

## Consultation on Proposed Changes to School Admissions:

Catchment area changes from September 2025 for Brancaster CofE Primary Academy and Burnham Market Primary School

Following the amalgamation of Brancaster CofE Primary Academy with Docking Primary School effective September 2025

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In light of the recent decision by DNEAT to amalgamate Brancaster CofE Primary Academy with Docking Primary School, it is necessary to revise the catchment areas to ensure they align with the changed educational infrastructure in the wider area.

We're inviting feedback from those who may be affected by this proposal.

The consultation is open from **12 June 2025 until 5pm on 23 July 2025**.

### Primary schools involved:

- **Brancaster CofE Primary Academy**, Market Lane, Brancaster, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 8AB- *Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT)*
- **Burnham Market Primary School**, Friars Lane, Burnham Norton, King's Lynn, PE31 8JA – *The Wensum Trust*

### Secondary schools involved:

- **Alderman Peel High School**, Market Lane, Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk, NR23 1RB *The Wensum Trust*
- **Smithdon High School**, Downs Road, Hunstanton, PE36 5HY, *West Norfolk Academy Trust*

All the schools in this proposed change are academies, which means they are the Admissions Authorities for their own schools; however, Norfolk County Council works collaboratively with the academies to coordinate the admissions of pupils including how the catchment areas are arranged.

## **Proposed Change:**

### **Primary school changes:**

Norfolk County Council wants to change the catchment areas from which students are admitted to Brancaster CofE Primary Academy, by adding it to the area served by Burnham Market Primary School starting from 1 September 2025.

### **Secondary school changes:**

As a result of the changes to catchment area of the primary schools, this will also affect the secondary phase feeder school arrangements. This proposal is therefore in conjunction with the secondary academies who are the admissions authorities. The changes are proposed to be as follows:

- Alderman Peel High School will amend the admissions criteria to include the former Brancaster CofE Primary Academy catchment area (which would be added to the Burnham Market area), effective from 1 September 2025.
- The former catchment area for Brancaster will no longer be served by Smithdon High School.
- Expanding the Burnham Market Primary School catchment to include the Brancaster catchment would mean that pupils living in the area would now be aligned with Alderman Peel High School, rather than Smithdon High School. This change in secondary school reflects the recent pattern of parental preference in the area. Parents remain entitled to apply for a preferred secondary school outside of their catchment area.

## **What is a catchment area?**

A catchment area is a specific geographical zone that can give children living in the area priority to get into a certain school. Norfolk County Council sets up these areas so parents can expect a better chance for their children to get a place at the school. Even though catchment areas help decide who gets a priority for placements and eligibility for home to school transport, families can still apply to any school, no matter where they live. Not all schools give a priority to children living within the catchment area it serves.

## **What will not change:**

- The changes will not affect pupils already attending any of the schools.
- The changes will not affect the option of pupils and families to make parental preference for a preferred school outside of the catchment area.
- The catchment area for Docking CofE Primary Academy and Nursery will not change.

