



Alkerden CofE Academy

Section 10 Consultation Report

January 2025



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Section 1 - Executive Summary

This Section 10 Consultation Report has been compiled in respect of the Free School Application for the Alkerden CofE Academy made by Aletheia Academies Trust (the Trust), to aid a decision on whether the Secretary of State for Education, should enter into a funding agreement with the Trust.

This report covers the public consultation carried out as a response to the statutory requirement and sets out the audience and responses received. The statutory consultation started on the 4th November and finished on the 13th December 2024.

There were 31 responses to the questionnaire with one person 'unsure' and one objection to the Trust entering a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. The concern was around the Trust having an affiliation with a particular faith. The response to this concern, along with any other queries can be seen in Section 8.





Section 2 - Introduction

Aletheia Academies Trust is a multi-academy trust (MAT) that was established in 2014. The trust is fully inclusive and currently serves 6,375 children across 11 primary schools, one secondary school and one all-through school.

The proposed Alkerden CofE Academy, will be located on Colyer Drive, Alkerden in the Ebbsfleet Garden City. The all-through school will comprise an eight-form entry secondary school, two-form entry primary school, nursery, an all-through Specialist Resource Provision (SRP), community sports centre and sports pitches.





Section 3 - Consultation Overview

The original opening date of Alkerden CofE Academy was September 2022. This meant that many local community members were already aware and in support of the opening of the new school.

Prior to the start of the Section 10 Consultation, the Trust carried out six information sessions at Castle Hill Community Centre in Ebbsfleet Garden City. All sessions were fully booked. An extra session was offered in the evening for those that could not attend in the day. This was held at Saint George's CofE school in Gravesend.

The response to these sessions and the information about the new school, its facilities and the planned curriculum was very positive. There was concern raised by some residents regarding the oversubscription criteria in the Admissions Policy for the Secondary Phase. This policy had been consulted on previously in 2023, however the Trust and KCC concluded that there was sufficient reason to review the criteria and make some amendments. Please see the Section 5 of this report for full details.

The formal Section 10 consultation, which ran over a period of 6 weeks, directed stakeholders to access a wider range of information available on the school and Trust websites. The Trust provided opportunities for stakeholders to feed back and ultimately record their decision on whether a funding agreement should be entered into between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for the new Alkerden CofE Academy to be opened in September 2025.

Section 4 - Location and facilities

Planning permission has been granted and the new school is being built on land at Ebbsfleet Garden City. When the school opens in September 2025 it will be in temporary buildings that will have the capacity for 150 Year 7 pupils.

The layout of the temporary provision was shared in the consultation document along with the development plan for the proposed growth of the school.



Section 5 - Policies

Admissions

It was made clear that, in line with the school admissions code, children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that name Alkerden will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly before places are allocated to other pupils.

The consultation document included a link to the Admissions Policy along with an explanation of the changes made to this policy following feedback from the information sessions.

[Alkerden Admissions Policy 2025/ 26](#)

It was highlighted that the following changes have been made, in agreement with KCC, to the Admissions Policy that was originally consulted from 18th December 2023 to 31st January 2024.

The PAN was increased from 120 to 150

Additional criteria added:

- 4. Children resident in Alkerden, Castle Hill, Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Green, who have a Post Code starting with DA10 1, followed by any two letters, e.g. DA10 1ZZ.**

- 5. Children with a medical, health, social and special access reasons to attend Alkerden CofE Academy, in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Alkerden CE Academy. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/ guardians', physical or mental health or social need means there is a demonstrable and significant need for their child to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school.**



The revised policy (along with the letter shown in Appendix 1) was sent out to all attendees of the information sessions, along with all previous stakeholders who were sent the original consultation, inviting them to comment. The information was also shared on social media and the school website.

Other Policies

The school policies are being developed so a link was also provided to the Trust website to view Trust policies including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Complaints Procedure
- Health & Safety Policy
- GDPR & Data Protection Policy

Section 6 - Approach

The public consultation period began on the 4th November 2024 and concluded on the 13th December 2024. Details about the proposed Alkerden Academy were set out in a dedicated area of the school and Trust websites, in emails, via social media (Facebook and LinkedIn) and community boards scattered across Ebbsfleet Garden City.

The public were invited to respond to a specific questionnaire relating to Alkerden Academy and were encouraged to make additional comments throughout the consultation process.

The consultation was delivered to provide those both directly and indirectly affected by the proposal with as much information as possible about the plans for Alkerden Academy and give them the opportunity to respond and raise any concerns.



