

## **Report on a proposal to change the admission arrangements- catchment area of Downham Market Academy effective from 1 September 2026.**

### **The Proposals**

This report considers the consultation undertaken by Eastern Learning Alliance for Downham Market Academy in conjunction with Norfolk County Council.

A joint proposal was initiated in response to the recent annual admission rounds. There have been significant issues for children living within the catchment area of Downham Market Academy not being offered places at their local school. This has been particularly evident for those living in the areas furthest from the Academy.

Where preference is not met, the Local Authority has a duty to offer a school place and children are offered places at the nearest school with a place available; as a rural locality, alternatives have been some distance from home addresses involving home to school transport in most cases.

With the uncertainty for families, Local Authority Officers have looked at options, working with Academy Trusts in the area to seek alternative admission arrangements and there the Local Authority in collaboration with the three trusts propose to change the catchment area of Downham Market Academy to:

- Respond to changes in pupil population and balance enrolment across neighbouring secondary schools, ensuring schools are not over or under-subscribed; optimising facilities and resources which support better learning environments.
- Reduce the distance that pupils need to travel to their local school, supporting reduction in carbon footprint and encouraging community and parental engagement.

The following changes were proposed by each academy:

### **Downham Market Academy**

The catchment area for Downham Market High School will be reduced. Watlington Community Primary School and, Upwell Academy are currently feeder schools to Downham Market Academy, under the proposal:

- The Watlington catchment will be reallocated to join the catchment of King's Lynn Academy.
- The parishes of Upwell and Outwell will be reallocated to Marshland High School.
- There will be no change to the Planned Admissions Number (PAN).

### **Marshland High School**

The catchment area for Marshland High School will be expanded to include the parishes of Upwell and Outwell.

There will be no change to PAN.

### **King's Lynn Academy**

The catchment area for King's Lynn Academy will be expanded to include the catchment area of feeder school Watlington Community Primary School. There will be no change to the PAN.

The changes are proposed to come into effect from 1 September 2026 for the 2026/2027 admissions, without affecting current students.

### **The Consultation**

The consultation ran from 29 November 2024 for six weeks in term time until 17 January 2025

The documents were shared by email, school websites and available as hard copies. Online consultations were also carried out (copies can be located in Appendix A).

Consultation documents were sent to;

- Parents and pupils at the academy
- The governors and staff at Academy
- The feeder primary schools
- Schools in the school cluster groups
- Diocesan Boards of Education
- Trade Unions who represent staff at the schools
- Local Members of Parliament
- Local County Councillors, District Councillors and Parish Councillors

Respondents were invited to share their views in the following ways:

- Completing an online survey
- Completing the form attached to the consultation document
- Emailing the school consultation email address
- Writing to the school office

### **Summary Analysis**

The full analysis is available in Appendix B.

Overall, there were 65 responses to the consultations. The response rate is low.

- 18 people strongly agreed or agreed (28%)
- 4 people neither agreed or disagreed (6%)
- 43 people strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposal (66%).

Key comments and concerns raised were:

- Siblings will be separated if they attend two different secondary schools
- Travel to KLA from Watlington will take longer than to DMA
- DMA has a real limit in its current capacity and a review is therefore long overdue.
- Additional building in the area is going to impact school admissions and a review is therefore long overdue.

### **Conclusion**

Norfolk County Council has a duty to ensure sufficient school places, this entails working in collaboration with Eastern Learning Alliance. Eastern Learning Alliance is the admissions authority

for Downham Market Academy. Together working with the local authority, we periodically review catchment areas together to ensure they meet the needs of the wider area.

There is significant challenge for pupils in the current Downham Market area not being offered placement at their local school.

The proposed catchment adjustments will ensure that there is sufficient capacity and choice for pupils living in the areas and balances enrolment across neighbouring secondary schools, ensuring schools are not over or under-subscribed; optimising facilities and resources which support better learning environments. This will also reduce the need for pupils to travel longer distances to school.

Response rates to the consultation were low.

The main areas of concern raised during the consultation relate to:

For example:

*Traffic and travel concerns to the schools and*

*Practical challenges to families where siblings attend multiple settings in the area.*

These concerns can be addressed by:

- Transport will be provided by the local authority for all students impacted by this change to ensure they are able to get to and from school.
- Students applying for a place living outside of catchment but with a student attending DMA being offered a place to the school immediately after those students living in catchment

The proposals are not anticipated to affect current pupils attending the three schools. Changes would be effective for admissions for the school year 2026/27.

## **Recommendation**

In balancing the responses and comments received during the consultation it will be proposed to the Local Governing Body and Trustees of Eastern Learning Alliance to **agree** that from 1 September 2026, the catchment changes for Downham Market Academy should come into effect.

This action will support the improved distribution of pupils across secondary schools in the area, enabling more pupils to access placements closer to their home address and reducing travel times.

# Consultation on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Downham Market Academy

at Bexwell Road, Downham Market, PE38 9LL

effective from September 2026

## Our proposal

Eastern Learning Alliance in conjunction with Norfolk County Council are proposing to change the admissions arrangements by altering the catchment area of Downham Market Academy, effective from September 2026.