## **Reason for Change:**

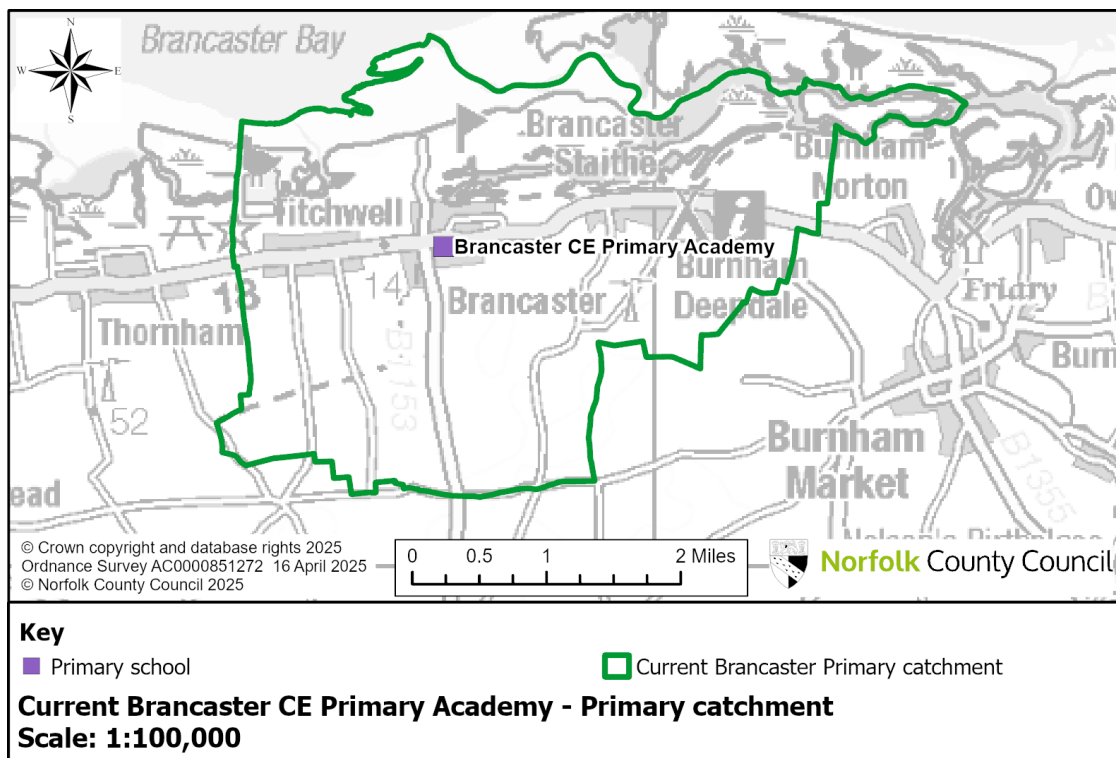
- We don't usually make changes to catchment areas at this time of year. However, in this case, we're considering this change is in response to the amalgamation of Brancaster CofE Primary Academy with Docking CofE Primary Academy and Nursery by The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT).

- This change will help balance the number of students in nearby schools and make sure all the schools have enough resources to support the pupils.

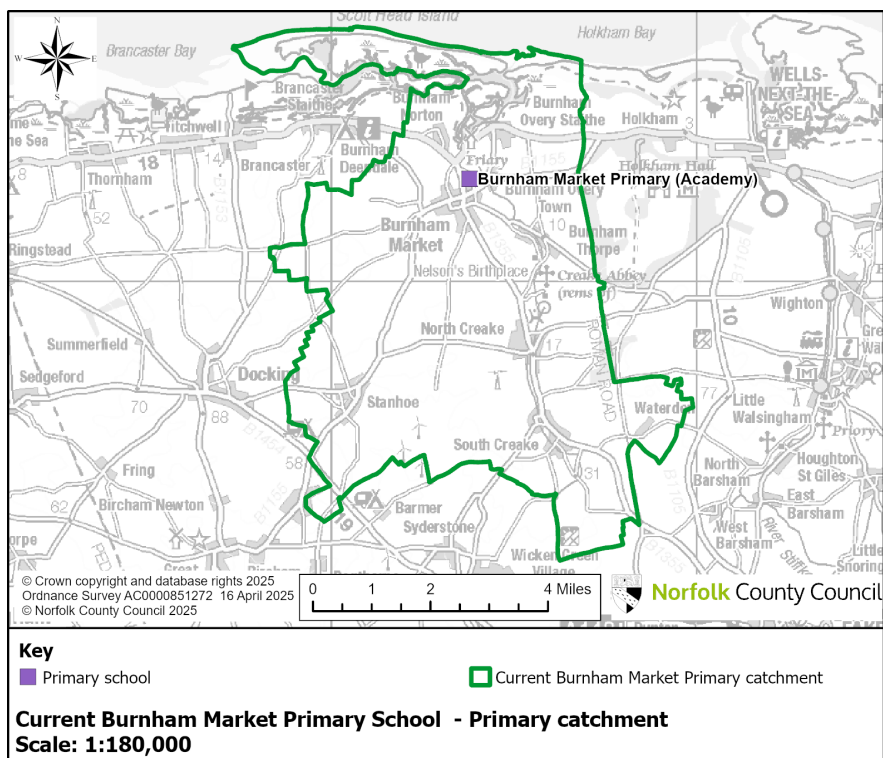
## Maps:

### Primary schools:

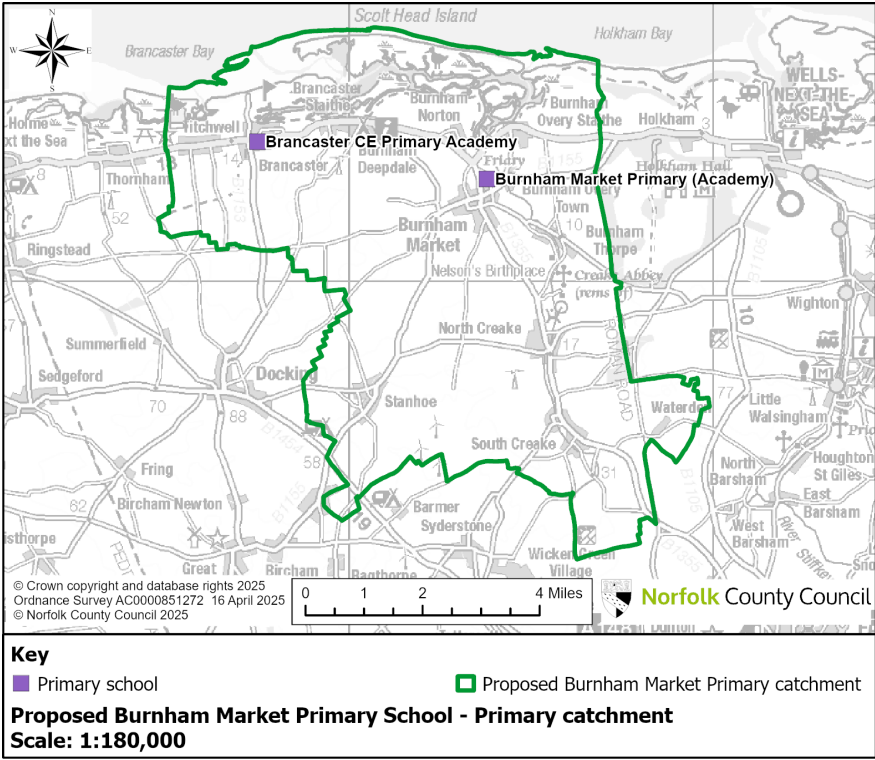
#### Current Brancaster CofE Primary Academy Catchment