Section 7 - Consultation Methodology

The Trust devised and implemented a comprehensive Section 10 Statutory Consultation plan which sought to openly and honestly engage with the local community and key stakeholders, to fulfil the statutory obligation to consult under the Academies Act 2010.

- **Consultation Document** – this contained a summarised version of the information located on the websites and was made available as a full PDF (Appendix 2) on the website. The dedicated S10 consultation website page had 309 hits during the period of consultation.
- **FAQ's** – these were collated and updated throughout the consultation to reflect the voice of stakeholders and to address issues as they arose. They were available on the consultation section of the website. A list of questions asked, representing the most popular question topics can be seen in Appendix 3. The most up to date FAQs can be found online at www.alkerdenacademy.co.uk
- **Questionnaire** – produced online and in paper form (distributed upon request). A copy of the questionnaire can be seen in Appendix 4. In total 31 people responded to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was set up using Microsoft forms with a link to the questionnaire in the consultation literature and on the school and Trust websites. Of the total number of respondents, 13 (41.93%) left individualised comments and further feedback as part of their questionnaire response.
- **Flyers** – These were displayed on the community boards in Ebbsfleet Garden City and placed in local community halls and coffee shops. They contained a QR code to gain more information and access to the questionnaire. Flyer can be seen in Appendix 5.
- **Phone calls** – The Trust accommodated several telephone calls from members of the public, that were made in response to specific queries raised via the Alkerden office email address.
- **Social Media** – The Trust actively engaged on social media to encourage the public to share their views and respond to the consultation. The Trust utilised the Alkerden Academy Facebook account (122 followers) and LinkedIn (45 followers) and the Aletheia Academy Facebook account (852 followers) and LinkedIn account (364 followers). 45% of respondents accessed the consultation page via LinkedIn and 15% via Facebook.

- **Emails** – The trust sent emails containing the Section 10 consultation document and inviting feedback to local authorities, local primary and secondary schools and attendees of the information sessions.
- **Publication of the consultation report** – this report will be published online to allow stakeholders to view the results of the consultation process.

Section 8 – Analysis of the Consultation Responses

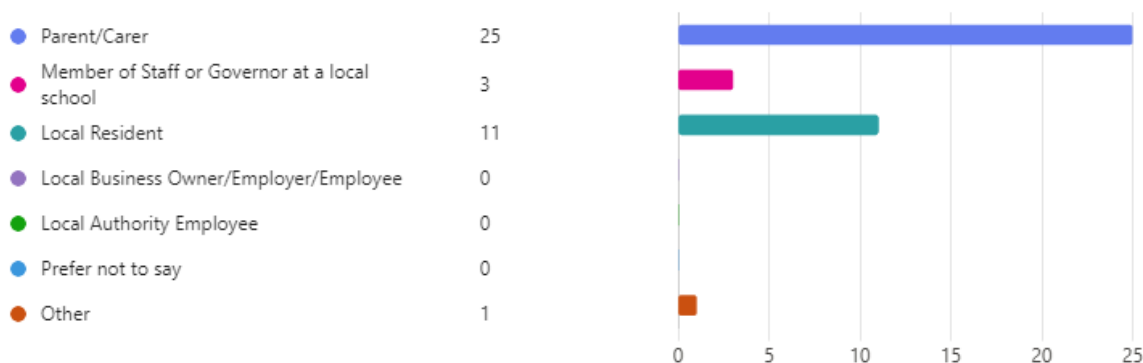
The consultation questionnaire asked 7 questions in total, 3 of which were questions to which the possible answers were ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘maybe’. There was an opportunity as part of the questionnaire for respondents to make additional comments. This was an optional final question. We asked all respondents to provide us with greater detail of who they were e.g. parent/ carer, local business owner which can be seen on the copy of the questionnaire in Appendix 3.

All survey responses were received before the advertised close of the statutory consultation period, therefore, all were included for analysis.

A detailed breakdown of the questions and responses posed in the consultation questionnaire can be found subsequently.

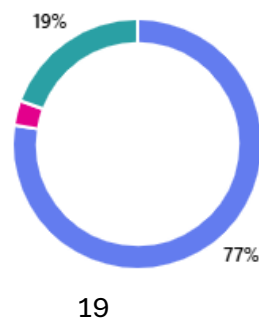
Please answer fully question 1-6. Question 7 is optional.

1. About you: Which of the following best describes you?



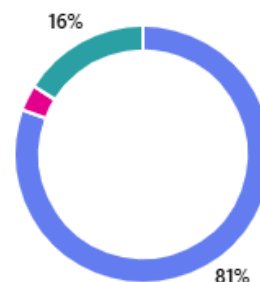
2. Do you agree that opening Alkerden C of E Academy in Ebbsfleet Garden City will provide more choice for parents and meet the need to provide additional school places in Ebbsfleet Garden City?

