

Thursday 5th February 2026

Response to Consultation for proposed change to Ashmole Academy's Admissions policy 2027

To Parents, Carers & Community,

The consultation regarding the proposal to change Ashmole Academy's Admissions policy (specifically regarding the inclusion of Osidge School as a feeder school) has now closed.

We would like to thank everyone that engaged with the consultation for their time and consideration. The Local Governing Committee of Ashmole Academy and the Trustees of Ashmole Trust have met to discuss the consultation responses in detail. It is clear from the volume of responses that this is a significant decision for our local community.

Decision for September 2027

We have listened carefully to the views expressed by stakeholders. A key theme in the feedback was that the proposed timeline did not allow appropriate time for parents and children to make a fully informed choice as to their secondary transition. Another theme was that people would like further information around the rationale for the policy change. Therefore, it has been decided that no changes will be made to the oversubscription criteria for September 2027.

Future Consultation

While we are pausing the proposal for this cycle, we continue to believe that there is a compelling case for a closer structural partnership between Ashmole Academy and Osidge School which will benefit the students in the Trust and the community. It is our intention to bring forward a fresh proposal for consultation in the next academic year (for September 2028 entry).

For further clarity, a detailed rationale for the policy change is provided below.



Osidge School & Ashmole Academy: Admission Rationale

Strengthening Local Education Through Partnership:

For over two decades, Osidge School has played a significant role in the transition of local pupils into Ashmole Academy. Between 2000 and 2022, Osidge School consistently sent the highest number of pupils to Ashmole Academy, with an average of 46 out of 60 students securing a Year 7 place each year.

In 2024, following the introduction of feeder status for Ashmole Primary, Osidge School became the second-largest contributor, with an average of 41 pupils, while Ashmole Primary averaged 55 pupils.

Possible numbers of effected students:

Allowing Osidge School feeder access could, in theory, offer up to 18 additional places per year. However, this figure is likely lower because:

- Not all students within catchment apply for Ashmole Academy
- Not all students live within the 1-mile priority radius
- Growing popularity and success at Osidge School may shift application patterns

A realistic estimate suggests that the increase would be no more than 10 pupils per year. In an attempt to mitigate against non-local children taking priority, a threshold one a mile has been placed on the criteria.

Addressing Local Needs:

- Ashmole Primary is oversubscribed, with only 1 in 4 applicants receiving a place.
- Osidge School is undersubscribed and experiencing downward pressure on pupil numbers.
- The two schools are located only 200 metres apart and serve the same community.



Supporting Osidge School through feeder access helps preserve balance, opportunity, and sustainability within the local education system.

A Strong and Growing Partnership:

The vision of the Trust has always been to ensure equal opportunities for all schools within the Trust and their pupils. Over the past year, collaborative work between Osidge School and Ashmole Academy has expanded rapidly, including:

- Oracy Club – including a joint Year 5 debating competition between Osidge School and Ashmole Primary hosted by Ashmole Academy
- SEND and inclusion support, including a Flourish programme at Ashmole Academy to support pupils with literacy development and a celebration of sports & play which is an inclusive celebration of movement, teamwork and achievement
- Collective literacy initiatives, such as a shared poetry festival
- Reading and SEN buddy programmes, supported by Academy sixth form students
- A shared therapy dog
- Joint staff development and shared teaching and learning resources

Both primary schools are already led by a shared Executive Head Teacher, and this partnership will continue to grow.

Enhancing Transition and Wellbeing:

Investing in shared opportunities for students at both schools, while ignoring how these support transition into secondary education, would be counterproductive. The collaboration directly benefits:

- Educational continuity
- Student safety
- Wellbeing and inclusion



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- Community cohesion

Concerns about pupils travelling long distances are addressed through the 1-mile radius criterion within the admissions policy.

Protecting Osidge School's Future:

Reversing the decline in pupil numbers at Osidge School is essential for:

- Protecting jobs
- Sustaining school resources
- Maintaining a valued and historic school at the heart of the Southgate community

We appreciate that there are differing views on this matter, and we are committed to an open and transparent process when we return to this topic in October.

Yours sincerely,

Rudi Ramdarshan

Rudi Ramdarshan
Chair of Ashmole Trust

Allison Walling

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Chair of Governors – Ashmole Academy Local Governing Committee