In addition to this change Eastern Learning Alliance is also proposing to change their over-subscription criteria and process in year applications by the school. Further updates have been made to the policy in line with the admissions code.

## Why are we consulting on a change of catchment area?

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 as part of our ongoing commitment to collaboration and transparency.

Eastern Learning Alliance is the Admissions Authority for Downham Market Academy, however Eastern Learning Alliance and the Local Authority, Norfolk County Council periodically review catchment areas to ensure they meet the needs of the area.

Through the recent annual admission rounds, there have been significant issues for children living within the catchment area of Downham Market Academy not being offered places at their local school. This has been particularly evident for those living in the areas furthest from the Academy.

Where preference is not met, the Local Authority has a duty to offer a school place and children are offered places at the nearest school with a place available; as a rural locality, alternatives have been some distance from home addresses involving home to school transport in most cases.

With the uncertainty for families, Local Authority Officers have looked at options, working with Academy Trusts in the area to seek alternative admission arrangements and therefore Eastern Learning Alliance proposes to change the catchment area of Downham Market Academy to:

- Respond to changes in pupil population and balance enrolment across neighbouring secondary schools, ensuring schools are not over or under-subscribed; optimising facilities and resources which support better learning environments.
- Reduce the distance that pupils need to travel to their local school, supporting reduction in carbon footprint and encouraging community and parental engagement.

This consultation is linked to proposals from Marshland High School, part of West Norfolk Academies Trust and King's Lynn Academy, part of Eastern Multi-Academy Trust.

It is proposed that these plans will come into effect from September 2026, so pupils applying for places from September 2025 for a September 2026 start will be under the new admissions arrangements.

The changes will not affect pupils already attending the school.

Full details of linked proposals can be found on these links; [Marshland High School](#) and [King's Lynn Academy](#).

This consultation is in line with the [School Admissions Code 2021](#).

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

A catchment area is a defined geographical area that serves a particular school. In most cases, the area is used to provide priority for admission to a particular school. In planning the layout of a catchment area, the Admissions Authority, in this case Eastern Learning Alliance, should try to ensure that the parent would have reasonable expectation for priority to that school.

### **What are the proposed changes to the catchment area**

The proposal is to change the catchment in the following way:

#### **Downham Market Academy**

The catchment area for Downham Market High School will be reduced. Watlington Community Primary School and Upwell Academy are currently feeder schools to Downham Market Academy, under the proposal:

- The parish of Watlington (the catchment of Watlington Community Primary School) will be reallocated to join the catchment of King's Lynn Academy.
- The parishes of Upwell and Outwell plus part of Welney parish (north west of the Old Bedford River/Hundred Foot washes) will be reallocated to Marshland High School.
- There will be no change to the Planned Admissions Number (PAN).

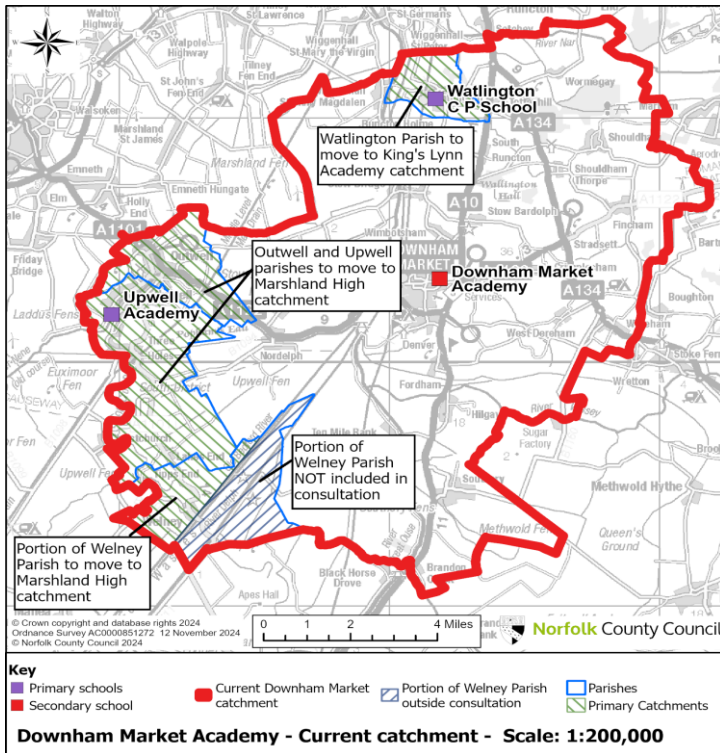
### **Other changes proposed to the Admissions Policy**

A proposed change to the over subscription criteria has been made. This is in line with the Eastern Learning Alliance Trust wide staff well-being and retention approach, with the reallocation of working for the school so it is higher up the criteria list.