● Yes	24
● No	1
● Maybe	6



3. Do you support the vision and values of Alkerden C of E Academy outlined in the Consultation document?

● Yes	25
● No	1
● Maybe	5



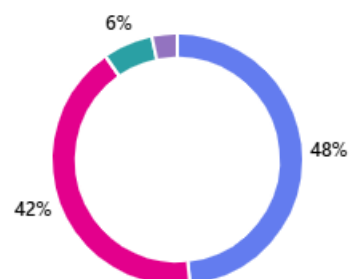
4. Do you agree that Aletheia Academies Trust should open Alkerden C of E Academy in September 2025, which would involve the Trust entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education?

● Yes	29
● No	1
● Maybe	1



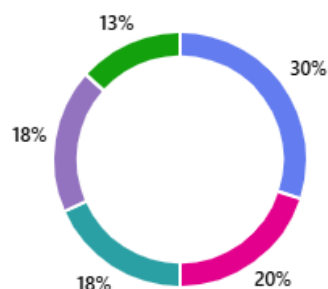
5. Have you accessed the Alkerden C of E Academy website during the consultation period?

● Yes - frequently	15
● Yes - occasionally	13
● Not yet	2
● No	1



6. Where did you hear about the Alkerden C of E Academy consultation?

● Word of Mouth	18
● Alkerden website	12
● Email	11
● Social Media	11
● Community Boards	8



7. Do you have any additional comments? *(please leave your contact details below if you would like a response)*

Comments and Responses

1. Would have liked places to be offered to DA9 postcodes, who live close to Alkerden, but will be left with the only option of Knockhall school still.

Trust Response

As a Trust we do acknowledge that residents who live very close to the new Alkerden Academy, but are not included



in criteria 4, may have concerns that their child may not be able to secure a place within the new school. There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 8.

Even though the new school is being provided because it was believed that the number of houses in the area would necessitate the introduction of a new 8FE Non-Selective Secondary School, the diversity of education provision in Kent means that not every child within the Ebbsfleet Garden City will require a place at Alkerden CE Academy. Many will seek places within the Selective (Grammar) schools, single sex schools, private schools, specialist schools or other faith-based education providers. This means we anticipate that students who reside outside of the DA10 1 postcode area, would have the opportunity to attend Alkerden CE Academy.

2. I think this will be a very successful educational facility and I really hope my son can be a part of it.
3. I believe that the values of the Trust mean that this academy will be an excellent place for students and staff, and a great asset to the local community.
4. Need to ensure admission criteria remains as it is now (after the amendment recently) for years to come.

Trust Response

Alkerden's admission policies for Primary and Secondary phases for 2026/2027 are out for consultation (2nd December 2024 – 24th January 2025). Please see the school website to view the policies and details of who to contact if you have any comments or queries.



5. Our community needs new schools given the high demand from young parents.
6. For children who are at Stone St Mary's to be able to apply for a place at this school.

Trust Response

Children from any Primary school are welcome to apply to Alkerden Academy. After the amendments to the admissions policy the following criteria moved from number 5 to number 7:

- *Children who attend an Aletheia Academies Trust (AAT) Primary School throughout years 5 and 6.*

There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 7.

7. A different MAT should be selected which does not have an affiliation to any particular faith.

Trust Response

Alkerden Academy will be a school with a Church Foundation. This reflects our school's partnership with the Church of England community.

The school welcomes children of all faiths and none. You do not have to attend a place of worship to attend Alkerden Academy and there is no faith criteria for admissions. The school is committed to the principle of inclusion. Our mission is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, meeting all statutory requirements and enshrining our vision of opportunity and achievement within a positive and welcoming learning environment.

8. Distance (as the crow flies) should be an admission criteria to just for Castle Hill residents but also residents of the surrounding areas should all get priority.

Trust Response

As a Trust we do acknowledge that residents who live very close to the new Alkerden Academy, but are not included in criteria 4, may have concerns that their child may not be able to secure a place within the new school. There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 8.

Even though the new school is being provided because it was believed that the number of houses in the area would necessitate the introduction of a new 8FE Non-Selective Secondary School, the diversity of education provision in Kent means that not every child within the Ebbsfleet Garden City will require a place at Alkerden CE Academy. Many will seek places within the Selective (Grammar) schools, single sex schools, private schools, specialist schools or other faith-based education providers. This means we anticipate that students who reside outside of the DA10 1 postcode area, would have the opportunity to attend Alkerden CE Academy.

