Storrs Hill Road, Ossett,
West Yorkshire,
WF5 0DG

01924 668936
enquiries@accordmat.org
www.accordmat.org

9 December 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

South Ossett Infants Academy: Consultation on a proposed reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) and changes to Admissions Policy for 2027-28

Consultation period: 9 December 2025 to 19 January 2026

South Ossett Infants Academy is one of five academies within Accord Multi Academy Trust. The Trust is the Admissions Authority for the academy and wishes to consult on the following proposals:

- To reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 30 to 15 with effect from September 2027
- To adopt the standard content of the Wakefield LA Policy for Primary Schools from September 2027

Why are we proposing these changes?
South Ossett Infants Academy and Accord Multi Academy Trust have worked closely with Dimple Well Infant School, along with the Wakefield Local Authority, to assess the needs of our community, and to ensure that the demand for places arising from within the Ossett Pyramid of schools from September 2027 will continue to be met. In conjunction with this consultation for South Ossett Infants Academy, Dimple Well Infant School will also consult to reduce their PAN for the academic year 2027/28 from 60 to 45 places. In line with this, Southdale Junior school will also be consulting to reduce their PAN to 60, so that they are aligned with the incoming cohorts from both infant schools.

The national, regional and local trend in school place planning is being driven by falling birth rates and demographic changes, which in turn are reducing demand for school places in many areas. In response, local authorities and schools are reviewing Published Admission Numbers (PAN) to ensure that excess surplus places do not exist, whilst at the same time ensuring that provision remains of a high-quality and aligned with community needs.

The current Admissions Policy is part of the Education Ossett Community Trust Policy, which also incorporates several other schools in the Ossett pyramid. South Ossett Infants Academy is part of Accord Multi Academy Trust, and we are seeking to align our admissions arrangements with other academies within the Trust, ensuring consistency across our organisation. The proposed policy will maintain fairness and transparency for all children in the Ossett pyramid, aligning with the Wakefield LA policy for primary schools.

Specific Rationale
The academy proposes to reduce the PAN from 30 to 15 with effect from September 2027. This means that the maximum number of academy places for pupils entering Reception from September 2027 will be 15. For children who already have a place at the academy there will be no change.

Accord Multi Academy Trust is a Charitable Company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England number: 7484308. Registered office as above.

In setting out this proposal, it is also important to note that the Accord Multi Academy Trust remains committed to continue to monitor the demand for places within the communities that it serves, and to respond where appropriate.

How to respond?
The consultation will run from 9 December 2025 to 19 January 2026, and for the duration of the consultation the South Ossett Infants Academy website will include a copy of this letter and the current admission arrangements for the academy.
Admissions | South Ossett Infants

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult key stakeholders where a reduction of PAN is proposed. Stakeholders are deemed to be:

- Parents and carers of children between the ages of 2 and 18
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area
- Staff
- Wakefield Local Authority
- Any adjoining neighbouring LAs where the admission authority is the LA
- Other persons in the local area who may have an interest in the proposed admissions

The School's Admission Code can be found at School admissions code 2021 publishing.service.gov.uk

All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in relation to the proposals to the Trust using the following:

Post: Accord Multi Academy Trust
Storrs Hill Road
Ossett
Wakefield
WF5 0DG
Email: enquiries@accordmat.org (title: South Ossett Infants Academy Consultation)

All responses must be received by 19 January 2026 with representations received after the specified date not being considered.

Following the consultation, Trustees will consider the responses and decide whether to refer the proposed reduction in admission number for the 2027 / 2028 academic year to the Department for Education (DfE).

Yours sincerely,

A. Lancashire

Andrew Lancashire
Chair of Trustees

Alan Warboys
CEO