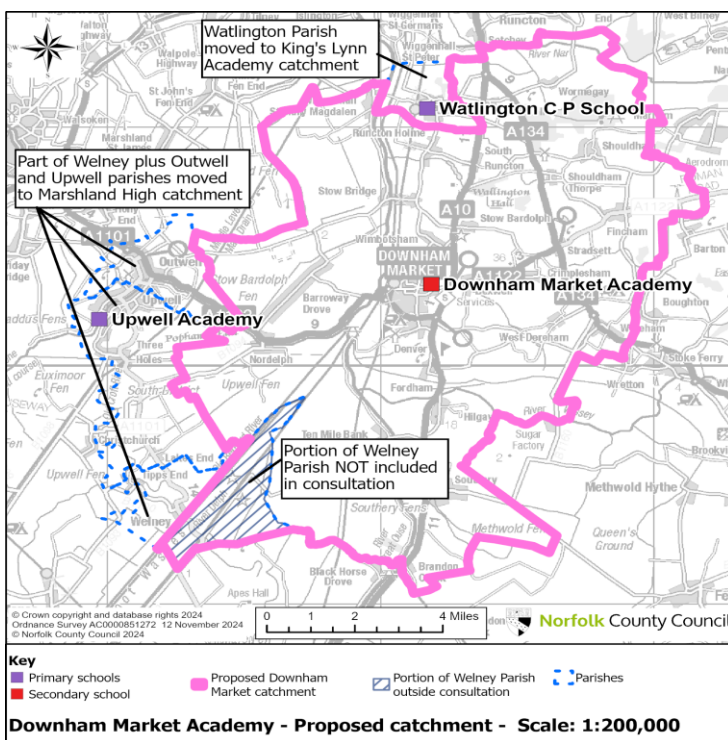
Other changes made ensure compliance with the latest version of the schools admission code.

Admission Authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group.

## Current catchment areas for Downham Market Academy



## Proposed catchment area for Downham Market Academy



## Proposed over-subscription Criteria for Downham Market Academy

1 Children with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be admitted. Those children with an Education, Health & Care Plan that does not name the school will be referred to the relevant EHCP Coordinator to determine an appropriate place.

2 Any remaining places will be allocated according to the following criteria, in order of priority:

i) Children in Care, also known as Looked After Children (LAC), and children who were looked after but ceased to be so by reason of adoption, a resident order or a special guardianship order. Children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society) outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.

ii) Children of staff who have been employed at the Academy for at least two years at the time of application or have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

iii) Children who live in catchment area, attend **feeder** primary schools within the catchment area and who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.

iv) Children who live in the catchment area with a sibling at the school at the time of the admission.

v) Children who live in the catchment area who attend the **feeder** primary schools within it.

vi) Children who live in the catchment area

vii) Children who live outside the catchment area, who attend **feeder** primary schools within it and who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.

viii) Children who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission

viii) Children who live outside the catchment area who attend **feeder** primary schools within the catchment area

ix) Children who live outside the catchment area, but nearest the school as measured by a straight line

## How can I have my say?

Consultation on changes to admissions arrangements are required to be open for a period of six weeks in term time, therefore the consultation will run from 20 November 2024 to 17 January 2025.

There are several ways you can share your views with us:

Tell us your views by;

- completing the online survey via the school  
<https://dma.tela.org.uk/admissions-consultation/>
- completing the attached form and handing it into the school office
- Emailing us at [admissionsconsultation@dma.tela.org.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@dma.tela.org.uk)
- Write to Downham Market Academy, Bexwell Road, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9LL

## What happens next

After this consultation ends on 17 January 2025, Eastern Learning Alliance in collaboration with Norfolk County Council will review the results of the consultation. After considering the findings alongside the consultations linked with Marshland High School and King's Lynn Academy, the Executive Director of Children's Services, will recommend to Eastern Learning Alliance whether to change the catchment area of Downham Market Academy.

The outcome of the consultation will be made public by 28 February 2025 in a determination notice on the school website.



We need all responses by 12 noon on 17 January 2025



**Consultation on Admissions Policy for Downham Market Academy,  
Bexwell Road, Downham Market, PE38 9LL,  
from September 2026**

Let us know what you think of our proposal

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change the catchment area of Downham Market Academy, from September 2026? Please tick a box.

<input type="checkbox"/>	rongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither	<input type="checkbox"/>	or disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	isagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly	<input type="checkbox"/>	disagree

Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change the over subscription criteria of Downham Market Academy, from September 2026? Please tick a box.

<input type="checkbox"/>	rongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither	<input type="checkbox"/>	or disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	isagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly	<input type="checkbox"/>	disagree

**Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.**

**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 the children? Please write in the box below.**

We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether or not we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to change the catchment area of Downham Market Academy, from September 2026.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Eastern Learning Alliance's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Eastern Learning Alliance will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please tell us who you are, (tick all that apply):

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

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

At which school? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by returning this completed form by:

- completing the online survey via the school <https://dma.tela.org.uk/admissions-consultation/>
- returning this form to the school office
- Emailing us at [admissionsconsultation@dma.tela.org.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@dma.tela.org.uk)
- Posting this form to Downham Market Academy, Bexwell Road, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9LL

