BRADGATE
Education Partnership

Stronger Together

Bradgate Education Partnership
Trust Offices, Wreake Valley Academy,
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Date 2/11/2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Bradgate Education Partnership: Consultation on changes to the schools Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for [Academic Year 2028/2029]

Consultation period: Monday 2nd November 2026 to Monday 14th December 2026

Bradgate Education Partnership, the admissions authority for 19 academies, is launching a consultation on proposed changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at 5 of its schools, in line with the School Admissions Code 2021. The Trust is seeking the views of all interested parties to these proposals.

Why are we consulting?

The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consult on their admission arrangements at least every seven years, or sooner where a change is proposed, including any increase or reduction to a PAN.

In this instance, 5 BEP schools are proposing changes to the number of pupils admitted in the school reception year or seeking to confirm their current admission number as permanent.

Stakeholders are deemed to include:

- Parents and carers of children between the ages of [2] and [18]
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area
- Staff at the academies concerned
- *Leicestershire Local Authority*
- Other persons in the local area who may have an interest in the proposed admission arrangements

The full School Admissions Code (2021) can be found at: assets.publishing.service.gov.uk (search 'School Admissions Code 2021').

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Specific Proposal

At Mercenfeld Primary School the Trust proposes to change the PAN with effect from August/September 2028.

For children who already hold a place at an affected school, there will be no change.

Mercenfeld Primary School has previously operated a PAN of 50. This has, in agreement with Leicestershire County Council been temporarily set at 30.

The trust proposes to confirm the current temporary PAN of 30 as a permanent arrangement.

School / Academy	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Change
Mercenfeld Primary School	50 Official 30 Temporary	30	Secure the current temporary PAN as permanent Reduction of 20 on the schools pre-temporary PAN

Rationale for the Proposed Changes

The Trust's reasons for proposing these changes are as follows:

a. The school does not have the physical capacity to accommodate 2 classes in each year. A PAN of 50 would require 2 classes (The school has 11 classrooms and 2 classes in each year would require 14 classes).
b. The school does not have the capacity to run mixed and age-based classes as this would require 12 classes 3 classes in each year mixed group, R&1, 2&3, 4&5 (1 extra class in R,1,2 due to the infant class size rule) -2 classes in Yr6.
c. A PAN of 50 is financially unsustainable and would result in pupils at Mercenfeld being disadvantaged, as the school would be required to run high staffing costs which would impact on curriculum resources and other provision.
d. In KS2 where the infant class-size rule does not apply the school is unable to accommodate classes of 33 / 34 pupils. The school's class rooms are incompatible with large classes and would impact on pupil support as additional adults and wheel chairs would not be able to negotiate these spaces.
e. The school currently has 2 mobile units, housing 4 classes in total. These mobiles have 2 pupil toilets and a disabled toilet between 60 pupils. Increased class-sizes would take the provision outside of the recommended ratios.
f. All pupils currently enter the school site via a single gate, shared with cars, taxis etc. Increasing the number of pupils and parents accessing via this gate presents safety risks in addition to the relationship challenges with the local community which arise from additional traffic.
g. A PAN of 50 in Reception would require additional staffing due to the school's physical orientation. This additional staffing would be required to allow pupils access to free play.

There are no other proposed changes to the admissions arrangements at this school.

How to Respond

The consultation will run from **Monday 2nd November 2026** to **Monday 14th December 2026**. During this period, a copy of this letter a link to the proposed admission arrangements **and an electronic form** will be available on the Bradgate Education Partnership website at:

https://bepschools.org/admissions-consultation/

or linked from the schools admission page at:

School / Academy	Website
Mercenfeld Primary School	https://www.mercenfeld.bepschools.org/our-school/admissions/

Comments can be submitted via e-mail or post using the following contact details:

Post:

Bradgate Education Partnership
Trust Offices
Wreake Valley Academy
Parkstone Road
Syston
Leicestershire
LE7 1LY

or

Email: consultation@bepschools.org

All responses must be received by Monday 14th December 2026. Representations received after this date cannot be considered.

Following the consultation, the Trust Board / Trustees will consider all responses received and decide whether to approve the proposed changes to admission arrangements for the 2028 academic year.

Yours faithfully,

G. Nelmes

Gareth Nelmes
CEO on behalf of trust officers and trustees