

COMMUNITY INCLUSIVE TRUST
AND NEWARK ORCHARD SCHOOL

CAUNTON CONSULTATION REPORT

28th April 2026



THE CONSULTATION

The Community Inclusive Trust (CIT) is currently working in partnership with Nottinghamshire Local Authority (LA) to establish a satellite provision on the former Dean Hole Primary School site in Caunton, Newark, NG23 6AD.

From September 2026, the LA and CIT are proposing the establishment of a satellite provision on the former primary school site, delivered in partnership with Newark Orchard School. The satellite would offer 20 places for primary-aged pupils with EHCPs, particularly those with needs in the area of Communication and Interaction (C&I). There is an identified shortage of specialist primary places across Nottinghamshire, and Newark Orchard School is currently operating above its Published Admission Number (PAN).

To achieve this, there is a need to increase the PAN at Newark Orchard School from 170 to 200. This will provide sufficient capacity for the new satellite provision, alongside maintaining the high-quality provision already existing on the main Newark Orchard site. The satellite provision will be designed to meet the needs of pupils with Communication and Interaction needs, while also fostering strong partnerships with local primary schools. This will help create opportunities for pupils, where appropriate, to access elements of mainstream education and reduce the need for Newark children who need specialist provision to travel outside of their home locality.

Overall, the proposed satellite provision will increase local specialist capacity and further strengthen the expertise available to meet the needs of children and young people within the Newark area.

As part of this consultation, two face-to-face events took place:

- **Monday 20th April, 4pm – 5pm at Newark Orchard School, NG24 3AL.**
- **Tuesday 21st April, 4pm – 6pm at Caunton Dean Hole Primary School, NG23 6AD.**

These were an informal opportunity for stakeholders to raise any questions. If anyone was unable to attend, they were given the opportunity to send any questions via email to: jacki.bartram@citacademies.co.uk

This consultation opened on Tuesday 31st March and closed on Monday 27th April 2026 (4-weeks).

CIT directly contacted over 300 stakeholders:

- Newark Orchard School Parents and Carers.
- Newark Orchard School Staff and Governors.
- Caunton Dean Hole Primary School Parents and Carers.
- Caunton Parish Council.
- Local Caunton Community Groups.
- Local schools.
- A press release was also published in the [Newark Advertiser](#) on 1st April 2026.
- Consultation news stories appeared on both the [CIT website](#) and [Newark Orchard website](#).

The question asked:

- Do you agree with the increase of PAN numbers at Newark Orchard School from 170 to 200, in order to establish a satellite provision on the former Dean Hole Primary School site?

Consultation responses were welcomed via email or Microsoft Form:

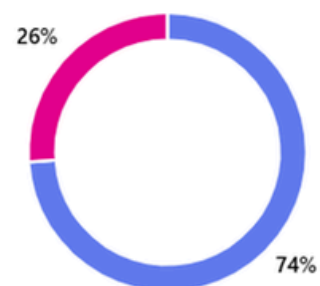
[Newark Orchard School Consultation – Fill in form](#)

THE FEEDBACK

We received 23 total responses via the online form, with 5 comments, with 74% in favour of the proposal:

1. Do you agree with the increase of PAN numbers at Newark Orchard School from 170 to 200, in order to establish a satellite provision on the former Dean Hole Primary School site?

● Yes	17
● No	6



Here are the 5 comments received via the online form, with responses where applicable:

Comment 1: “A very positive step for our community.”

Comment 2: “It’s a brilliant idea and will help the children in dean hole primary school and help them to achieve and thrive in their future going ahead.”

Comment 3: “This is a great opportunity to expand the school as needed by the community.”

Comment 4: “I agree additional school places are needed in the area, but I don’t agree that Newark Orchard should increase their numbers for this to happen. Keeping class numbers smaller is really important for our children. Another point would be parking is getting more dangerous each term as numbers keep rising.”

