

## Consultation on Proposed Variation to Admissions Arrangements;

Catchment area changes from 1 September 2026 for Middleton CofE Primary Academy, Gayton CofE Primary Academy, Ashwicken CE Primary School and West Winch Primary School

### Quick Summary

**What is being proposed?** The catchment area of Middleton CofE Primary Academy will be split across three primary schools following amalgamation

**Who may this affect?** New school applications from September 2026 for primary and secondary schools

**Consultation dates?** Tuesday 12 May 2026 until Tuesday 30 June 2026

**How to respond?** See details on page 9

### Why is this change being proposed?

In light of the recent proposal by Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) to amalgamate Middleton CofE Primary Academy with Gayton CofE Primary Academy, it is necessary to update local school catchment areas to reflect that the Middleton site will no longer be used, transferring education to the Gayton site. Admission Authorities may propose variations to admissions arrangements where there has been a major change in circumstances. The schools in this proposed catchment area change are a mix of local authority-maintained schools and academies. Academies are the Admissions Authorities for their own schools; however, this is a joint consultation, Norfolk County Council is working in collaboration with DNEAT, West Norfolk Academies Trust (WNAT) and Eastern Multi-Academy Trust (EMAT) to coordinate the admissions of pupils including how the catchment areas are arranged.

We know that changes like this can feel unsettling, and we want to explain clearly what this could mean for all stakeholders and we're inviting feedback from those who may be affected by this proposal. The consultation is open from **Tuesday 12 May 2026 until Tuesday 30 June 2026 at 12 noon**. Details on how you can give feedback can be found later in this document on page 9.

### The Proposed Change:

It is proposed that the Middleton CofE Primary Academy catchment area will not be allocated in its entirety to the remaining amalgamating school (Gayton CofE Primary Academy). The area will instead be shared across three nearby schools to support fairness, sustainability of pupil numbers, and access to local schools for children and families. The primary schools involved are:

- **Middleton CofE Primary Academy**, School Road, Middleton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1SA, *Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT)*
- **Gayton CofE Primary Academy**, 82 Springvale, Gayton, Norfolk, PE32 1QZ, *Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT)*
- **Ashwicken CE Primary School**, East Winch Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1LY, *Norfolk County Council*
- **West Winch Primary School**, Back Lane, West Winch, King's Lynn, PE33 0LA, *Norfolk County Council*

#### **Primary school changes:**

- As a result of the amalgamation of Middleton CofE Primary Academy and Gayton CofE Primary Academy, Middleton CofE Primary Academy will be discontinued and will no longer require a catchment area.
- Combining the catchment areas of the two amalgamated schools would result in an elongated combined catchment area. Gayton CofE Primary Academy would not be the most local school for all communities within that combined area. For this reason, an alternative approach has been developed.
- The proposal is to divide the catchment area which served Middleton CofE Primary Academy across three neighbouring schools; West Winch Primary School, Ashwicken CE Primary School and Gayton CofE Primary Academy.

#### **Secondary school changes:**

The secondary schools involved are:

- **Springwood High School**, Queensway, King's Lynn, PE30 4AW, *West Norfolk Academies Trust*
- **King's Lynn Academy**, Queen Mary Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4QG, *Eastern Multi-Academy Trust*

As a result of the changes to the catchment areas of the primary schools, this will also affect the secondary phase feeder school arrangements.

- Most secondary schools have named feeder primary schools.
- If your address is in a different primary catchment area after any changes, the usual feeder link to secondary school may also change.
- Parents are always entitled to apply for any secondary school of their choice; it doesn't have to be the named feeder or the catchment or nearest school. However, it's important to be aware that if a school is not the nearest or catchment school, this will affect eligibility for home to school transport. Families will be able to check this when making an application to a secondary school, if the proposed changes take place. You can see maps on pages 4 to 7 to see if this may affect your area.

#### **What is a catchment area?**

A catchment area is a specific geographical zone that can give children living in the area priority to get into a certain school. Admissions authorities set up these areas so parents can expect a better chance for their children to get a place at the school. Even though catchment areas help decide who gets a priority for placements and eligibility for home to school transport, families can still apply to any school, no matter where they live. Not all schools give a priority to children living within the catchment area it serves.

