

Consultation on changes to school admission arrangements for 2026-27

Essex County Council, as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Essex, is consulting on changes to the admission arrangements for the schools listed below for admissions in the 2026-27 academic year.

The proposals are as follows:

Danbury Park Community Primary School, Chelmsford district – to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from the current 37 to 30. This is to enable the school to organise classes more effectively. There are sufficient school places available in the overall area to ensure a school place for every child. Danbury Park Primary School is currently undersubscribed. No child for whom this school is the nearest school is expected to be denied a place in the normal admission round if this proposal proceeds.

Rettendon Primary School, Chelmsford district – to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from the current 20 to 15. This is to enable the school to organise more effectively. There are sufficient school places available in the overall area to ensure a school place for every child. Rettendon Primary School is currently undersubscribed. No child for whom this school is the nearest school is expected to be denied a place in the normal admission round if this proposal proceeds.

Wickford Primary School, Basildon district – to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for Year 3 from the current 36 to 6.

Wickford Primary School is a 4-11 primary school which admits up to 60 children into Reception as a normal point of entry. It also admits into Year 3 as a normal point of entry, recognising that there is a standalone infant school in Wickford (namely The Wickford Church of England School) which does not have an associated junior school.

Historically, the PAN for the Year 3 intake at Wickford Primary has been 36.

However, the current number of children on roll in Year 1 across the two infant schools in Wickford – namely The Wickford Church of England School and Hilltop Infant School indicates that there is not the demand to justify a PAN of 36 for Year 3 at Wickford Primary School for the September 2026 intake.

The numbers suggest that Wickford Primary School having a PAN of 6 for this intake, coupled with the places available at Hilltop Junior School will be sufficient to ensure any children requiring a place from the two infant schools can be accommodated.

To be clear, this does not, in any way, affect children already at Wickford Primary School as any such children have the right to progress from Year 2 to Year 3 at the school in the normal way without having to make an application.

How to comment on the proposals:

Parents and other interested persons are entitled to ask questions and comment on the above proposals.

The consultation period is open between 25 November 2024 and 10 January 2025.

Any comments should be submitted in writing to Shamsun Noor, Head of Operations by email shamsun.noor@essex.gov.uk or by post to: School Admissions, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1GS.

Following the end of the consultation period, the Council, having considered any responses, will set the admission arrangements for the schools before 28 February 2025.

Further information about school admissions is available on the website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.