**This consultation ends on 17 January 2025**

## Appendix B

### Downham Market Academy Admission Consultation responses

<p>It is closer to us than the proposed alternative. I went to DMA and would prefer my children did.</p>	<p>The changes are designed to ensure that the students in the more immediate area of the school are able to secure places.</p>
<p>My eldest daughter goes to Downham Market and my youngest daughter will be going in 2026. I feel Kings Lynn is too far if I need to get to the school it would take longer.</p>	
<p>Siblings should be higher on the list.</p>	<p>This could potentially mean that students living in the school vicinity would still not get a place. If there are places available, then students outside of the catchment with a sibling at the school, will be offered a place. Siblings of students already attending the school are the first priority immediately after students in the catchment area.</p>
<p>Watlington primary school children have siblings who agree already at DMA who are likely to want to join DMA in the longer term future. It is not helpful for parents to have children from the same families going to different schools. Furthermore, in previous years children from Watlington primary school have applied to KLA and been refused due to over-subscription and therefore have been sent to KES. How can this decision be justified when KLA is also over-subscribed in that catchment area changing as well? Siblings from Watlington who have existing children at DMA should be allowed to continue to go to DMA. This adjustment should be added for the long term future for siblings only at the very least. After that point the catchment change will have less impact on families.</p>	<p>See comment above.</p>
<p>Students from Outwell / Upwell should not have to travel to Icenor. DMA is over-subscribed and agree something needs to change to be in the best interests of all families.</p>	<p>It is hoped these changes will bring more certainty for these students.</p>
<p>Biggest concern is siblings. Those siblings who may wish to go to DMA 2026 onwards. They should be allowed to go. Too much priority is given to those with special educational needs who agree need support however, families cannot manage 2 or more children at different secondary schools it is not fair on the parents or the children who should be allowed similar outcomes at the same school.</p>	<p>Schools have a legal obligation to admit students with EHC Plans.</p>
<p>The issue I think arises because of siblings. How can you have two children at DMA and then the third child has to go to KLA due to when these</p>	<p>See comment above.</p>

<p>new rules would come into effect from. Financially for things like re use of uniform but mainly mentally, being split up from your siblings. If you already have siblings in the school there should be an exemption in place for these rules not to apply.</p>	
<p>I currently have a child at Downham Academy and one that would be affected by the changes. This has the potential to cause issues as we would have two children at two different schools.</p>	<p>See comment above</p>
<p>I feel I am discriminated against for where I live and being a working parent.</p>	<p>The changes have been proposed to give families more certainty regarding being able to secure a school place.</p>
<p>You say this is due to over subscription of Downham yet Kings Lynn Academy has also faced over subscription (as stated on their website) which will only get worse with the planned housing increase for the West Winch area (already part of their catchment area). This change has the potential to cause us issues as a family and cause stress and issues for our children who are our highest concern.</p>	<p>The changes have been proposed following careful consideration of place planning and it is not believed that the changes will cause an over-subscription issue for KLA. ELA cannot comment further on this issue. See comments above.</p>
<p>As a family with one child already attending DMA, I am very upset that this proposal would separate my children for their secondary schooling as I have a 2nd child who would have been due to apply for a place at your school to start in Sept 26. I feel it would be very appropriate for this proposal to include some discretion to allow families who will have their children separated by this change to still attend school together.</p>	<p>See comments above</p>
<p>Please consider the families who are going to have children separated for schooling by this proposal, make allowances to allow them to attend together</p>	<p>See comments above</p>
<p>With all of the house being built around town, it's quite concerning where the children will go. We live in Crimplesham and my daughter joined DMA this September. I spent so much time worrying that she was not going to get a place and I have another daughter who is due to go in to year 7 in 2026 and it will not be doable to have two children at different schools so want her to go to DMA also. I would prefer this as I preferred DMA to Iceni.</p>	<p>The proposals have been made for this reason, to alleviate some of the worry that families have over place offers and ensure that more places are available for students living within the immediate area of the school.</p>
<p>The only change I can see if children of the staff have been moved up the list. I understand why the academy would want this.</p>	<p>ELA prioritises staff well-being.</p>

<p>The school is the closest school for us, and we already have a child at this school. We would not want our youngest child to have to attend a different school. We chose to live in this area in order to be able to attend this school.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>It reflects a real limit of the capacity for DMA to continue offering a high standard of education for local young people. Such a review is long overdue.</p>	<p>The school is heavily over-subscribed and this change will benefit the management of places while offering more certainty for families.</p>
<p>You are proposing to move catchment schools to schools which children who are already in catchment cannot get space.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>I think what needs addressing is the huge amount of housing which is being built in Downham and surrounding villages without the right education infrastructure.</p>	<p>This is not an issue the ELA are able to comment on.</p>
<p>Downham market in relation to Kings Lynn is much closer. Getting to Kings Lynn through rush hour to pick children up from after school clubs would be a nightmare from Watlington.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that some parents may face slightly longer journey times for after school clubs as a result of this proposed change.</p>
<p>We moved to the village to move away from Kings Lynn and the Kings Lynn schools. Downham is closer to travel too. I refer to previous point where my children cannot walk home from school or after school clubs and for after school clubs the journey to and from Watlington will be over an hour because of traffic at that time of day.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Methwold is a lot closer to some villages that remain in proposed catchment for Downham. Watlington is closer to Downham it makes no sense.</p>	<p>The proposed changes have to be made with agreement from the surrounding schools, they cannot be imposed. The Local Authority will be able to comment further on this point.</p>
<p>The proposal is partly based on lowering emissions, however transport will now need to be provided to a school further away, through a greater level of traffic putting the children at higher risk of an RTC through the area - nonsensical.</p> <p>Can Kings Lynn cope with the increased number of buses that will be required to transport students to and from Watlington.</p> <p>Maybe if they didn't build 2 new huge housing estates when the school is already over-subscribed, then children of Watlington wouldn't have to be pushed out of the catchment area.</p> <p>There will be a huge transition for the children who are currently in year 5 to join a school with no older peers to give support, encouragement and confidence until the following year when</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>

