6 November 2026

Dear Stakeholder

We are writing to inform you of a proposed change to the admission arrangements at Mercia Northridge. This will take effect from the 2028-29 academic year, and we invite your views as part of a formal consultation process.

As part of our ongoing commitment to attract, retain, and support high-quality staff, we are proposing to include a new oversubscription criterion in our admission policy. This would allocate up to three places for children of staff who work at Mercia Northridge School, when the school is oversubscribed.

The aim of this change is to support staff wellbeing and work-life balance. Allowing staff the opportunity to have their children attend the same school can ease the demands of managing family and work responsibilities. This support contributes positively to staff wellbeing and, in turn, supports a stable and effective learning environment for all pupils.

We believe this change is both fair and proportionate, with the number of places limited to a maximum of three per secondary school in any oversubscription year. This ensures minimal impact on the wider admissions process while supporting staff who are integral to the success of our schools and trust.

Additionally, we are proposing to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 180 to 150 pupils for each year group from September 2028. This change is intended to support the long-term stability and sustainability of the school by aligning admission numbers more closely with anticipated demand and available capacity. We believe this will help ensure that the school can continue to provide a high-quality educational experience and for all pupils.

Consultation Requirements and timeline

In accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, admission authorities must consult on proposed changes to admission arrangements that they intend to implement in the following academic year, where changes are material.

As required by the Code, the consultation must run for a minimum of six weeks and it must be completed by 31 January 2027 for arrangements to apply to admissions in September 2028.

We are therefore running our consultation as follows:

- Consultation opens on **Friday 6 November 2026** and closes on **Friday 18 December 2026**
- Final policy determined and published by: 28 February 2027

Who can respond?

This consultation is open to all stakeholders, including:

- Parents and carers of current and prospective pupils
- School staff and local governors
- Local primary and early years providers
- Local authority
- Members of the local community and other interested parties

How to respond

You can share your view via email **admissionconsultation@merciatrust.co.uk** before Friday 18 December 2026.

What happens next?

After the consultation closes, all feedback will be reviewed by our Trust Board. A final version of the Admission Policy for 2028-29 will be determined and published no later than 28 February 2027, in accordance with the Admissions Code.

Yours faithfully



Neil Miley
CEO