



11 May 2026

Dear Colleague,

Reduction to Published Admission Number – Valley Primary School

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust is seeking a variation to the published admission number (PAN) for Valley Primary School. The school currently operates an admission number of 90, and this application seeks a reduction to 60 starting in September 2026, and then a revised intake of 75 for September 2027. This change requires formal approval by the Department for Education (DfE).

The rationale behind the decision

Several shifts in local circumstances have led to this request:

- There has been a 17% drop in the local birth rate since the 2015/16 peak.
- Data indicates a further 5% reduction in expected intakes through 2029.
- Historically, the area relied on 8–10% migration of young children (ages 0–4) to fill surplus places, but this has recently plummeted to between 0% and 3%.
- There is a forecasted 21% surplus of reception places across the local area for September 2026.

Why are we proposing this change?

By adjusting admission numbers, the school and Trust can better plan finances and staffing. This stability is vital to ensuring the school can continue to plan properly and provide a high-quality environment for all pupils.

Please be assured that even with a reduction of the PAN, we would expect the school to be able to accommodate all the children living in its catchment area that apply for a place and siblings of children already at the school, at its normal point of intake.

Next Steps

The DfE will now consider this request and determine whether the application is approved. As part of this process, the Trust is notifying all local admission authorities and the school community.

If you require further information, or wish to submit comments regarding this proposal please email office@elliottfoundation.co.uk by noon on 25 May 2026.

Yours sincerely
Katie Stobbart
Head of Legal and Governance