

Academy Transformation Trust is consulting on the increase of capacity at Mildenhall College Academy in conjunction with the building project expanding the physical capacity of the current site. The increase in capacity will be with effective from the completion of the building project. The consultation and subsequent decision making will be completed in line with DfE non-statutory guidance, 'Making significant changes to an academy; non-statutory guidance on collaborative school place planning and making organisational changes to academies, October 2024, updated February 2026'.

The forecast of required places, based on Suffolk County Council forecast data linked to birth rates and current primary provision numbers, exceeds the current capacity of the academy. During the 2025-26 academic year, building work will start and complete at Mildenhall College Academy providing increased space through classrooms and social areas to support current numbers and to provide capacity for future growth in numbers.

Specific Proposal

The Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Mildenhall College Academy are proposing to increase the capacity of Mildenhall College Academy, from 1 September 2027, from 1350 to 1500 in years 7 to 11.

Impact of the proposal

The proposed increase in capacity would be delivered alongside the planned building project, which is intended to provide additional teaching and social space to support both existing and future student numbers. The proposal does not change the age range of the academy, and admissions would continue to operate in accordance with the School Admissions Code and the academy's published admissions arrangements. The Trust and the academy will continue to work with Suffolk County Council and other local partners to consider any wider implications of the proposed increase, including pupil place planning and the use of the site.

Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Mildenhall College Academy have considered a number of key factors in deciding to hold a consultation in regard to the proposal:

- The forecast in growth over the next 10 years provided by Suffolk County Council.
- The outcome of an independent capacity survey, supported by Suffolk County Council, which has evidenced the lack of capacity for existing student numbers.
- The planned increase in housing development in the immediate vicinity.
- The outcome of formal consultation and subsequent planning approval for the expansion of Mildenhall College Academy due to begin in April 2026.

This consultation is being undertaken to seek the views of stakeholders before any final decision is made. All responses received during the consultation period will be carefully considered by Academy Transformation Trust and Mildenhall College Academy, and the outcomes of the consultation will inform the Trust Board's decision making in relation to the proposal.

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The consultation period

The consultation period will run for three working weeks from Friday 27 February 2026, until Friday 20 March 2026. There will be an opportunity to meet with academy leaders on Thursday 19th March 2026 at 5pm in the Lecture Theatre at Mildenhall College Academy Sixth Form Centre.

Who is being consulted

The consultation on this proposal is for the attention of the following:

- Parents of children who attend Mildenhall College Academy
- Parents/carers in the area
- Residents/people in the local area with an interest in the proposal
- All other relevant admission authorities within the local area
- The local authority
- Neighbouring local authorities

How to respond

Academy Transformation Trust and Mildenhall College Academy welcome your views on this proposal, and you can engage in the following ways:

Email: consultations@attrust.org.uk with the subject header **MCA Expansion**

In writing: Karen Robson, Academy Transformation Trust, Unit 4, Second Floor, Emmanuel Court, Reddicroft, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AZ

Next steps

Following the close of the consultation period, the Trust will review the feedback received and determine whether to proceed with the proposal, amend it, or take no further action. Subject to the outcome of the consultation and the Trust Board's decision, the Trust would then proceed in line with the Department for Education's process for making significant changes to an academy.

Nicola Hood

Continuous Improvement Partner, Academy Transformation Trust