Response 4: *Class sizes at Newark Orchard will not increase as a result of this proposal; they will remain consistent with current arrangements. The same class-size model will also apply at the Caunton satellite site. It is important to note that Caunton will operate as a separate and distinct location, and therefore any parking challenges experienced at the Newark Orchard main site are not applicable to Caunton. This approach allows additional school places to be provided locally while maintaining appropriate class sizes and without exacerbating existing parking pressures at the main site.*

Comment 5: “Caunton dean hole is an old site. Isn’t a secure site and has a very restricted outside area, when used as a school they accessed the public playing field park. I’m concerned that given the location and everything that would need doing to make it an adequate site it would take too long. I bribe the focus should be on the main site and getting the education up to a standard, so our children are not receiving an inferior education education. Once the main site addresses all issues and is running to support and champion our young people instead of restricting them then it would be in a position to take on such. The site just isn’t suitable for children it’s why so many have left and they can’t get others to sign up. I suggest you go and look at the environment. Sounds ideal but it isn’t.”

Response 5: *We recognise and understand the concerns raised regarding the Caunton Dean Hole site, particularly in relation to its age, security, outdoor space, and suitability for use by children. As part of the proposal to use the site there have been extensive conversations between CIT and the Local Authority with regards to ensuring the site is secure and fit for purpose - any necessary improvements will be planned and completed prior to opening to ensure the environment supports high-quality teaching, learning, and wellbeing. This approach is aligned with our commitment that pupils educated at any Newark Orchard provision receive the same standard of education, facilities, and care, regardless of location.*

We also wish to reassure families that work to strengthen and improve provision at the main Newark Orchard site remains a priority and is ongoing. The development of a satellite site is not intended to detract from this focus but to complement it, enabling additional capacity while maintaining quality, consistency, and appropriate class sizes.

Feedback is valued, and site suitability, environment, and pupil experience will continue to be key factors in all decisions. The intention is to provide safe, supportive, and high-quality educational spaces that meet the needs of all our children, rather than compromise them.

One question was received via email:

Question: “How will Newark Orchard staffing be increased to meet the demands of the satellite provision at Caunton?”

Response: *The ratios and staffing at Newark Orchard School main site will not change. We are proposing to extend our offer for the satellite with a mirrored ratio.*

We held two face-to-face events for the consultation. The following presentation was given at both: [CLICK TO VIEW](#)

Here are the documented Q&A's...

Monday 20th April at Newark Orchard School - 18 in attendance:

Q1: “My son attends Newark Orchard – could he be moved to the satellite site?”

A1: *Pupil movement to Caunton would ever be done in consultation with parents and would always be in the best interest of the child. If parents were concerned this was not the right placement, then a move to Caunton would not take place.*

Q2: “What happens to these extra children at Caunton when they leave primary provision?”

A2: *Pupils who reach secondary age will have the opportunity to transition across to the main site as part of our normal classroom progression.*

Q3: “With staff moving between sites, will my child lose his current staff?”

A3: *We do not envisage significant numbers of staff at the main site transitioning across to Caunton however, of course there will be new opportunities at the satellite that staff may wish to apply for. As a Senior Leadership Team, we understand how critical strong relationships are at Newark Orchard and will therefore always take this into account prior to any decisions.*

Q4: “Will our children be mixing with SEMH children?”

A4: *The satellite will be specifically for Communication and Interaction Needs (C&I) – this is Autism and Moderate Learning Difficulties (as this is our core expertise). There will be no children on roll with SEMH needs.*

Q5: If my child has C&I needs, will you move him to Caunton?

A5: *Not necessarily. The satellite will have a more formal curriculum and so a transition would only take place (as discussed above), in consultation with parents, if we believe the curriculum offer would be appropriate for the child.*

Q6: Will Caunton have the same interventions as we are used to at Newark Orchard?

A6: *Yes, such as ELSA, Physiotherapy, and Speech & Language Therapy.*

Tuesday 21st April at Caunton Dean Hole Primary School

- 22 in attendance:

Q1: Will changes involve enclosing the fencing around the school?

A1: *Yes, we need to make sure the school is secure.*

Q2: Will that restrict any access?

A2: *No. Predominantly, we will be removing the barbed wire and low fencing for safety reasons and replacing with new secure fencing to keep the children safe.*

Q3: What makes you think you will be successful here when other plans haven't working?

