a move in 2027 from Austrey to Newton Regis to then return to Austrey.</p>	<p>The trust will explore ways of preparing children and consider whether there are ways of staggering / phasing the proposed changes so that children are more supported through the gentlest possible process.</p>
<p>Concern for vulnerable pupils where smaller age groups are perceived as a benefit. Associated to this is uncertainty about the future level of teaching assistant (TA) support.</p>	<p>The educational changes will support teachers to be able to focus more on individual need because they are not having to constantly manage providing for two-year groups in one classroom. Currently, teaching assistants are deployed to support times when the class is split by age. This potentially means TA</p>



Identified Risk	Planned Mitigation Strategy
	support is less driven by individual vulnerability or SEND. While additional adult support is the ideal it is always dependent on funding / affordability. This whole plan is aiming to generate efficiencies that in principle help us to then spend as much as we can on, for example, additional adults.

### Have your say...

No final decisions have been taken at this stage. These consultations are an opportunity to gather views before any next steps are determined. As respondents, please be clear when making your responses

- **Which school / schools** your responses relate to.
- **Which consultation** you are responding to (proposed change in age range, also called the Significant Change, or the proposed change in pupil admission number) or whether you are responding to both.

### CONSULTATION 1

We are seeking views and comments around a proposed change of age range at both schools. Informed by this consultation, the intention will be to apply to the DfE with a proposal for these “significant” changes that they will either agree to or decline.

### CONSULTATION 2

We are seeking views and comments around a proposed consultation relating to changes to pupil admission numbers at both schools.

We encourage you to respond to one or both of the consultations through the Microsoft Consultation Form that has been pre-populated with the following questions and an opportunity to enter free text.

#### 1 Who is responding:

- a. Existing parent / carer
- b. Future parent / carer
- c. Staff / governor
- d. Local resident
- e. Representative of another school provider
- f. Representative of another Nursery provider
- g. Representative of Council / Parliament
- h. Representative of BDMAT
- i. Union
- j. Other stakeholder

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## 2 Responding with reference to:

- a. Austrey CofE Primary School
- b. Newton Regis CofE Primary School
- c. Both schools

## 3 Responses:

- a. **CONSULTATION 1** Do you support the proposal for a change in the age range of the school(s)?
- b. **CONSULTATION 2** Do you support the proposal for a change to the PAN for the school(s) from half a form entry to whole one form entry?

## 4 If you have answered NO to either of the above, please answer the following:

- a. Do you prefer mixed age teaching over single age classes?
- b. Do you prefer your own child not to have to experience the proposed changes, despite acknowledging the need for and validity of these?
- c. Do you consider the proposed travel or pick-up / drop-off arrangements between the two villages to be too great a problem?
- d. Do you consider these proposed changes to be such that they will reduce the demand for places at the schools amongst prospective parents / carers?
- e. Given the trends and patterns in local demand that do not promise growth, do you believe there is another way to achieve the required savings from the existing school arrangements that would make these proposals redundant? Please explain (free text)
- f. Do you perceive there to be other disadvantages to this proposal that outweigh the benefits? Please explain (free text)

The form can be accessed via this link

All forms will be returned to the BDMAT Head of School Support who will collate the responses at the end of the specified consultation period. These will then be presented to the MAT Board of Directors for consideration before our final submissions are made to the Department for Education and the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator.

The six-week consultation period **begins 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025** and **closes at noon on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to one or both of these proposals do so within this timeframe. By working together, we can financially stabilise the schools and continue to achieve further educational excellence for the pupils here now and into the future.

If you have any further questions regarding this proposal, or require a paper copy, please contact:

[consultation@bdmat.org.uk](mailto:consultation@bdmat.org.uk)



Or either of the schools:

<b>Address</b>	<b>Austrey C of E Primary School</b> St Nicholas Close, Austrey, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 3EQ	<b>Newton Regis C of E Primary School</b> Austrey Lane, Newton Regis, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 0NL
<b>Email</b>	office@austrey.bdmatrix.org.uk	office@newtonregis.bdmatrix.org.uk
<b>Phone Number</b>	01827 830248	01827 830220

**Consultation Process & Timeline:** Consultation period: **19th December 2025 to 31st January 2026**

Description	Timescale
Publication (Statutory proposal/notice)	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Representation (formal consultation) This notice would provide an opportunity for comments, suggestions or objections to be made.	6 weeks following the date of the statutory notice publication: Deadline 31 January 2026
<b>Decision</b> The MAT has a duty to report a summary of responses made to the statutory notice and submits these with an application to the DfE who make the final decision whether to agree the proposal or not.	
Implementation	September 2027

We thank you in advance for your consideration of the proposals and engagement with the consultations.

Sara Eley  
Executive Headteacher

Lesa Nield  
Chair of Governors

Tim Boyes  
Chief Executive Officer