<p>their younger peers will begin to roll up. The year 6 children going to DMA in 2025 will have a loss of friendships in their younger peers who would have been joining them next year.</p> <p>I understand changing the catchment of villages around upwell academy as there is a nearby school, but downham is the closest to Watlington.</p> <p>Children will have many ties through clubs etc in downham market which again would have provided encouragement and support to have peers in the school that they know through other hobbies/interests.</p>	
<p>An already oversubscribed school with 2 new estates being built in the town - this is a local authority issue which needs to be rectified by expanding the school - the school has plenty of room for some redevelopment.</p>	<p>There has been recent development in the school to accommodate increased student numbers over several years. Further expansion of the school would require significant financial investment from the Local Authority.</p>
<p>Having one child already attending Downham Academy this suggestion would cause a conflict if the second child were to attend King's Lynn Academy. Due to work commitments/travelling we are able to cover collection from Downham if required (currently a late bus is in use) but not King's Lynn so the second child would be unable to attend after school activities at King's Lynn academy thus having the potential of affecting their educational well being, social development and causing conflict within the family unit. Time between the two schools would be around 30 minutes (not allowing for King's Lynn traffic) with another 15 - 20 minutes to return home form king's Lynn if required to pick up both children.</p> <p>Eastern Learning Alliance state that they wish to reduce their carbon footprint yet changing the intake from Downham to King's Lynn would increase travel distance and time as well as increasing the number of buses going through the village. These factors would have a negative impact on their carbon footprint.</p> <p>There is also the matter of working around different school calendars and start/finish times which could impact on child care and also both children's extra-curricula activities.</p> <p>The second child has also expressed stated that they are looking forward to going to Downham as they have already visited the site, due to the first child, and are familiar with it.</p> <p>Looking at your map for catchment area it is clear that you are discriminating against Watlington for being a larger school whilst simultaneously cutting other villages in half.</p>	<p>See comments above,</p>

I feel penalized for being a working home owner who is employed outside of the education system.	See comments above
Maybe the second part of Downham academy (year 7 and sixth form) should not have been sold off.	No part of the school has been sold off.
Removing the watlington primary school from the catchment area when students have been attending from this area for so long.	
More infrastructure needs to be set in place before allowing more building to commence in areas.	ELA cannot comment of local infrastrucutre.
Downham market academy made a treaty with Upwell many many years ago!! Our children was promised spaces at this school. I have two children that currently go to DMA But come 2026 I will have to send my son somewhere else? Because we no longer live in catchment that's ridiculous!!	See comments above
Again it's just ridiculous, parents can't not be in two different places!! Parents with children already at the school should be a higher priority on your list!	See comments above
It is a fair and balanced way of managing admissions in the area	
It all makes a lot of sense for the children of Upwell and Outwell	It is hoped that the changes will provide certainty for families.
Downham has been oversubscribed for too many years. Upwell used to have a secondary school but it was under utilised and closed. Outwell & Upwell have grown massively since the closure. Downhams catchment is too big for the amount of children. However it would be good for siblings who are in the proposed catchment to have the option to still attend dma	See comments above.
There is a shortage of acceptable local secondary school provision and removing Upwell as a feeder school reduces this further. Adding it into Marshland's catchment area is all very well but what's to say there will be enough places for all of our children to go there?	Local Authority place planning indicates a reduction in the number of school places that will be required in the coming years. See additional comments above.
The placement of children from Upwell in recent years has been an utter disgrace. To now make that situation worse by removing Upwell	See comments above.



<p>Academy as a feeder school just compounds this. I have no faith in either Academy trusts or the council to provide adequate numbers of places to ensure children have a successful time in secondary education without lengthy bus journeys.</p> <p>To suggest Marshland as an alternative when they have also not had enough places in recent years is very poor.</p>	
<p>The only solution is to provide more places rather than passing children from pillar to post.</p>	See comments above.
<p>Currently children from upwell and Outwell have no idea which school they will be sent to. At least this way they can prepare their child for a school they are guaranteed to get into</p>	See comments above.
<p>The school is full, with so much building in the area it will only get worse</p>	See comments above.
<p>This has been an ongoing issue for a few years now. Will be great to finally have a plan for Outwell students</p>	See comments above.
<p>Watlington had been going to downham for years so why change now and other villages just up the road you have kept on so how is this fair at all, I agree on upwell and Outwell as they are alot further away but Watlington no just disagree alot it's wrong no need to change it take longer to go to kings Lynn then does downham bad decision to change Watlington not to go</p>	See comments above.
<p>Very disappointed in this decision watlington had been going to downham for years theres no need to change at all</p>	See comments above.
<p>This will mean at least double the travel time to/from school for pupils from Watlington, disadvantaging these pupils. The A10 from Watlington to King's Lynn is very unreliable at school times, making this a poor choice for change.</p>	See comments above.
<p>Potentially this should have been thought about before mindlessly approving the over development of the existing catchment area for Downham Market Academy without the foresight of in parallel increasing the schools capacity. Existing residents should not be penalised due to new poorly planned developments.</p>	See comments above.
<p>When changing catchment area for Downham Market academy, travel time during peak traffic</p>	See comments above.