9. We moved to Alkerden area being told the school will open in 2023 then 2024 ... my daughter has started reception this year so would prefer to have a space for year 2 in 2026 as well if possible.

Trust Response

The Trust are the end user/ provider. The opening date has remained within the gift of KCC under the Section 106 agreement.

10. The emerging newly built area, known as Ebbsfleet Valley require more than one entry reception/ Y1. If these can be open in 2025 and increase the number to 2 entry reception/ Year 1 – the school would be full. Castle Hill and Ebsfleet Green parents often struggle to secure a primary school place for their children, despite living within walking distance of Cherry Orchard and Ebbsfleet Green primary schools. I currently live in the new Alkerden areas and in our little new Redrow area live at least 15 children who require primary school education. The number of children in Ebbsfleet Green who require a primary school place is very high. I am not sure who can confirm these numbers, hopefully KCC. I would personally be happy to distribute flyers and encourage parents to respond to the Alkerden CoE Academy consultation. I believe locally not everyone is aware of the new academy and its location.

Trust Response

The Primary will not be ready for occupation until September 2026. We would be content to open as a 2FE Year R in September 2026, however, we have been working closely with KCC to ensure that place planning is co-ordinated according to need.

11. An overview on paths and access gates for the whole school should be out by now .. Do you have a map on where the gates are going to be?

Response

The final access plan for the permanent school is still with the developers for finalization and will be shared on the website as soon as it is available.

Please see Diagram A showing gate access for the Temporary school.

Diagram A:



Diagram B shows the plans for vehicular access.

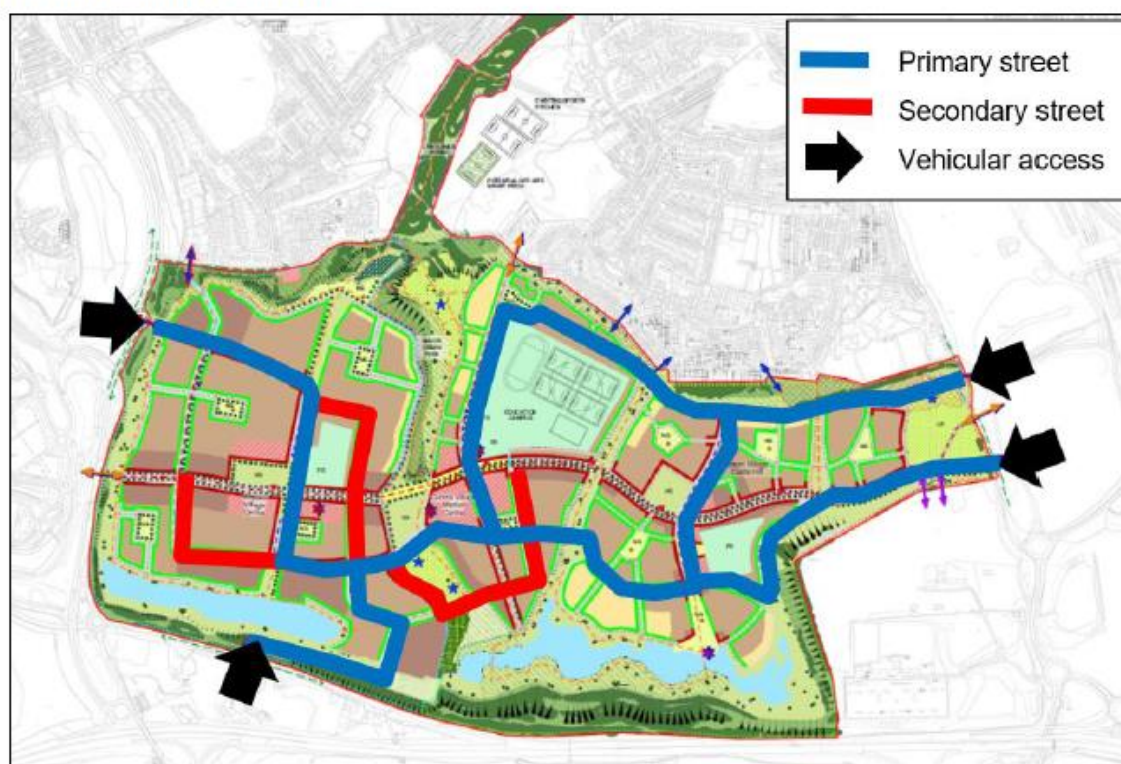
Diagram B:

Vehicular access

In summary there are two general vehicular access routes to Eastern Quarry from the B259 Southfleet Road to the east, one from the B255 St Clements Way to the west and one from the A296 Watling Street to the south.