#### Current Burnham Market Primary School Catchment

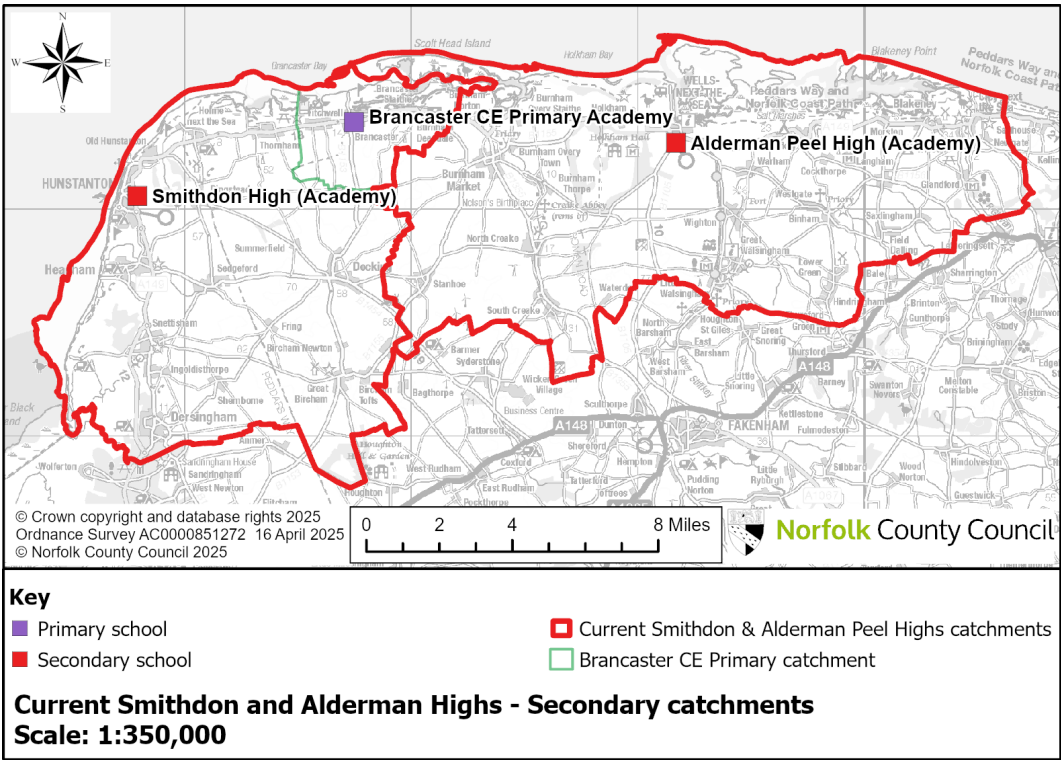


Proposed Burnham Market Primary School catchment from September 2025

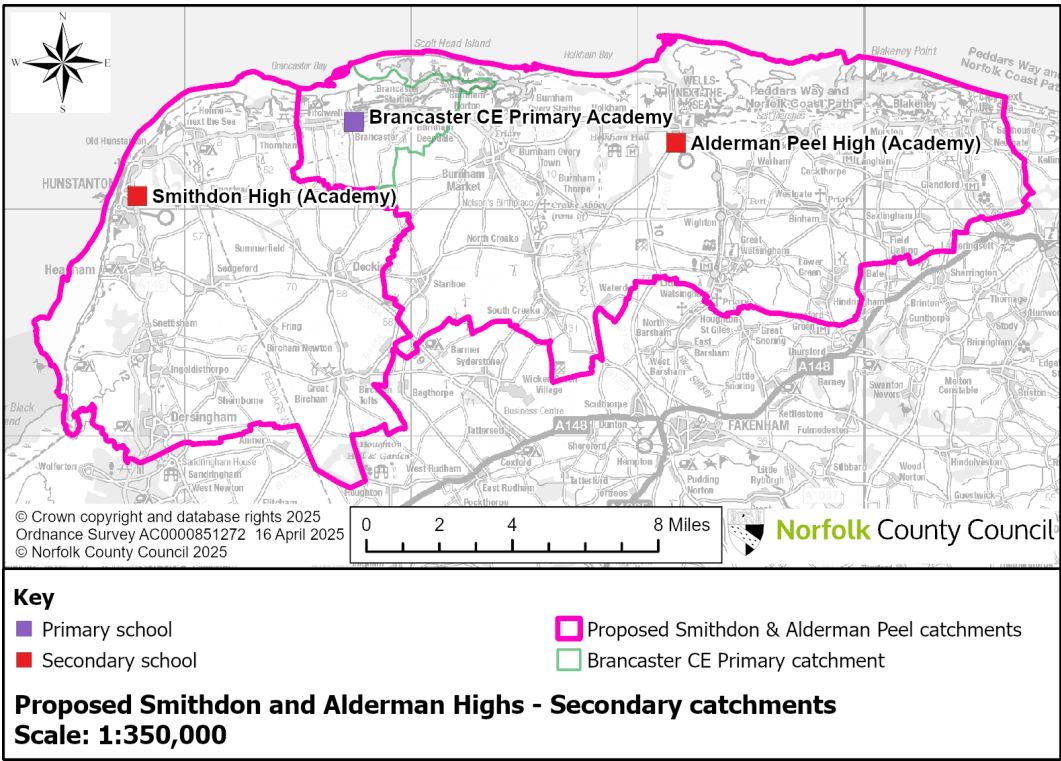


Secondary schools:

Current Smithdon High and Alderman High Peel Catchments



Proposed Smithdon High and Alderman Peel High Catchments from September 2025



## Why are we not proposing to merge the Brancaster and Docking catchments?

- Pupil forecasts are the current projection of how many places we will need to provide all Norfolk children with a school place. The data includes all children currently attending schools, birth details, housing development plans, parental preference patterns and migration information. Assessment of the Brancaster and Docking catchment proposals suggest that capacity could be limited in the future were the areas to be combined.
- Burham Market Primary School has capacity to offer the pupils places.
- For many families living in the current Brancaster catchment, Burnham Market Primary School is closer than Docking CofE Primary Academy and Nursery, and many are already choosing it because it means a shorter journey to school.

## How might this change affect home to school transport?

Depending on where you live, children may be eligible for free home to school transport. Your child will be entitled to free school transport, if they:

- Are of compulsory school age (five to 16 years old) on 1 September or
- Will be five before 1 September 2025 when applying for school year 2024-25 or
- Will be five before 1 September 2026 when applying for school year 2025-26 and
- Attend the nearest catchment or the nearest appropriate school with a place as designated by Children's Services and
- Live more than two miles, measured by the nearest walking route to school, when under the age of eight
- Live more than three miles walking distance from school, when aged eight or over

If the proposed changes to catchment areas go ahead, this may affect which school is considered a child's nearest or catchment school.

Not sure what this means for you or your child? Please speak to us about your personal circumstances, call our Admissions team on **01603 638036** or **01603 638528**.

You can find see the full home to school transport policy here: [Transport for 5 to 16-year-olds - Norfolk County Council](#)