to alternatives should be considered rather than distance from the school. The roads to the South of Watlington are much better quality and less congested than those to the North.	
The admission rule doesn't directly affect our family, however could you confirm if pupils resident with Watlington will still have bus provision to complete their education at DMA?	All students who currently have a place at Downham Market Academy will still be entitled to have school transport provided by the Local Authority.
Admissions won't directly affect our family	ELA cannot comment on this point.
With KLA already covering a huge catchment area, and new housing developments planned south of KL, I am concerned that pupils will soon face further changes to another high school in the near future.	
Happy for my child to go to Marshland	See comments above.
With the over subscription of the school, I'm concerned that students will face uncertainty over where they will be going and cause stress for all involved when some get in and others don't. In addition, over subscription places pressure on DMA to try and accommodate a larger intake which could lead to larger class sizes.	See comments above.
It will mean more pupils attend their local school and will reduce travelling to and from school.	See comments above.
Students from Upwell school have been left with uncertainty for the last two intakes. This is unfair on the children and their families. Some students are then sent to schools without their primary school friends	See comments above.
The criteria need to be brought up to date with the needs of our school community	
We are heavily over subscribed and the money spent on transport for students that far out could go towards a late bus for students closer wanting to stay for after school activities or period 7s	
We are over subscribed, we do not have the space where can we put children that could potentially go to a school closer to home for them?	See comments above.
The school is oversubscribed. Makes sense for students to go to a school closer to them.	See comments above.

<p>Reduced pressure on bus services and high class numbers as well as arrangements such as late buses.</p>	
<p>Agree as local pupils unfortunately, I feel, should be prioritised as a catchment area, particularly if other schools are available.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>With the growth of Downham Market, where there are currently 500 homes under construction in two main sites within the next couple of years, there is going to be a growth in the student population of the town itself. It is important that students living very near the school are able to get there sustainably, and for students in some of the areas being moved out of catchment the trip to school will become easier than it currently does.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>The priority order makes sense, including the changes to the feeder schools as I outlined below.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Given the high housing targets for the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, which has recently been doubled by central Government, Downham Market is likely to continue expanding given its train station as a focus for development within the borough. Reducing the size of the catchment area makes sense given these future trends.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>It makes sense to send those from Watlington school to KL schools, which would be closer and quicker to access. However refusing those from Upwell and Outwell, i feel will mean children travel further and in particular travelling that way will mean greater travel times, due to A47 congestion problems, compared to currently ease of movement to DMK.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>With more and more housing being built in Downham Market it is only right that they get the right to choose a school close to them.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>With more and more housing being built in Downham Market it is only right that they get the right to choose a school close to them.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>I have many observations regarding this proposal - I have captured these on a letter which I will forward to the Admissions Consultation email address. The key facet is that this proposal will separate siblings that otherwise would have attended DMA, this is not acceptable. Our elder daughter is already a student at DMA and this</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>

proposal will result in our younger daughter having to attend KLA.	
I have many observations regarding this proposal - I have captured these on a letter which I will forward to the Admissions Consultation email address. One of the key points here is that my younger daughter will move from being Priority 3 of the current Over-Subscription criteria to Priority 9 of the proposed criteria. I do not want to separate my children across two High Schools 16 miles apart.	See comments above.
To allow students within a closer geographical proximity to Downham Market Academy to attend the school	See comments above.
My oldest son goes to downham and my youngest is currently at Watlington and I would like them to attend the same secondary school	See comments above.
I feel there are more appropriate schools that could be removed from the downham catchment area rather than watlington	See comments above.
Would cause issue for travel/ transport - it is not in the catchment area. Plus what about siblings already at the school	See comments above.
Siblings at Downham school	See comments above.
Again sibling at Downham, they need to both go to same school	See comments above.
Because then my younger sister will not be able to go to the same school as me. This would make me feel unhappy.	
Same as above as my sister would go near the bottom of the criteria and maybe not get into DMA.	See comments above.
I would like to go to DMA with my other 2 sisters.	The changes proposed are not a guarantee that this will not happen.
As above, I would probably have to go to KLA and not DMA where both my sisters will be. This will be very upsetting as I have spent a lot of time around DMA on parents evenings and open events.	See comments above.
I disagree because I do not want my sister to go to KLA as me and my other sister will be at school without her and I wont be able to help her and look after as she may not be able to go to DMA.	See comments above.