A permeable grid approach for general traffic is adopted within Eastern Quarry to ensure that car use is provided for at an appropriate level as part of the overall movement and access mix.

On this basis, a hierarchy of routes is provided across Eastern Quarry as illustrated below, where blue routes represent Primary Streets and red routes represent Secondary Streets. The site is also served by a series of internal and local roads that provide access to the local development areas and parcels.



Access points to Eastern Quarry

12. Admission criteria should be changed to prioritise distance as the crow flies, not just for castle hill residents but those who live close to including Greenhithe/ Bean areas where families also need a good choice of schools.

Trust Response

As a Trust we do acknowledge that residents who live very close to the new Alkerden Academy, but are not included in criteria 4, may have concerns that their child may not be able to secure a place within the new school. There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 8.

Even though the new school is being provided because it was believed that the number of houses in the area would necessitate the introduction of a new 8FE Non-Selective Secondary School, the diversity of education provision in Kent means that not every child within the Ebbsfleet Garden City will require a place at Alkerden CE Academy. Many will seek places within the Selective (Grammar) schools, single sex schools, private schools, specialist schools or other faith-based education providers. This means we anticipate that students who reside outside of the DA10 1 postcode area, would have the opportunity to attend Alkerden CE Academy.

13. I have concerns regarding the oversubscription criteria to accommodate specific postcodes rather than to be assessed by distance for all, as with usual school admission criteria.

Trust Response

As a Trust we do acknowledge that residents who live very close to the new Alkerden Academy, but are not included



in criteria 4, may have concerns that their child may not be able to secure a place within the new school. There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 8.

Even though the new school is being provided because it was believed that the number of houses in the area would necessitate the introduction of a new 8FE Non-Selective Secondary School, the diversity of education provision in Kent means that not every child within the Ebbsfleet Garden City will require a place at Alkerden CE Academy. Many will seek places within the Selective (Grammar) schools, single sex schools, private schools, specialist schools or other faith-based education providers. This means we anticipate that students who reside outside of the DA10 1 postcode area, would have the opportunity to attend Alkerden CE Academy.





Section 9 - Consultation Conclusions

Aletheia Academies Trust has considered, in detail, the responses it has received from its Section 10 Consultation exercise and has decided that, following the statutory consultation process, it wishes to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to establish the new Alkerden Academy in Ebbsfleet Garden City.

The consultation methodology outlined in Section 7 provides assurance that the consultation information was presented to a large audience of stakeholders and the general public. 31 respondents is a significant number of participants to offer a considered and relevant group view point and the overwhelming majority of the feedback has been positive.

In making this decision, the Trust is mindful of the concerns raised by stakeholders but also of the positive feedback received from respondents. The concerns raised through this consultation have been responded to in Section 8.

The Trust continues to ensure that the Alkerden Academy website and social media pages provide regular updates on building developments, FAQ's and the appointment of staff to ensure that the expertise within the Trust is known and that the concerns around building and site are mitigated.

The Trust encourages stakeholders to communicate their enquiries through the available channels.

Section 10 – Acknowledgements

Aletheia Academies Trust would like to thank all stakeholders that engaged in this consultation, took time to complete the consultation questionnaire and visited the website. Your responses, comments and feedback were gratefully received.





Section 11 - Appendices

Appendix One – Letter – Admission Arrangements at Alkerden



Alkerden
Church of England Academy

Registered Office

Alkerden Church of England Academy
Colyer Drive, Alkerden, DA10 1HN

office@alkerdenacademy.co.uk

01987 591 477

Admission Arrangements at Alkerden

In 2023, the Aletheia Academies Trust published and consulted on a set of draft admissions criteria for the new Alkerden Church of England Academy, opening in September 2025. The Trust had previously worked with Kent County Council (KCC) to ensure that the criteria were appropriate and legal. The 6-week consultation concluded and the result was that the Trustees subsequently approved the admissions criteria in January 2024.

The Trust and KCC have been made aware that there is a considerable amount of concern about the admission criteria that has been adopted for the new Alkerden School. Some parents feel that there appears to be less opportunity for local Year 6 children to be offered a place, in favour of children from further afield. The Trust and KCC, cognisant of the level of the concerns raised concluded there was sufficient reason for the Trust to look again at the admission criteria.

Following several weeks of discussion with residents, EDC, KCC and Henley Camland, AAT and KCC have agreed to increase the intake for September 2025, from 120 to 150 and all parties agreed on the following revised oversubscription criteria for the Admissions Policy (**additional criterion 4 and 5**).

