

Deansbrook Infant School

Hale Drive Mill Hill NW7 3ED Tel: 020 8959 2152

Email: office@deansbrookinf.barnetmail.net Web: www.deansbrookinfants.co.uk

Headteacher: Carole Catley

June 3rd 2026

Proposal for Deansbrook Infant School to join AIM Academies Trust

Consultation Document

Dear Stakeholders

I am delighted to share an important opportunity for the future of our school community. Over the past several months, governors and senior leaders have been carefully exploring ways to strengthen the educational experience, opportunities, and support available to all pupils. Following this work, we are now beginning a formal consultation on a proposal for our school to join AIM Academies.

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that all parents and carers have the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and share their views before any final decision is made. We warmly encourage you to read the document carefully and take part in the consultation process. Your feedback is extremely valuable and will help inform the governors' final decision.

What is the proposal?

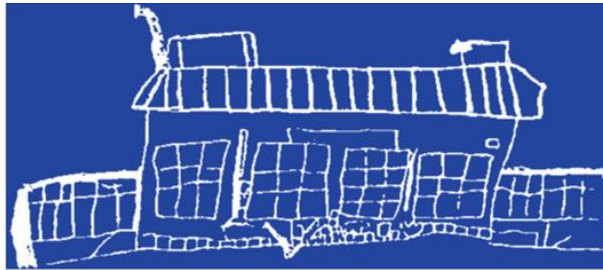
This consultation document outlines the proposal for Deansbrook Infant School to become an academy and join AIM Academies Trust. Deansbrook Junior School is already part of this trust.

Converting to an academy would mean the school became part of a group of schools working together under a single trust, sharing expertise, resources and support to help improve outcomes for pupils.

You can find out more information about AIM Academies Trust by looking at their website: <https://www.aimacademies.org/>

The proposal would ensure the school continued to serve the same community and remained focused on providing high-quality education for its pupils. The aim of joining





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the trust would be to strengthen collaboration with other schools, support staff development and ensure the long-term sustainability and success of the school.

Why are we proposing to join AIM Academies Trust?

Joining the same academy trust as the Junior School would allow both schools to work more closely together and to work closely with other schools in the Trust. This would help to:

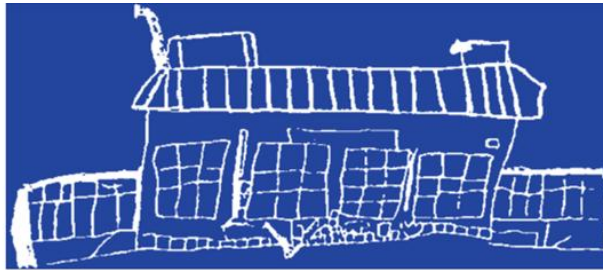
- Improve continuity between the Infant and Junior schools
- Ensure consistent leadership and management across key stages
- Develop relationships between pupils and parents across both schools which can build over a longer period of time, allowing the school to better understand the needs of each pupil.
- Provide continuity and consistency for teaching and learning and achievement.
- Enable better tracking of how children are learning and progressing across all year groups
- Provide greater opportunities for staff training and professional development
- Enable schools across the Trust to share resources, expertise and support
- Ensure long term stability and sustainability for both the Infant and Junior schools
- Develop cost effectiveness for the schools by creating economies of scale in the long term.
- Enable a greater proportion of the school's budget to be available for teaching and learning rather than administration

What would change?

If the proposal goes ahead, Deansbrook Infant School would convert to academy status and join the AIM Academies Trust. Many aspects of the school would remain the same but there are a few changes that would need to be considered:

- The school would no longer be run by the local authority (Barnet) and instead would be overseen by the AIM Academies Trust Board.
- Deansbrook Infant School and Deansbrook Junior School would have a single local Governing Body whose role would be to provide support and challenge to the school, and to represent the staff and local community. The local Governing Body would be accountable to the AIM Academies Trust Board.
- Policies would be shared across the trust to ensure that Deansbrook Infant and Junior schools could work consistently together.