I dont think special needs children should be top of the list because I believe that siblings should be top to keep us together otherwise this may upset us all.	See comments above.
Keep Watlington CP School in the catchment area of DMA.	See comments above.
For Watlington there is a significant increase in travel time each way to and from school, from currently 9-12mins to Downham Market Academy, to 25-45mins to King's Lynn Academy, according to Google maps. This route is also susceptible to adverse traffic conditions meaning students are likely to miss lessons and learning opportunities. This proposal will have a significant adverse impact on the development and wellbeing for children from Watlington.	See comments above.
Perhaps Downham Market Academy should be expanded to accommodate the additional housing developments rather than penalising existing residents in nearby villages through an oversubscription criteria.	See comments above.
Downham market is significantly closer to Watlington than KLA. In the morning traffic, getting to KLA is likely to take in excess of 25 minutes, whereas getting to downham market takes 10 minutes. This will add time to the school day for students which is draining on them.	See comments above.
There are other options to increase the number of students you can safely take, such as building more space,or having a separate sixth form centre again.	See comments above.
I would not be prepared to send my child to KLA as things stand at present and would be extremely unhappy with that being my catchment school especially due to the significantly increased length of time to get there.	See comments above.
My older child is at dma now and I have one that will join in 2026 I would prefer they both to same school as its extremely difficult when we don't drive	See comments above.
As said I have an older child at school ans one to join in 2026 would like them both at dma	See comments above.

<p>What happens to the ones already in dma when this change happens what will happen to transport and will ones with siblings that are due to go up will they go to same school</p>	<p>All students currently with place at the school will keep them, all transport will remain in place.</p>
<p>I don't agree or disagree with the change, just with having one child already at DMA and another child to move up in 2026 I would like to think that she would get a DMA place due to having a sibling already at DMA</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Will transport still be provided if this all changes with current and future students</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Because my child will get moved school and I don't like it</p>	<p>Students will not be moved if they already have a school place.</p>
<p>Admission process is hard enough to get through for DMA as it is. The sheer amount of houses in Watlington and the Upwell area being built now will only cause more problems and by deferring their catchments to other local areas makes it easier. The perks for the KLA bus is that it already begins on the A10 at Setch and feeds KES as well if parents decided to send there. There is always option for them then.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>It makes it fair for everyone this way. It's clear and easy to understand why they propose this.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>I currently have my boys in Y6 of Watlington Community Primary School. With DMA being the current feeder and being in the catchment, I anticipate they'll be students come Sep 2025. I also have another child in Y4 of Watlington so what becomes the position with her then. Splitting my children and have them attending different schools?</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>As stated above this change could possibly result in my children who are 2 years apart, now attending 2 different schools which would not be of our choosing. If this was shared earlier it may even have influenced by secondary school selection differently.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>What will happen also to the bus/coach that they'll be provided for 2025/26? Would this then cease? If parents in a similar situation as ours request then in light of this proposal to have all of their children in the same school would the Council accommodate such request and they be admitted to KLA instead? And furthermore again would there be eligibility for the school transport?</p>	<p>See comments above. ELA cannot comment on admissions to KLA.</p>

<p>The potential to split families up causing jealousy. This could restrict the opportunities available to siblings. Logistic issues. Is likely to cause unnecessary stress and mental duress.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>It discriminates against home owning families employed outside of the education system.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>The council needs to invest in schools rather than giving themselves pay rises. They are wasting peoples money rather than investing in youngsters lives.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Watlington Community Primary School (WCPS) will be so far away from the the catchment school, King's Lynn Academy (KLA) that is unlikely to have places available for pupil from WCPS. Therefore, pupils from WCPS will most likely find themselves on the waiting lists for both KLA and DMA. This will lead to greater uncertainty and increased stress and anxiety at such a crucial time of their education.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>There should be greater emphasis placed on pupils with a sibling already at the school whether the arriving pupil is in catchment or not. There will be a number of pupils who will fall outside of catchment under the new proposals, but who's older sibling was in catchment and so already attends DMA. This should be considered as a higher priority than is being proposed. A predetermined transition phase may need to be considered, looking into how many pupils in each year group will be affected by the scenario I have presented and the younger sibling being granted a higher priority on the admission criteria. There will be a point in time where pupils from WCPS will not have older siblings in DMA and that would be the time to remove this class within the admissions policy.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>One of the reasons for this change has been to reduce the carbon footprint within the area. This will not occur for at least 3 years, as DMA will have to provide buses into Watlington village for pupils already attending. Then KLA will have to provide buses for those now in catchment, which will have further to travel and encounter greater traffic congestion compared to the bus route to DMA. Those children in WCPS that go to KLA will have to start their school journey at approximately 07:35, to make to school on time for the start of their school day. Plus the journey back will mean that they arrive home after the DMA bus, reducing time available to do homework and extra curricular activity. Additionally, DMA and KLA have differing term</p>	<p>All views have been carefully considered by the school and ELA, in conjunction with the Local Authority and the other schools involved in this proposed change and consultation.</p> <p>ELA cannot comment on the financial support that may be available to families attending other schools.</p>