The revised criteria, and the order they are considered, will be as follows:

1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care – a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked-after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.
2. Children who are currently attending Alkerden C of E Academy in year 6.
3. Children with a sibling or step or half-siblings, including fostered and adopted siblings living at the same home address, attend Alkerden C of E Academy at the time of admission. The school reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship.
4. Children resident in Alkerden, Castle Hill, Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Green, who have a Post Code starting with DA10 1, followed by any two letters, e.g. DA10 1ZZ.

Each Day Provides Opportunity for Positive Change

Proud member of
Aletheia
Academies Trust



PROUD TO BE
Aletheia
Academies Trust



Alkerden

Church of England Academy

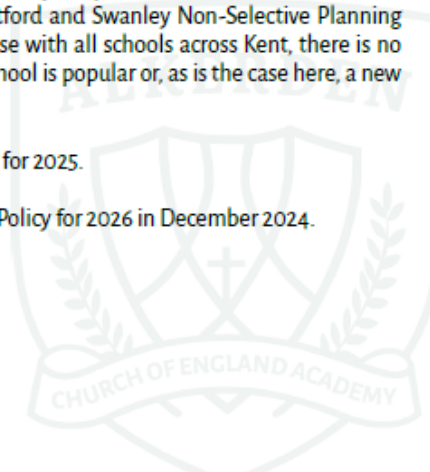
5. **Children with a medical, health, social and special access reasons to attend Alkerden CE Academy, in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Alkerden CE Academy.**
6. Children of members of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application is made; or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
7. Children who attend an Aletheia Academies Trust (AAT) primary school throughout years 5 and 6.
8. All other applicants.

If there are more applicants than places remaining within a particular criterion, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point.

According to KCC analysis, the increase in the PAN from 120 to 150, will help facilitate the opportunity for places being available to students that are resident in Swanscombe village, and perhaps even further afield, which supports the local authority's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient Secondary School places available across the wider Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Area. It is, of course, necessary to state that, as is the case with all schools across Kent, there is no guarantee of a place being available, particularly if the school is popular or, as is the case here, a new provision.

There will be no further changes to the Admissions Policy for 2025.

Aletheia Academies Trust will consult on the Admissions Policy for 2026 in December 2024.



Each Day Provides Opportunity for Positive Change





Section 10 Consultation Document

About Alkerden C of E Academy

Location



Planning permission has been granted and the new school is being built on land at Ebbsfleet Garden City. It will occupy a 11.1 hectare site with an eight-form-entry secondary school and two-form entry primary school, nursery, an all-through Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP), community sports centre and sports pitches, play areas and car and cycle parking.

When it opens in September 2025 the temporary school will have the capacity for 150 year 7 pupils.





When the site is completed for September 2026, the intake will be 180 year 7, 30 year R and 30 year 1. Full capacity will be 240 Year 7 and 60 year R.

Alkerden Development Plan

Vision and Values of Alkerden C of E Academy

Alkerden Academy is a school with a Church Foundation. Whilst you do not have to attend church to be a part of our school community, it reflects our school's partnership with the Church of England community.

Alkerden Academy is committed to the principle of inclusion. Our mission is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, meeting all statutory requirements and enshrining our vision of opportunity and achievement within a positive and welcoming learning environment.

Our Vision

Each Day Provides Opportunity for Positive Change

At Alkerden C of E All-through Academy, we are ready to serve our community and to work with our young people to enable them to enjoy life in all its fullness. The establishment of Alkerden Academy is underpinned by the Christian ethos of inclusion and hope; this extends to those of all faiths and none. We seek to discover universal truths which unite us all, cause us to celebrate change and diversity, and honour the uniqueness of each person. Alkerden is more than its facilities, lessons, and qualifications; it is a place of safety and growth that instils hope in the lives of the young people, the staff, and the wider local community. Much like Ebbsfleet Garden City, Alkerden Academy is a new and exciting place where each day, each lesson, and each experience should be an event of special significance. This thinking grows from the idea of 'Kairos', which means 'a moment of opportunity'.

Our Values

- ♥ Community
- ♥ Hope
- ♥ Respect
- ♥ Innovation
- ♥ Stewardship
- ♥ Trust





Policies including Admissions

The admission policy, detailing how people can apply, how places will be allocated in the event of oversubscription, and how people can appeal against any decisions can be found below and on our website.

In line with the School Admissions Code, children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that name Alkerden Church of England Academy will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly before places are allocated to other pupils. An Education, Health and Care plan is a plan made by the Local Authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 specifying the special education provision required for that child.