## Getting more help:

- If you have questions about your child's circumstances, please talk to our Admissions team on **01603 638036** or **01603 638528** who will be able to help.



## How to Share Your Views:

You will have received this consultation as you are a stakeholder and may be affected directly or indirectly by the change. We would like to seek your views on the proposal.

- The consultation will run from **12 June 2025 till 5pm 23 July 2025**.
- There are several ways you can share your views:

Tell us your views about the catchment change by;



- Completing the online survey via QR code on <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/brancasterandburnhammarket>
- Talking to us; There will be drop-in session held on **Thursday 3 July from 2:30pm to 3:30pm at Brancaster CofE Primary Academy**.
- Emailing us at [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Completing the attached form and handing it into the school office
- Write to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL. You do not need a stamp.

## Next Steps:

- After the consultation ends, Norfolk County Council will review the results and present the findings to the Executive Director of Children's Services who will make a recommendation to change the catchment area of Brancaster CofE Primary Academy and Burnham Market Primary School to the academies and trusts involved.



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**What you think of the proposals? Please provide responses below**

**How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change the catchment areas of Brancaster CofE Primary Academy and Burnham Market Primary School from September 2025?**

Please tick one box

☐

Strongly Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree or disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly Disagree

☐

Don't know

**Please give your main reasons for your answers.**

**Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision of the children?**

Please write in the box below.

We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether or not 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:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Which school are you linked to? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your postcode? \_\_\_\_\_

**The earliest this change could take place would be September 2025.**

You can tell us your views by returning your completed form to the school office.