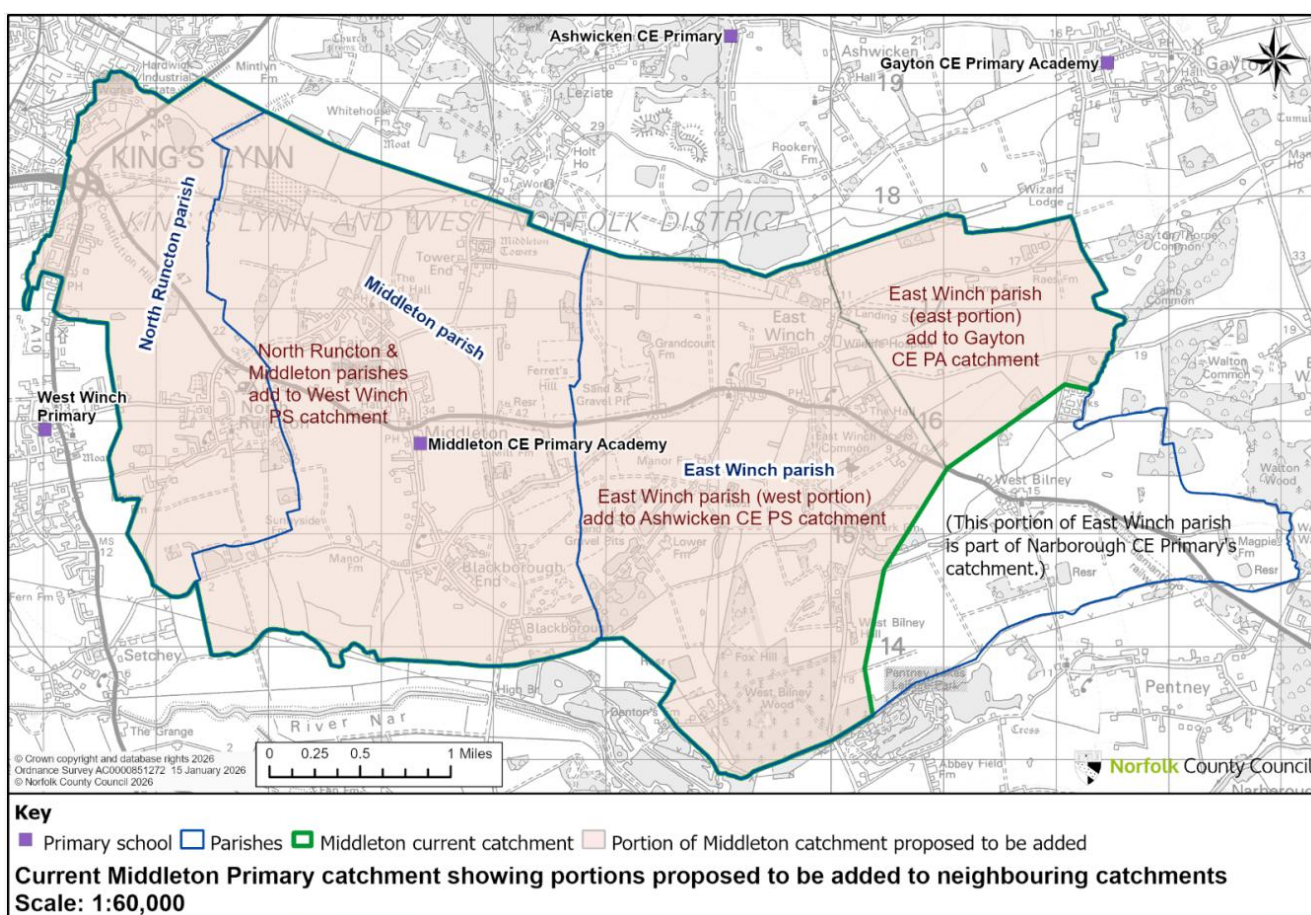
**What will not change:**

- The changes will not affect pupils already attending any of the schools.
- The changes will not affect pupil or family ability to select a school of preference outside of their catchment area.
- Changes will only affect new school applications from **1 September 2026 onwards**.

