

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Re: Consultation to merge Cantley Primary with Freethorpe Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share important information regarding a proposal affecting two of our schools within the AIM Federation—Cantley Primary School and Freethorpe Primary School. While this does not directly impact your child's school, we believe in maintaining open communication with all families across the Federation and keeping you informed of significant developments.

Following a sustained decline in pupil numbers at Cantley Primary School, a formal consultation has now begun on a joint proposal from the Governing Board and Local Authority to amalgamate Cantley Primary School with Freethorpe Primary School. If approved, this amalgamation would take effect in September 2025, with Cantley pupils becoming part of the Freethorpe school community.

The decision to consult on the schools future has been very difficult and carefully considered, made in close consultation with the Governing Body and the Local Authority. With only 17 pupils projected to be on roll at Cantley by September 2025 and no new Reception intake, it has become financially and educationally unviable to continue operating Cantley in its current form, while providing the quality of teaching and learning our pupils are entitled to. The proposed amalgamation is intended to secure a stable, high-quality and sustainable educational environment for those pupils moving forward.

I would like to reassure all families across our Federation that the proposed changes are limited to Cantley and Freethorpe Primary Schools and will not affect the operation or structure of our other Federation schools. We remain fully committed to supporting all our communities and continuing to provide the high standards of education and care that define the AIM Federation.

The consultation period is now open and will close at noon on Monday 16th June 2025, and we welcome feedback from all parents, carers, and members of the wider community. Once the consultation period concludes, all views and responses will be thoroughly considered by the Governing Board and the Local Authority before making a final decision.

The consultation period will run for five weeks, and we welcome your feedback, questions, and concerns. Please submit any comments via

https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/cantleyfreethorpecatchment or use this QR code 

You may also submit your comments via email to schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is **noon Monday 16th June 2025**.

Public meetings will be held at Cantley Primary School at 2:15pm on Monday 19th May and Freethorpe Primary on Tuesday 20th May, as part of the formal consultation process.

We know that changes like this can affect our wider school community, and we are grateful for your understanding and support as we navigate the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

David Hopkins
Executive Headteacher