



Olive Academies

17 March 2025

Dear Stakeholder

Introduction

Olive Academies in partnership with Cambridgeshire Local Authority are proposing to change the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of Olive AP Academy – Cambridge and Olive AP Academy Nene Valley from 35 to 54 in Cambridge and 50 in Nene Valley.

The proposal has met the criteria for a significant change to an Academy and therefore a public consultation must be held on the proposal. This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the next steps of this process:

- What is proposed
- Why is it being proposed
- Details of how the decision will be made
- How to submit a response

Academy Details	
Address	Olive AP Academy - Cambridge, Ascham Drive, Cambridge CB4 2BD
Status	Academy
Ofsted Rating	Good (July 2022)
Current PAN	35
Proposed PAN	54

Academy Details	
Address	Olive AP Academy - Nene Valley,
Status	Academy
Ofsted Rating	Good (May 2022)
Current PAN	35
Proposed PAN	50

Background information:

Our alternative provision academies in Cambridge and Wisbech supports young people aged between 11 and 16 who have been permanently excluded from school or who are risk of exclusion. Both academies have capacity for up to 60 pupils but currently cater for 35. The academy buildings offer an impressive range of facilities including state-of-the-art classrooms, canteens, extensive teaching kitchens, gardens and a multi-sports pitch.

Academic outcomes for pupils within the academies in 2023-24 were above the national average for the alternative provision sector, and all Year 11 pupils went on to further education or employment, meaning our academies reported 0% not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Both academies were found to be 'Good' in all areas in their Ofsted inspection in 2022. The reports recognised the successful combination of well-targeted pastoral support and a carefully designed curriculum in preparing students for successful reintegration back into mainstream schools and their next steps in education, training or employment.

Following a successful safeguarding audit carried out by Anchored Schools in 2024, they were awarded the Gold quality mark in recognition of the strong and secure culture of safeguarding embedded across the academy. The report acknowledged that the safety and wellbeing of pupils drives all aspects of school life.

What is proposed?

Using a bespoke curriculum model that caters for the needs of each individual pupil the current academy sites could accommodate up to 60 pupils. Currently the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for each academy is 35 which means that a highly valuable and effective resource that supports pupils who have been permanently excluded or who are at risk of permanent exclusion is not being fully utilised.

Therefore, in partnership with the local authority we are proposing to increase the PAN in each academy, from 35 to 54 in Olive AP Academy - Cambridge and 35 to 50 in Olive Ap Academy – Nene Valley.

Why is it being proposed?

Changing the PAN of the academies will have a number of benefits:

- The local authority will be able to have access more high-quality Alternative Provision for KS3 and KS4 pupils.
- Support local mainstream schools in developing the inclusion offer across the LA and prevent the need for pupils to be permanently excluded
- Carefully mapped and sequenced curriculum plans for KS3 and KS4 pupils that improve engagement, raising educational standards and outcomes for all
- Access to specialist academy facilities for pupils who need Alternative Provision to prevent them being permanently excluded from mainstream school.
- Reduce pressures on special schools and related budgets, by providing pupils with timely support to remain to be successful in their local mainstream school

How will the decision be made?

The three-week consultation period commences on Monday, 17 March 2025 and closes at noon on Friday, 4 April 2025. A Public Notice has been issued on the school website, around the school and in the local area.

The following stakeholders will also be directly notified:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Staff and Trustees of the school
- Neighbouring schools
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Local Members of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Any other known local stakeholders

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Trust Board of the Academy will consider all the responses to the consultation and (subject to any necessary consents being obtained) decide whether to proceed with the proposal by making a formal application for the change of age range. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) will then decide (on behalf of the Secretary of State) whether proposals are in line with the needs of the local area.

How to submit a response?

Responses can be made on-line via the following link and must be received by noon on Friday, 4 April 2025.

Consultation Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/9CvU8asPDD>

Should you require a paper or Word copy of this consultation notice, please contact: Maria Brame, Executive Assistant, Olive Academies via Maria.Brame@oliveacademies.org.uk or 01708 982624.

Yours faithfully



Mark Vickers MBE
Chief Executive Officer