## Maps:

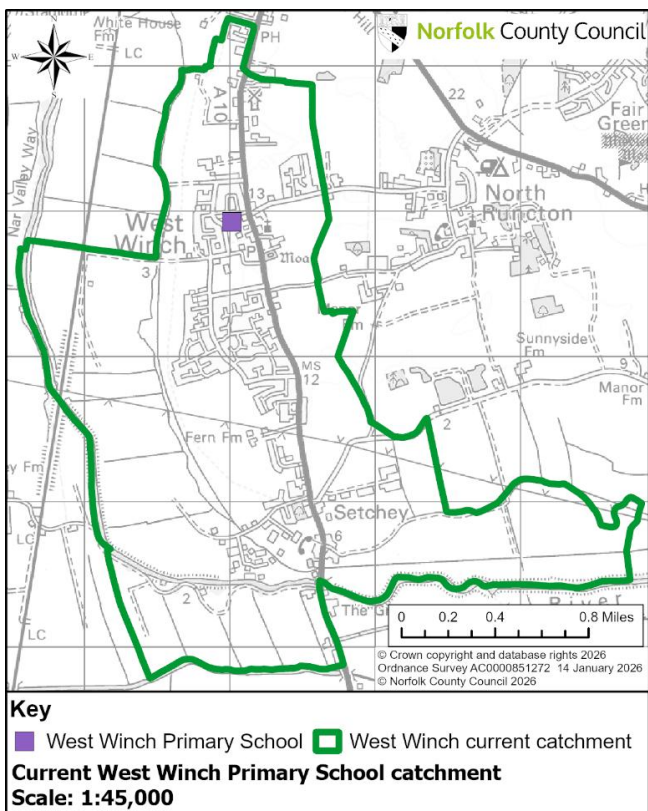
This map shows how the existing catchment area for Middleton CofE Primary Academy will be split up into three.

- North Runcton and Middleton parishes will be added to **West Winch Primary School** catchment area.
- East Winch parish (west portion) to be added to the **Ashwicken CE Primary School** catchment area.
- East Winch parish (east portion) to be added to the **Gayton CofE Primary Academy** catchment area.



