PENKRIDGE BANK ROAD
RUGELEY
STAFFORDSHIRE
WS15 2UE

PRINCIPAL: RACHAEL SANDHAM

T +44 (0)1889 802440
E enquiries@hartschool.org.uk
www.hartschool.org.uk

THE HART SCHOOL
Creative Education Trust

23rd November 2026

CONSULTATION FOR PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2028/2029

The Admissions Code of Practice 2021 requires an Admissions Authority to consult each time it proposes to make significant changes to its admissions arrangements.

The Creative Education Trust (CET) is the Admissions Authority for the family of Academies within CET and, as such, administers the admission arrangements on behalf of the Academy Council of The Hart School. We are proposing to change our admissions policy to adopt the following changes to be in effect from September 2028:

- Reducing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 220 to 180 and make a change to the oversubscription criteria
- Selection of up to 10% of our pupils (i.e. 18 pupils) on the basis of aptitude for the Performing Arts

The reasons for proposing the reduction of the PAN are as follows:

- The Hart School has experienced a decline in the number of pupils joining the school, reflecting falling birth rates and changes in local demographics. This position has been further affected by the opening of a new free school less than two miles away, increasing competition for a reducing number of pupils in the local area.

- Reducing the PAN from 220 to 180 is a necessary and considered response to these changes. It will allow us to bring our admission numbers more closely in line with local demand, make better use of our accommodation and resources, and ensure that we remain financially sustainable while continuing to provide the quality of education and opportunities that our pupils deserve.

- However, we would be open to increasing PAN in line with demand in the future.

The reasons for proposing the selection of up to 10% of our pupils on the basis of aptitude for the Performing Arts are as follows:

- As a Performing Arts specialist school, we are committed to excellence in dance, drama, music and literature. Allocating up to 10% of admission places on the basis of aptitude will enable us to recognise and nurture pupils with particular talent and potential, providing access to specialist teaching and opportunities to develop their skills and achieve highly.

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- We believe the arts and literature play an important role in education, developing creativity, confidence, communication and self-expression. These skills are increasingly valued by universities and future employers, with applicants expected to demonstrate a breadth of experience, individual achievement and wider interests. Through our curriculum and extensive enrichment programme, we aim to develop well-rounded young people, equipping them with the skills and experiences to succeed.

- It is equally important that we protect what makes The Hart School distinctive. Performing Arts is a real strength of our school and a flagship part of our identity. It is not simply an area of the curriculum; it is something that pupils experience and benefit from well beyond the classroom through productions, performances, clubs and wider enrichment opportunities. Our commitment to the arts, including dance, drama, music and literature, is an important part of the educational experience we offer. We want to ensure that these opportunities, and the quality of provision behind them, are protected for future generations of Hart pupils.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors of CET is undertaking this statutory consultation process with the parents and other stakeholders for The Hart School including:

- parents of children between the ages of five and eighteen;
- other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- all other admission authorities within the relevant area;
- whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority; and
- any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority.

CET wishes to invite interested parties to take part in this consultation on the amendment of the Admission Policy for The Hart School – please see https://www.hartschool.org.uk for the proposed revised Admissions Policy. The policy will also be made available on Staffordshire County Council's admissions page (www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions).

The consultation will take place for 6 term-time weeks between Monday 23rd November 2026 to Friday 15th January 2027.

Your views on any aspect of the admission arrangements will be sent to our Academy Council and the Board of Directors for consideration.

All responses received by the end of the consultation period will be carefully considered and will decide the admission arrangements for the school year 2028/2029. Once the arrangements have been determined by 28th February 2027, they will be published on the Academy's website by 15th March 2027.

We therefore invite you to take part in this consultation on the amendment to our admission policy. Your opinions are important, and we are keen to receive your comments on the arrangements before they are formally approved.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

Online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HART28

By email to: consultation@creativeeducationtrust.org.uk

By post to: Ms Rachael Sandham, Principal, The Hart School, Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2UE

Yours sincerely,



RACHAEL SANDHAM
PRINCIPAL
THE HART SCHOOL