A3: *There are unfortunately not enough mainstream children within the area to maintain a standalone mainstream primary school. A satellite to a local SEND school will work because SEND places are desperately needed across the county. However, the building is not suitable for long term use. We are being given use for 3 years only. The LA will make a decision for the building after that period.*

Q4: Is there any chance of continuing the primary school as it is?

A4: *No. The decision has already been made by the LA to close the school as a mainstream primary setting.*

Q5: The building has been tinkered with a lot over time. Do you need to modify it?

A5: *Yes. Minor remodelling will take place, such as new internal doors, and possibly come internal stud walling to zone the school for safety. Plus, fencing around the perimeter, as mentioned.*

Q6: Are these stud walls going in the main hall?

A6: *No. The learning spaces are currently a horseshoe shape around the main hall. We just need to zone these areas for the new cohort of children.*

Q7: Will the pupil access be different to the public?

A7: *We are not there yet on that decision.*

Q8: Is their consideration being made for community use?

A8: *Yes. The use of the main hall for the community will remain. We want to create a safer system for that to continue, so we are looking into an external company for opening and closing. This will allow for the letting function to continue, in fact we envisage it improving. The employment of an external company will cost the Trust, but we feel passionate about maintaining the use of the building for the community. It is worth noting however, that the building will need to close for a short period of time during the summer for the improvement works to be carried out.*

Q9: Please can this be communicated to the community?

A9: Absolutely. We will liaise with the clerk at the parish council to push out comms to extending community so that everyone is kept in the loop.

Q10: Why are you only staying for 3 years?

A10: This decision has already been made by the LA. Using the school after this period, would be beyond the life span of the building. The intention of the LA would be to move the Newark Orchard Satellite provision to a new site.

Q11: I am a local resident and have worked as a supply teacher at Newark Orchard School. I have seen first-hand, the provision provided to children there, and I am very proud of it. The children that will come here in the future, will they have access to some of the fabulous facilities at the Newark Orchard main site?

A11: Yes. The children attending here at Caunton will be provided with the same excellence in teaching and care that the children attending the main Newark Orchard site receive. We envisage interventions such as Speech Therapy and ELSA etc., being provided on site here at Caunton. For things such as Hydrotherapy, we have minibuses to bring the children across to the main Newark Orchard site in Balderton.

Q12: Could we have a management committee created that could meet 3 times a year to keep on top of communications?

A12: Yes. This is a great idea.

Q13: The community has many clubs on the go and wish to introduce more in the future. How do we make contact for bookings?

A13: Continue as you are, contacting the school office, until the end of the summer term. As we near this time, we will have arranged a future proof system for bookings.

Q14: I have a 3year old. Could she come here if waiting a diagnosis?

A14: A child would need an EHCP to attend the new satellite provision. The process for admissions will remain the same – via the LA. Placement Planning could step in if an EHCP is in waiting. You can contact the Newark Orchard Headteacher after this meeting for guidance on this.

Q15: How will the management structure work at the new site?

A15: A member of Newark Orchard's SLT is always on site, and pupil to staff ratios will mirror that of Newark Orchard School. From September, we will have a Site Lead in place for operational running.

Q16: Will we be able to access to the 'village room', this has a lot of community equipment in it that doesn't belong to the school?

A16: *Yes. You will always be able to access your equipment. When the remodelling takes place in the summer, this will also be taken into consideration then.*

Q17: Will your new fencing effect access to the cricket ground?

A17: *No.*

Comment 18:

I am a local resident. There is a lot of background to this school – an academisation that didn't succeed, and to a certain degree, there is a wariness within the community to a MAT coming in. However, from my personal point of view, I welcome this development. I am aware of Newark Orchard School, and it's 30years in education. I see this as a very important development, otherwise at the end of July the building would have shut, and the Parish would've been left in trouble. Unfortunately, the days are gone for a mainstream primary within our village, so this opportunity to work with the Trust, and the LA, over the next 2 to 3 years, gives us as a community some breathing space.

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