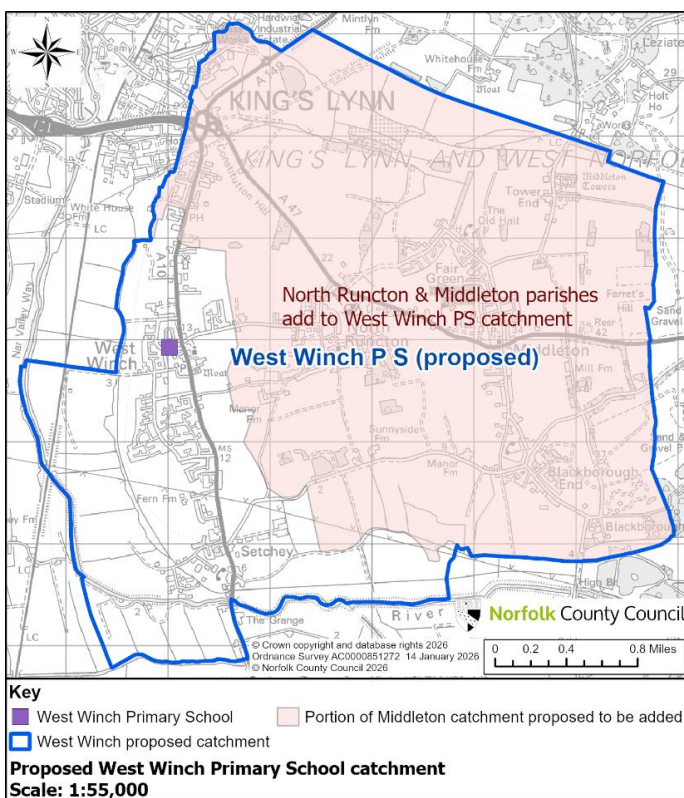
# West Winch Primary School

## Current West Winch Primary School catchment area map



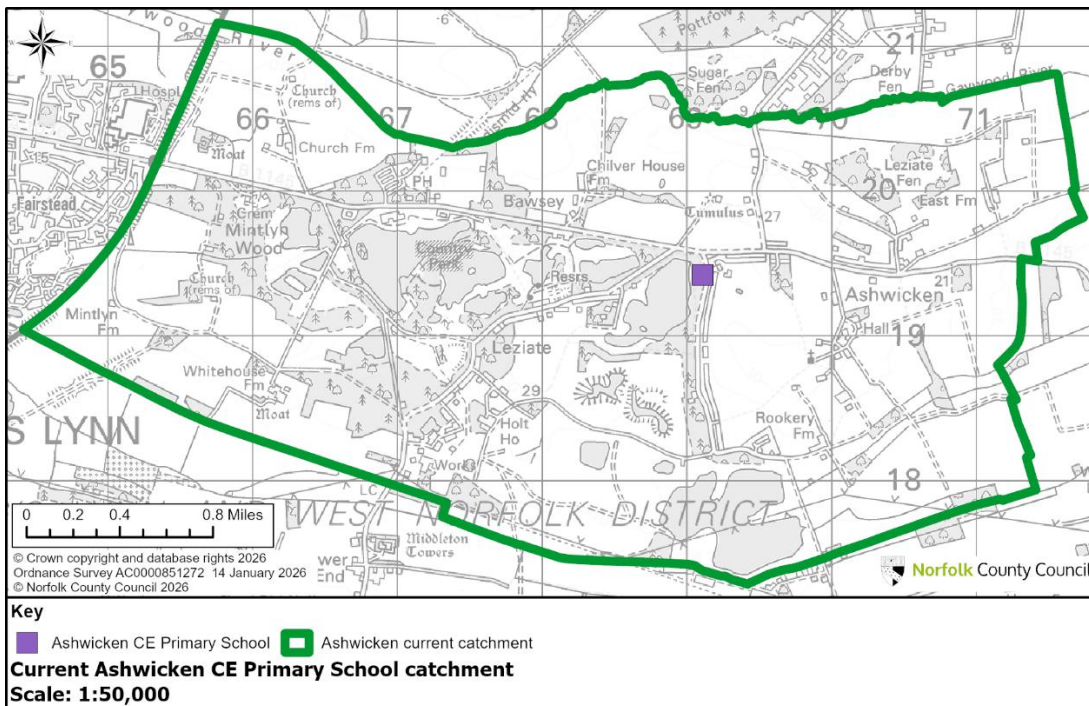
## Proposed West Winch Primary School map from September 2026

- North Runcton and Middleton parishes will be added to **West Winch Primary School** catchment area.