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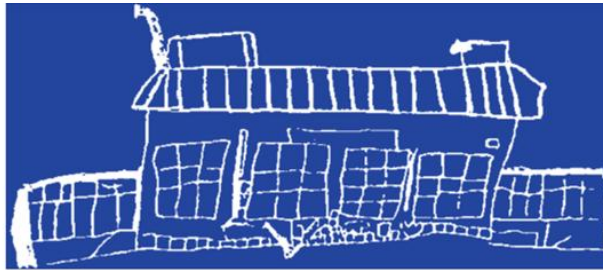
- The school would be funded directly by the Department for Education rather than through the local authority, but the national funding formula arrangements would stay consistent.
- The staff would be employed directly by the Trust instead of the local authority and their current contracts would transfer.
- The school would benefit from the guidance, advice and expertise provided by AIM Academies trust and work in closer collaboration with other schools in the trust.
- There would be one Headteacher and one Deputy Headteacher who would provide the leadership across both the infant and junior schools. This would help ensure a consistent vision for teaching and learning and strengthen the transition between the two schools.

What would stay the same?

We believe that in reality, children, parents and staff would see very little difference in the current working of Deansbrook Infant School and it is our intention that there would be no disruption to the education of the children.

- The nursery pre-school would continue in its current form, and the infant school would continue as a two-form school from Reception to Year 2. This will reflect the current and planned demand for places in the local area.
- School staff and leadership would continue to support pupils and families as they do now.
- Our commitment to providing a nurturing and high-quality education for children in Nursery to Year 2 would remain at the heart of everything we do.
- The school values and ethos would stay the same and the Governing Body are confident that these align with those of AIM Academies Trust.
- The school name and location would remain unchanged.
- The school would continue to serve the local community.
- The staff at the infant school will continue to work with your children.
- The school day is not expected to change. Term dates may be aligned with other schools in the trust in the future but any changes will be communicated in advance.
- There are no current plans to change the school uniform.
- Parents/carers will still need to apply for a year 3 place at Deansbrook Junior School.





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Governors recognise that there may also be advantages to retaining the current infant school structure, and we welcome all views, comments and feedback as part of the consultation process before any final decision is made.

What is the process to be followed?

To join an academy trust a community school would need to adhere to certain regulations. There are a number of stages to the statutory process which must be followed:

Stage	Process
1. Consultation	Statutory consultation with staff, parents, and community
2. Review	The Governing Body will review and consider all responses before deciding whether to proceed with the academisation application
3. Application Submission	Submit an application to DfE to join a MAT, with all required documentation
4. DfE Assessment	DfE reviews the application and issues an academy order if approved
5. Legal and Commercial Work	Due Diligence, Land/asset transfer, TUPE for staff
6. Final Approvals	DfE, the Governing Body and AIM Academies confirm final approvals are in place
7. Join AIM Academies	If the proposal is approved Deansbrook Infant School anticipates joining AIM Academies in January 2027

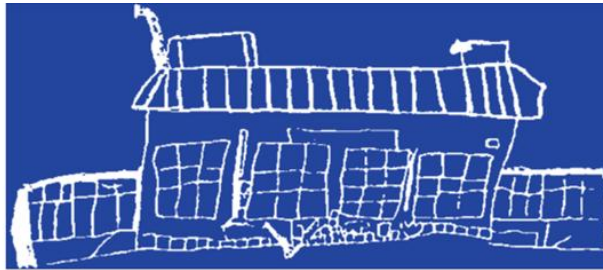
Why are we consulting you?

The Governing Body of Deansbrook Infant School cannot simply decide to make changes to the school without first seeking the views of parents and others. There is a process which must be followed before any changes can be made, and it is important that the Governing Body hears your views before deciding whether to proceed.

Who is this consultation for?

This consultation is aimed at parents, staff, governors and everyone with an interest in





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primary education in the area.

We want to consult to gather the views of as many people in the school community as possible.

How can I give my views and ask questions?

The consultation period will last for just over three weeks from 3rd June to 26th June 2026.

You can respond with your comments and questions by completing the Google form <https://forms.gle/XXQvSTCzu827crn68> by 4pm on Friday 26th June 2026.

Additionally, you are invited to a consultation meeting so that you can find out more about joining an academy trust. The meeting will be held at:

Deansbrook Infant School on Wednesday 10th June at 5:30pm

The meeting will be attended by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Deansbrook Infant School, a representative of Deansbrook Junior School and the CEO of AIM Academies Trust so you can hear more about the proposal and ask any questions.

An FAQ is attached to this letter and is available on the school website. Any additional information, provided in response to frequent questions, will be updated during the consultation process.

Best wishes

Carole Catley
Headteacher

Ryan Hannan
Chair of Governors

