

February 2024

Dear Families, Staff & Stakeholders

Discovery Trust Admissions Consultation: Outcome to reduce the Published Admission Number in Discovery Schools

I am writing to you to provide an update on the outcome of our consultation on the proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Parkland Primary, Danemill Primary and Mowmacre Hill Primary Schools. This is due to falling pupil numbers and births rates, which have fallen considerably in recent years, and the impact of this is starting to show in school place applications, with much lower pupil numbers in the early primary year groups than in the later years.

The admission consultation concluded in December 2023. The consultation obtained a small, but detailed responses to the proposal, including from both Leicestershire County Council & Leicester City Council. The Trust received broad support on the change as it is understood the reasons for this proposal recognising the falling numbers of pupils in these localities.

From the public consultation, which was also sent to all staff in each school, the consultation received 20 responses. There were 12 in favour of the proposed change and 8 responses against.

The Discovery Trustees considered the consultation results and the case for change and agreed to determine that the Pupil Admission Number arrangements for these schools will reduce the for 25/26 intake and all subsequent years.

These changes are:

Danemill Primary School - moves to offering 315 places, with a PAN of 45. Parkland Primary School - move to offering 420 places, with a PAN of 60. Mowmacre Hill Primary School - moves to offering 315 places, with a PAN of 45.

I would like to reaffirm and be clear that the Trust is not planning to make any job losses under this change. There will be opportunities for redeployment within the Trust for staff if necessary.

We will keep our forecasts and birth rates under annual review in partnership with our Local Authorities. If pupil forecast and births increase, we will seek to add further places to meet future demand.

The Trust and Schools are committed to successfully implementing these changes to ensure that our high-quality education offered to children and families continues to be viable and strengthened.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with info@discoverytrust.org.

Best wishes,

Paul Stone, Trust Leader Discovery Trust

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