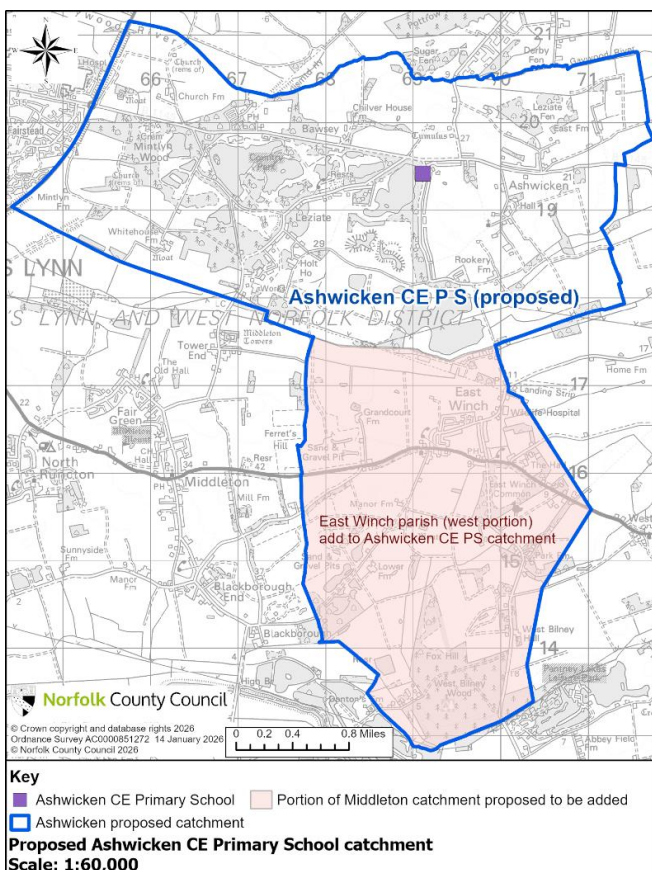
# Ashwicken CE Primary School

## Current Ashwicken CE Primary School catchment area map



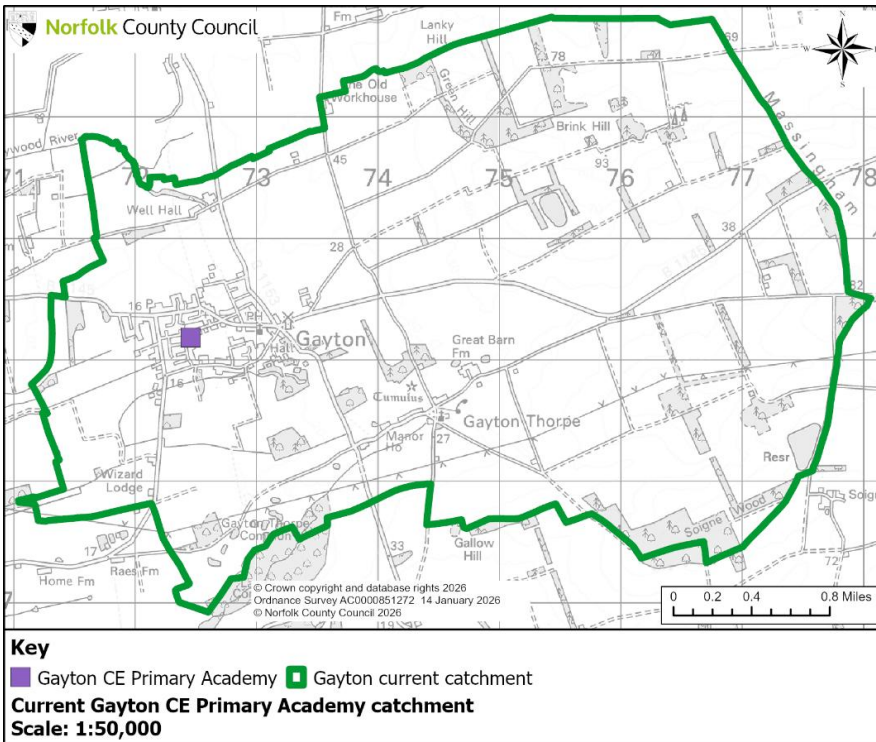
## Proposed Ashwicken CE Primary School catchment area map from September 2026

- East Winch parish (west portion) to be added to the **Ashwicken CE Primary School** catchment area.



