

## Introduction

Academy Transformation Trust (ATT) is undertaking a statutory consultation on a proposal to reduce the net capacity of The Dukeries Academy from the Department for Education's (DfE) currently published figure of 1,477 places to 900 places. This consultation focuses solely on the proposed reduction in capacity and is being conducted in accordance with the DfE's *Making significant changes to an academy; non-statutory guidance on collaborative school place planning and making organisational changes to academies (February 2026)*.

A previous two-week public consultation on the new-build proposals for The Dukeries Academy has already taken place, involving staff and wider community stakeholders. However, that consultation focused solely on the planned replacement of existing buildings as part of the planning process. It did not consider the proposal to reduce the school's net capacity. As this represents a separate statutory change, a further consultation is required.

This consultation will run for three weeks, from 27 February 2026 through to 21 March 2026. Responses received will inform ATT's submission to the DfE. If approved, the proposed reduction in net capacity will be implemented alongside completion of the new school building, which is currently anticipated for spring/summer 2028.

## Definitions

*Published Admission Number (PAN):* The maximum number of pupils that will be offered places in Year 7 in the normal year of entry in each academic year.

*Net Capacity:* The maximum number of pupils that a school building can reasonably accommodate, calculated using the Department for Education's Net Capacity Assessment methodology, which measures the total usable teaching and non-teaching space within the school and converts this into a pupil capacity figure.

## Specific Proposal

The Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Dukeries Academy are proposing to reduce the net capacity of the Dukeries Academy, from 1 September 2027, from 1477 to 900.

## Reason for the Proposed Change

The proposed reduction in capacity reflects the need to align the academy's size with current and projected pupil demand based on Nottinghamshire County Council's approved place-planning data. The new building provided through the Government's DfE Rebuilding Programme (Round 4) is specifically designed for 900 pupils, which is consistent with forecast need across the local planning area. The new proposed building will support high-quality teaching and learning and a fit-for-purpose environment that enables all pupils to access the standard of education they are entitled to receive.

The existing estate was originally built for over 1,600 pupils, far exceeding current and anticipated local demand. The buildings are now at the end of their life, presenting significant condition, suitability, safety and efficiency issues. The replacement building will offer a modern, sustainable, and more appropriately scaled environment, consistent with what the local community should expect for its children.

Local Authority projections confirm that a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 180 and a net capacity of 900 will meet medium to long-term pupil demand. ATT and Nottinghamshire County Council have historically agreed a PAN of 180, which has been in place for several years, and neither Nottinghamshire nor neighbouring authorities have requested additional places.

## **Background and Context**

### **Details of the Proposal**

- Reduce the school's net capacity from 1,477 to 900 places.
- Deliver a new, modern, two-storey building designed for 900 pupils, including specialist curriculum facilities, sports provision, enhanced safeguarding features and improved accessibility.
- Replace the existing, life-expired buildings, thereby addressing significant condition, safety and suitability issues.
- Ensure the size and scale of provision matches current and projected pupil need and stabilising demand across the place planning area.

### **Consultation Period**

The consultation will run from:

Friday 27 February 2026 – Friday 21 March 2026

### **Who We Are Consulting**

In line with DfE requirements, this consultation is being shared with:

- Parents/carers of pupils currently attending The Dukeries Academy
- Parents and residents in the local area
- All other relevant admission authorities
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Local stakeholders with an interest in the proposal

ATT welcomes views from all stakeholders before the consultation closes.

### **How to Respond**

*By Email:*

[consultations@atrust.org.uk](mailto:consultations@atrust.org.uk) with a subject line: Dukeries Capacity Consultation

*By Post:*

Karen Robson (Dukeries Capacity Consultation)

Academy Transformation Trust

Unit 4, Second Floor, Emmanuel Court

Reddicroft, Sutton Coldfield

B73 6AZ

**Next steps**

Following the close of the consultation period, the Trust will review the feedback received and determine whether to proceed with the proposal, amend it, or take no further action. Subject to the outcome of the consultation and the Trust Board's decision, the Trust would then proceed in line with the Department for Education's process for making significant changes to an academy.

***Ged Rae***

***Continuous Improvement Partner***