

The Proposal:

Amalgamate Cantley Primary School and Freethorpe Community Primary School from September 2025. Cantley Primary School will be discontinued from 31 August 2025, including the nursery run under Section 27.

and

Change the catchment area of Cantley Primary School to merge with the existing catchment area of Freethorpe Community Primary School, creating one larger catchment area that serves Freethorpe Community Primary School from September 2025.

Determination Notice

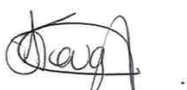
I hereby **approve** this proposal to amalgamate (discontinue) Cantley Primary School, School Lane, Cantley, Norfolk, NR13 3SA with Freethorpe Community Primary School, School Road, Freethorpe, Norfolk NR13 3NZ from September 2025.

And

Change the catchment area of Cantley Primary School, School Lane, Cantley, Norfolk, NR13 3SA to merge with the existing catchment area of Freethorpe Community Primary School, School Road, Freethorpe, Norfolk NR13 3NZ creating one larger catchment area that serves Freethorpe Community Primary School from September 2025.

The reasons for this decision are that:

- The statutory procedural requirements under sections 15 (2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 have been met;
- The proposals meets the criteria laid down in the statutory Department for Education guidance in relation to the amalgamation and discontinuance of schools. While there is a presumption against the closure of rural schools, in this situation, the low numbers of registered pupils at the school is a strong case for amalgamation and discontinuance;
- Changing the catchment areas will reflect the amalgamated schools.
- The views of all interested parties, including those most likely to be affected, have been fully considered.



Signed;..... Date;...17.07.2025.....

Sara Tough OBE, Executive Director Children's Services, Norfolk County Council