



To Whom this may concern

Re: Proposal to de-amalgamate the existing schools within UET Pathfinder Academy to form new schools under individual URN's

I am writing to inform you of a proposed significant change at UET Pathfinder Schools, Douglas Bader, Brooklands, Hooper Lane, Danby Wood and Rosebery academies.

We are looking for your views on the proposal as outlined in this document.

Context

Unity Education Trust (UET) Pathfinder Alternative Provision (AP) schools provide education for pupils in Year groups Reception through to Year 11 (age 5 to 16) who have no mainstream school place. We have five sites spread across the county to ensure good local services for the schools and communities we serve.

The UET Pathfinder Academies have several key functions. Primarily we provide education and support for young people who have been permanently excluded from school. The needs and profile of these young people vary tremendously but for all our pupils our role is to prepare everyone for the next step on their educational journey and to support them in making this a successful transition.

The UET Pathfinder Academies are also an educational base for Children who are Missing Education. We provide education for children in Norfolk who are without a permanent school place until such time as their school place can be finalised. In this role we cater for a diverse population that includes those who are new to the county/ country as well as those with significant learning difficulties awaiting more specialist provision. In addition, we provide education and support for young people in Norfolk who are unable to attend school due to their medical needs. Again, this is a wide and varied field that encompasses those with both physical and emotional ill health.

Across all our schools our pupils are at the centre of everything we do. We believe that every child is capable of great things and that everyone has the right to an excellent education. Many pupils may not have the opportunity to transition to other education provisions, and we are increasingly providing for a wider pupil profile need who remain with us for their educational life.

The Pathfinder system is organised with one lead school (Douglas Bader in Badgersfield) and four other satellite sites — Brooklands in Gorleston, Danby Wood and Hooper Lane in Norwich and Rosebery in Kings Lynn. We are extremely proud of our partnership working with Norfolk County Council Children services as the commissioned provider of Alternative Provision across Norfolk.

Unity Education Trust proposing a significant change request to remove the one base and four satellite bases model in favour of registering three schools and two satellite bases as an AP provider to maintain provision across the landscape of Norfolk and enable schools to be able to run as

individual schools in their own right. This will allow the schools to enhance assessment, admission and placement of children into settings that are designed for their specific needs.

Douglas Bader Academy with Brooklands as a satellite provision.

Danby Wood Academy will register as a new school with Hooper Lane as a satellite provision.

Rosebery Academy will register as a new school.

This proposal is designed to meet the ever-increasing needs profile of the children across Norfolk and in line with Norfolk County Council this proposal forms part of Norfolk County Local First Inclusion Programme and wider sufficiency Strategy for Alternative Provision. The change is designed to ensure admissions, profile matching and greater flow of students into our provision and then to the right onward journeys as part of the Norfolk strategy.

UET Pathfinder AP wishes to continue its development in line with National SEND reform and local Norfolk strategies to enable children to feel on roll at their school and be placed effectively in a school that provides a tailored programme of support for their specific need aimed at improving engagement, behaviour, learning and outcomes whether they remain on Pathfinder role or move into other specialist placements with UET or Norfolk provision.

Profile of Learners and present provision

- KS1 and KS2 primary AP provision.
- KS3 & KS4 AP provision
- Social Emotional and Mental Health
- Behaviour ● medical needs ● short-stay vs long-term placements

Separation allows us to:

- tailored personal placements against our overarching curriculum models to include the expansion of vocational learning provision on sites.
- develop appropriate staffing structures that continue to be trained and respond to a narrower need profile on entry in each new school site.

We see ourselves as a key contributor to Norfolk's NEET strategy. This proposal releases additional local leadership capacity, enabling schools to build stronger relationships with local partners and employers, enhance transition planning, and improve opportunities for pupils to move successfully into further education, employment, and training.

The creation of three schools with Unique Reference Numbers (URN) will enable further educational benefits of dedicated funding, leadership and governance accountability, continued investment in staffing will ensure that each school has a distinct population where we can further focus on learning and development needs of pupils against high level accountability and longer-term stronger commissioning.

Consultation and how to respond

This letter is to consult on the proposal to de-amalgamate the existing UET Pathfinder Academy and create three schools with their own URN's. The UET Board of Trustees wishes to receive the views and comments of parents, carers and other stakeholders of the existing academy and its community.

The consultation period will run for four weeks from Friday 18th September to 12 noon on Friday 10th October 2026.

Views are welcome on the above proposal by the deadline of Friday 10th October 2026. The UET Board of Trustees will consider all comments received during the consultation period. Once the consultation ends the responses will be considered carefully and if UET decides to proceed a formal application will be submitted to the Department for Education to approve before any implementation takes place.

No final decision has been made at this stage, and no changes will be implemented unless and until approval is received.

The decision to consult has not been taken lightly but reflects the Trust's commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils and strengthening personalisation and inclusivity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Baumber". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Professor John Baumber
Chair of Trustees

Response form

Consultation on a proposal to de-amalgamate the UET Pathfinder sites and re-designate as schools giving opportunities for enhanced personalisation for pupils.

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal?

Please cross out those statements that do not apply.

Strongly Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Disagree Strongly

Please give the main reasons for your answer:

Is there anything else that you would like to raise as part of this consultation?

We would like to hear from many different people, as your views help us to decide whether we make these changes. We will process your personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations, which means that we will not give your personal data to any third parties. Your comments will be anonymous - your name or anything that could identify you will not be included in any report. However, we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please tell us who you are:

Parent / Carer

Member of staff

School governor

Local resident

Other (please specify): _____

What is your postcode?

You can tell us your views by returning your completed form by any of the following means:

By email at: consultations@unityeducationtrust.uk

Hard copies of the form can be dropped off at the office of any UET Pathfinder Academy.

This consultation ends on 10th October 2026.