<p>dates, which for those parents that a child already attending DMA and a child that will fall into KLA catchment providing childcare over school holidays will become very difficult. Planning holiday trips, etc will also become a far more complex logistical problem. The cost of buying 2 bespoke school uniforms and not being able to use hand me downs is now a significant financial burden. I would like to suggest that DMA makes arrangements to come and discuss, in person, the proposed changes to its catchment area with parents at a session hosted at WCPS. They will be able to hear both parent's and pupil's views on the planned changes.</p>	
<p>I've always known watlington to be in the catchment area my youngest daughter went to downham via the bus from watlington and she is 28 I get that house's are being built around downham possibly more than needed but you don't see more doctors surgeries being built to help accommodate this and the population is building up everywhere even watlington but all primary schools seem to be fine with enrolling new students I have a daughter at downham in year 8 and her brother is in year 5 at the moment at watlington primary it would impossible if they were in two different schools at two different places if there were any issues I would not be able to be in two places at once as I have no means of transportation through the day but I have family who live in downham who could attend the school in the event I could not if my son had to go to kings lynn this would be impossible so yes I strongly disagree with the decision of the catchment area being changed this is something that should be left alone as splitting up siblings and friends just is not fair on the children especially now a days when they need each other</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>As I said above I understand that the population in and around downham is increasing but as I said primary schools,doctor surgery's are not changing to help accommodate and the catchment areas have been like this for a very long time im very sure that downham being a large school they can continue to accommodate for new pupils also kings lynn schools have to accommodate and it's a bigger area so bigger population</p>	<p>These are not issues that ELA are able to comment on.</p>
<p>Having both my children at the same school and it being downham is beneficial to them and myself they have there friends with them it's not fair on them to be separated from there friendships people who they know and trust and</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>



<p>making new friends is not the easiest now As for myself having both my children together is reassuring for myself knowing they are there together and if any issues or in the event of an emergency and I can't get there quickly there older sibling lives close by downham high school</p>	
<p>We strongly disagree for numerous reasons. You state that this is part of reducing the distance that students travel to their local school. By our estimations, this change would see our children have to travel to KLA. Although the distance is not much more the estimated travel time is over double at 8.30am and again at 3.30pm. It would not change the carbon footprint as you state, as this travel time increase in a different direction just changes the carbon footprint to a different school. What happens to the children already attending DMA - there will now be double the buses running through Watlington whilst you phase us out? Again, this increases your carbon footprint.</p> <p>We have only just enrolled our oldest child at DMA and we are not prepared to have children in different high schools. Therefore we would now need to move our settled Year 7 child into a new school. He has just been identified as being in the top 10% academically and has started the FPQ. We will ensure he completes this for before his move.</p> <p>Your map and post codes shows clearly that there are other areas that are closer to Icenis and further away from DMA than Watlington. Places such as Welney, Brandon Creek are double the distance to DMA than Watlington.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>As mentioned above, we are extremely disappointed to see that siblings are so low on the list. There is a clear lack of respect for families that live in Watlington and that have only just started their High School journey with DMA. If this consultation had been mentioned as part of the admissions process, then we would have looked at alternative High Schools. It is a shame that you ask staff to do so many open evenings and try to sell a school to us all, that you now do not wish for us to a part of. Why have such an impressive open evening to now cut so many families out of the school?</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>If this consultation sees this change go ahead, we will have no choice but to pull our oldest child out of DMA which would be a shame when he is already settled and making good progress. This would impact our family hugely especially in</p>	

<p>a cost of living crisis when we had hoped to recycle expensive items such as uniform.</p>	
<p>Watlington is much closer to Downham Market than King's Lynn. This will add on at least 30 minutes travel time and will add more congestion to King's Lynn.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Children need to have a good secondary education to ensure they can progress to university.</p>	<p>ELA would whole heartedly agree with this.</p>
<p>it could split up families as the new catchments would cause people from the same family to have to go to different schools. my sister would be in a King's Lynn school separated from me. it could also take away opportunities for the future as parents may not be able to have their children participate in extra curricular clubs.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>instead you could build a new high school to have people more spread out leaving free spaces. This would pair with the new houses being built as it would help provide some of the needed services for the people who would live there.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>This will affect families with children and won't give chances for children to go to Downham Market Academy. I will not be able to go to the same school as my brother.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>The Parish Council appreciates the necessity for the Academy to change its catchment area. However, the Council strongly believes that if parents/guardians already have a child or children at the school, siblings should be given a higher priority to attend.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>If siblings are expected to attend different schools and after school activities take place for each child at those different schools at the same time this will make it extremely difficult for parents and guardians to attend and/or collect their children and it will be unsafe for those children to travel on their own particularly when the afternoons get dark earlier.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>
<p>Me and my husband have lived in the village all our lives and went to Downham Market school. We have remained in Watlington to guarantee our daughters attend Downham. To now be told this will be changing is upsetting and disappointing. Our daughters are now going to attend a school further away, meaning longer</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>

<p>days. And not a school we want our daughter to attend.</p>	
<p>It is evident our schools are struggling to take the increased numbers in this area. Therefore just changing the catchment area is not a fair option and will lead to a lot of upset and disruption for our children and unfair and not a long time solution. Instead i believe another school is required in this area and is evident from this proposal.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p>