The Trust held information mornings at Castle Hill Community Centre in Castle Hill on the 17th and 24th of September and the 15th October 2024 and an information evening on the 9th October 2024 at Saint George's School, Gravesend.

The following changes have been made, in agreement with KCC, to the Admissions Policy that was originally consulted from 18th December 2023 to 31st January 2024.

The PAN has increased from 120 to 150

Additional criteria added:

- 4. Children resident in Alkerden, Castle Hill, Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Green, who have a Post Code starting with DA10 1, followed by any two letters, e.g. DA10 1ZZ.*
- 5. Children with a medical, health, social and special access reasons to attend Alkerden CofE Academy, in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Alkerden CE Academy.*

Please see the below link to the full admissions policy

<https://www.alkerdenacademy.co.uk/admissions>

Our school policies are being developed but you can see examples of our policies through the Aletheia Academies Trust website.

[Aletheia Academies Trust Policies](#)





Have Your Say

We would like to hear from the community in the coming weeks to help inform the Secretary of State for Education's decision on whether to enter into a funding agreement with Aletheia Academies Trust.

We want to listen to your comments and act on any feedback to ensure Alkerden C of E Academy is the best it can be and meets the needs of the community we serve.

You can give us feedback in a number of ways:

- complete the online consultation questionnaire <https://forms.office.com/e/HWiAe3mGS3>
- return by email to office@alkerdenacademy.co.uk,
- or by post to:

Board of Trustees

C/o Laura Ryan

Aletheia Academies Trust

Meadow Road

Gravesend

Kent

DA11 7LS

We will record all views that are shared with us during the formal consultation window which runs between 4th November 2024 and the 13th December 2024.

This consultation is an important step in our journey towards opening in September 2025 and we are looking forward to listening to your views in order to provide you with the best school possible.

**Please note this consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is solely to consult on whether appropriate persons support the Trust to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to run Alkerden C of E Academy.*





Appendix Three – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Alkerden FAQs

How do the admissions work and why is it a different process to other schools?

Admissions to Year 7 in September 2025 opened on the 2nd of September 2024 and close on the 12th December 2024. Offers will be made on the 3rd March 2025 in accordance with our admissions criteria.

The school will process applications for September 2025 outside the normal local authority process for coordinating school offers. You can only apply for Alkerden using the form available on the school website. Alkerden is not listed as an option on the KCC common application form.

****You will need to complete your local authority common application form for your other choices of school in addition to the separate application for this school.****

This does mean that you may receive 2 school offer emails. You will then need to accept one offer and reject the other.

Revised admissions criteria (2025/26)

We are pleased to announce that we have worked with KCC to make the following changes:

The intake for September 2025 has increased from 120 to 150 children.

The following criterion has been added:

4. Children resident in Alkerden, Castle Hill, Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Green, who have a Post Code starting with DA10 1, followed by any two letters, e.g. DA10 1ZZ.
5. Children with a medical, health, social and special access reasons to attend Alkerden CE Academy, in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Alkerden CE Academy.



As a Trust we do acknowledge that residents who live very close to the new Alkerden Academy, but are not included in criteria 4, may have concerns that their child may not be able to secure a place within the new school. There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 8.

Even though the new school is being provided because it was believed that the number of houses in the area would necessitate the introduction of a new 8FE Non-Selective Secondary School, the diversity of education provision in Kent means that not every child within the Ebbsfleet Garden City will require a place at Alkerden CE Academy. Many will seek places within the Selective (Grammar) schools, single sex schools, private schools, specialist schools or other faith-based education providers. This means we anticipate that students who reside outside of the DA10 1 postcode area, would have the opportunity to attend Alkerden CE Academy.

Tie Breaks

If there are more applicants than places remaining within a particular criterion, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight-line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. Where applications are made from properties or abodes that are not registered to the NLPG, including new build properties, KCC may be required to use planning sites or other relevant co-ordinates.

What does the temporary building look like?

The temporary school has been purposefully designed by Premier Modular.

[Please see our page for the plans and layout of the temporary school.](#)

The children will have full use of an all-weather pitch and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

When will the permanent building be ready?

We are led by KCC. Currently, the expected date for the permanent site to open is September 2026.

Do you have an overview of the paths and access gates of the school?

The site plan for the whole site is available on the website.

Pupil numbers

Pupil admission numbers for Alkerden is agreed with KCC as follows:

2025

5FE - Year 7

2027

6FE - Year 7

1FE – Reception

2026

6FE – Year 7

1FE – Reception

1FE – Year 1

2028

8FE – Year 7

2FE - Reception

Why is the school not opening in 2026 to more Year groups, other than R, 1 and 7?