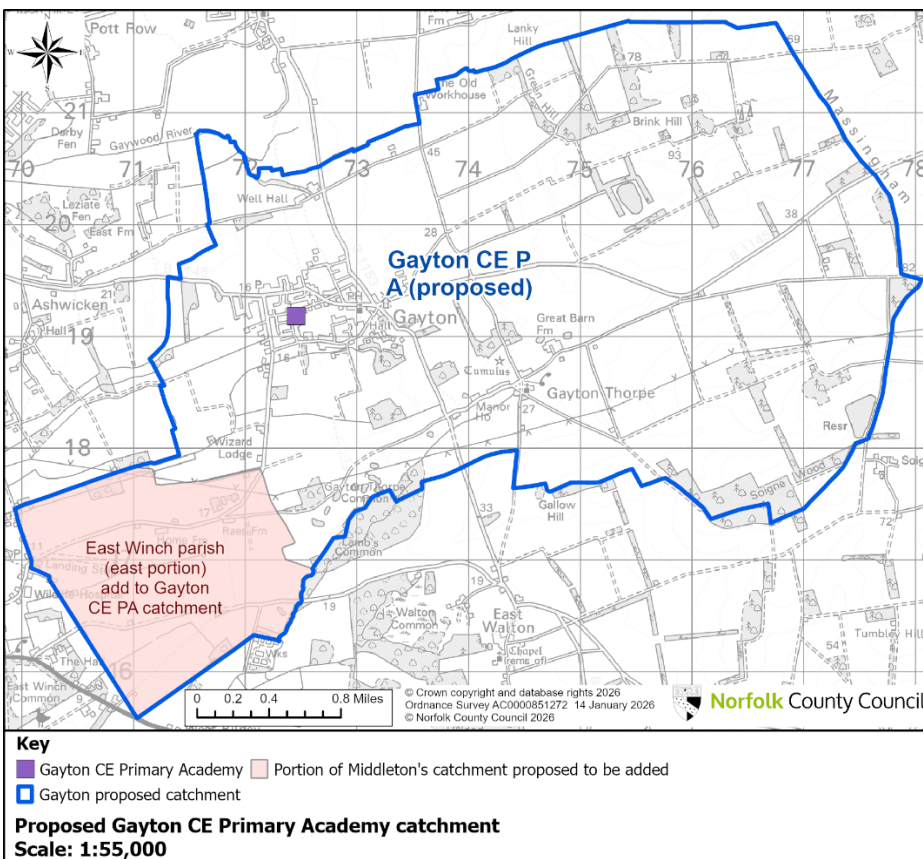
# Gayton CofE Primary Academy

## Current Gayton CofE Primary Academy catchment area map



## Proposed Gayton CofE Primary Academy map from September 2026

- East Winch parish (east portion) to be added to the **Gayton CofE Primary Academy** catchment area.



## How might this change affect home to school transport?

Depending on where you live, your child may be eligible for Norfolk County Council funded home to school transport, if they

- Are of statutory school age (5 to 16 years)
- Will be starting school at 4 years old but they will become 5 years old before 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Attend the nearest catchment school or nearest available school for their age and educational needs (as assessed by the County Council) provided they meet the distance and age criteria below:
  - Under 8 years of age and living more than 2 miles from the school or\*
  - 8 years of age and over living more than 3 miles from the school\*
- Pupils of primary school age (up to the end of year 6) who are entitled to free school meals due to a qualifying benefit or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and attending their nearest catchment or nearest available school if living more than 2 miles away.

\*The 2 and 3 mile qualifying distances will be measured by the shortest available walking route using roads and public rights of way.

If the proposed changes to catchment areas go ahead, this may affect which school is considered a child's nearest or catchment school.

You can see the full home to school transport policy here: [Transport for 5 to 16-year-olds - Norfolk County Council](#)

## How to Share Your Views:

You will have received this consultation as you are a stakeholder and may be affected directly or indirectly by the change. We would like to seek your views on the proposal.

- The consultation will run from **Tuesday 12 May 2026 until Tuesday 30 June 2026 at 12 noon.**
- There are several ways you can share your views:

Tell us your views about the catchment area changes by;



- Completing the online survey via the QR code or clicking this link: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/middleton>
- Emailing us at [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Completing the attached form and handing it into your school office
- Write to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL. You do not need a stamp.

**If you need this document in a different format or language, please let us know and we will be happy to help.** You can contact us by telephone on **01603 638099** or by email at [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk) to arrange this.

## Next Steps:

- After the consultation ends, Norfolk County Council will review the responses and present the findings to the Executive Director of Children's Services.
- If it is agreed to proceed, the Executive Director of Children's Services will make a recommendation to change the catchment area of Middleton CofE Primary Academy to the academies and trusts involved.
- The Local Authority will make application to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to approve the change as they fall outside of the usual timescales for changing admissions arrangements for all Local Authority Maintained Schools.
- The Trusts involved in this consultation will need to follow their own governance processes, including referral to the Secretary of State for approval to vary their admissions arrangements outside of the normal timescales.
- If the changes are agreed, it is intended that they will become effective from 1 September 2026 and shared by the relevant admissions authorities.
- If the changes are not agreed, the current arrangements will remain in place.

## Response Form

### **Consultation on Proposed Variation to Admissions Arrangements;**

Catchment area changes from September 2026 for Middleton CofE Primary Academy, Gayton CofE Primary Academy, Ashwicken CE Primary School and West Winch Primary School.

Following the amalgamation of Middleton CofE Primary Academy with Gayton CofE Primary Academy effective 1 September 2026

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**What do you think of these proposals? Please provide responses below**

**How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change the catchment areas of Middleton CofE Primary Academy, Gayton CofE Primary Academy, Ashwicken CE Primary School and West Winch Primary School?**

Please tick a box.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

**Please give your main reasons for your answers.**

**Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision of children?**

Please write in the box below.

Norfolk County Council would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether or not we make and recommend these changes.

We will process your personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations, which means that we will not give your personal data to any third parties. You can find out more about the [privacy notice here](#).

Your comments will be anonymous - your name or anything that could identify you will not be included in any report. However, we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please tell us who you are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent<br>Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group       |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community<br>group |

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Which school are you linked to? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your postcode? \_\_\_\_\_

**The earliest this change could take place would be September 2026.**

You can tell us your views by returning your completed form to your school office.

**This consultation ends at 12:00 noon on 30 June 2026**