Meridian Trust

Principal: Simon Warburton

ELY COLLEGE

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2 November 2026

Dear Parent, Carer and Community Member

Public consultation on 2028/29 Admissions Arrangements – Ely College

Ely College is part of the Meridian Trust family of schools. We are consulting on our Admission Policy for children joining Year 7 in September 2028 (children who are currently in Year 5).

Changes are being made and we would like your views. There is one main substantive change and one format change which is the focus of this consultation:

- **We propose to remove Millfield Primary School and Littleport Community Primary School from the list of catchment primary schools that make up the Ely College catchment area.**
- The policy is also moving to the new Meridian Trust format, so it will look different. Apart from the catchment change, the order in which places are allocated stays the same.

At present, children who live in the catchment area of any of seven named primary schools are in the Ely College catchment area. Children who live in catchment, or who attend one of these primary schools, are given higher priority for a place if more families apply than there are places (270 in Year 7). Under our proposal, the list would change as follows:

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Current catchment primary schools (2027/28)	**Proposed catchment primary schools (2028/29)**
Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School	Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School
Ely St John's Community Primary School	Ely St John's Community Primary School
Isle of Ely Primary School	Isle of Ely Primary School
Lantern Community Primary School	Lantern Community Primary School
Downham Feoffees Primary Academy	Downham Feoffees Primary Academy
Littleport Community Primary School (proposed for removal)	*Removed*
Millfield Primary School (proposed for removal)	*Removed*

Why we are proposing this change

- **Littleport has its own secondary school.** VISTA opened in 2017 and is the nearest secondary school for families in Littleport. Cambridgeshire County Council already treats VISTA, rather than Ely College, as the catchment school for home-to-school transport from Littleport. https://info.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/kb5/cambridgeshire/directory/service.page?id=maHAiRk_XfQ&camcommunitychannel=10-21
- **Demand for places in Ely is rising.** Ely College has grown by more than 400 students in recent years and new housing in and around Ely continues to increase demand. We feel that, as a community college, students who live in the catchment area of the school should have a priority for places.

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- **Clearer, fairer arrangements for families.** Matching our catchment to local secondary provision makes the arrangements easier to understand and helps Cambridgeshire County Council plan school places across the area.

What this would mean for families

- **Children already at Ely College are not affected.** The change would apply only to applications for Year 7 from September 2028 onwards. It does not affect anyone applying for September 2027, or admission to Bishop Laney Sixth Form.
- **Families in Littleport can still apply.** Any parent can name Ely College as a preference. If the College has more applications than places, children living outside catchment are considered after children in catchment, in the order set out in the policy.
- **Brothers and sisters.** A child living in Littleport who has an older brother or sister at Ely College would still receive sibling priority, but within the non-catchment categories rather than the catchment ones. We would particularly like to hear from families in this position.
- **Home-to-school transport.** There is no change. Families in Littleport are already not eligible for free transport to Ely College because LECA is their nearest school.

For more information about Ely College and Meridian Trust please visit the websites below, where you can view the proposed Admission Policy for 2028/29 and the proposed catchment map:
https://www.elycollege.com/admission-arrangements
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How can you comment on the proposal?

The consultation period will run for six weeks, from **Monday 2 November 2026** to **Monday 14 December 2026**, and seeks the views of all interested parties. We would especially welcome views from families in Littleport and from parents and carers of children at Millfield Primary School and Littleport Community Primary School.

If you wish to respond, please **give your views via this survey before the end of the consultation period – Ely College Admissions Consultation for 2028/29 – Fill out form**

If you would prefer a paper copy of the proposed policy or response form, please contact the College reception.

What happens next?

The Academy Council will consider every response before deciding the final arrangements by 28 February 2027. These will be published on our website by 15 March 2027.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton
Principal