The Trust are the end user/ provider. The opening date has remained within the gift of KCC under the Section 106 agreement.

How will you ensure the Health & Safety of the children with the school located near a building site?

Secure fencing will provide a robust boundary between the main site construction areas and the temporary school facility. We will be working closely with Graham (*the contractor*) and KCC to always ensure safety and accessibility to the temporary site.

What does the curriculum look like?

Each subject area has a developed curriculum journey which spans the time that children enter the school in Reception to the moment they leave at the end of Year 13. The curriculum is inclusive and supports our pupils to develop and flourish through our belief that every child can excel through exposure to the best of what has been thought and said. Staff are trained in innovative and collaborative pedagogical approaches to provide the greatest support for learning. Pupils are assessed to check that they know and remember key knowledge and the extent to which they can reason with and use this knowledge to excel in each subject area.

What are the school times?

The school timings will range between 08:00 – 17:00.

When will transition days be?

The student transition days for current Year 6 pupils will be in July 2025. The dates will be communicated nearer to the time.

Does my child have to be religious or part of the Church of England?

Alkerden Academy will be a school with a Church Foundation. This reflects our school's partnership with the Church of England community.

The school welcomes children of all faiths and none. You do not have to attend a place of worship to attend Alkerden Academy and there is no faith criteria for admissions. The school is committed to the principle of inclusion. Our mission is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, meeting all statutory requirements and enshrining our vision of opportunity and achievement within a positive and welcoming learning environment.

When will the Nursery and Primary Phase open?

How can I apply?

These are expected to open in 2026, please check the website for updates.

We will hold a waiting list for Nursery places and a form will be available on the website to complete your details in the near future.

Will there be a sixth form?

Yes. This is expected to open in 2030 for 90 pupils.

What are the transport options?

If your child is unable to walk to school, there are the following options:

- A new fast-track bus service was launched in July. Please see the Ebbsfleet Garden City website for details for your area.
- Ebbsfleet International Station.

What are the lunch options?

There will be a fully working kitchen in the temporary provision providing lunches to those children who choose to have school dinners. Children have the option to bring in their packed lunch.

Appendix Four – Consultation Questionnaire



Alkerden C of E Academy Section 10 Consultation Questionnaire

As part of the process of opening the new academy, Aletheia Academies Trust is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education to run the new academy. This enables local residents, staff and governors from local schools, parents, councillors, community groups and other interested parties to share their views.

The consultation period for Alkerden C of E Academy will run from 4th November 2024 to the 13th December 2024.

We are keen to deliver a school that meets local needs and requirements and welcome your views. To share these with us please complete this questionnaire.

To contact us please email office@alkerdenacademy.co.uk

**Please note this consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is solely to consult on whether appropriate persons support the Trust to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to run Alkerden C of E Academy.*

Please answer fully question 1-6. Question 7 is optional.



1. About you: Which of the following best describes you?

Add all

All of the above

None of the above

- Parent/Carer
- Member of Staff or Governor at a local school
- Local Resident
- Local Business Owner/Employer/Employee
- Local Authority Employee
- Prefer not to say
- Other



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Academies Trust



2. Do you agree that opening Alkerden C of E Academy in Ebbsfleet Garden City will provide more choice for parents and meet the need to provide additional school places in Ebbsfleet Garden City? *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

⋮

3. Do you support the vision and values of Alkerden C of E Academy outlined in the Consultation document? *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

4. Do you agree that Aletheia Academies Trust should open Alkerden C of E Academy in September 2025, which would involve the Trust entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education? *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

⋮

5. Have you accessed the Alkerden C of E Academy website during the consultation period? *

- Yes - frequently
- Yes - occasionally
- Not yet
- No





6. Where did you hear about the Alkerden C of E Academy consultation? *

- Word of Mouth
- Alkerden website
- Email
- Social Media
- Community Boards

⋮

7. Do you have any additional comments? *(please leave your contact details below if you would like a response)*

Enter your answer





Consultation

Aletheia Academies Trust is delighted to launch its section 10 consultation in relation to the opening of the new Alkerden C of E Academy.

As part of the process of opening the new academy, Aletheia Academies Trust is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education to run the new academy.

This consultation will be run online between 4th November to 13th December 2024. It will allow parents/carers and pupils, staff and governors from local schools, other Local Authorities, Councillors, local residents and any other interested parties to learn more about Alkerden C of E Academy and Aletheia Academies Trust, and share their views.

Scan here to find out more



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