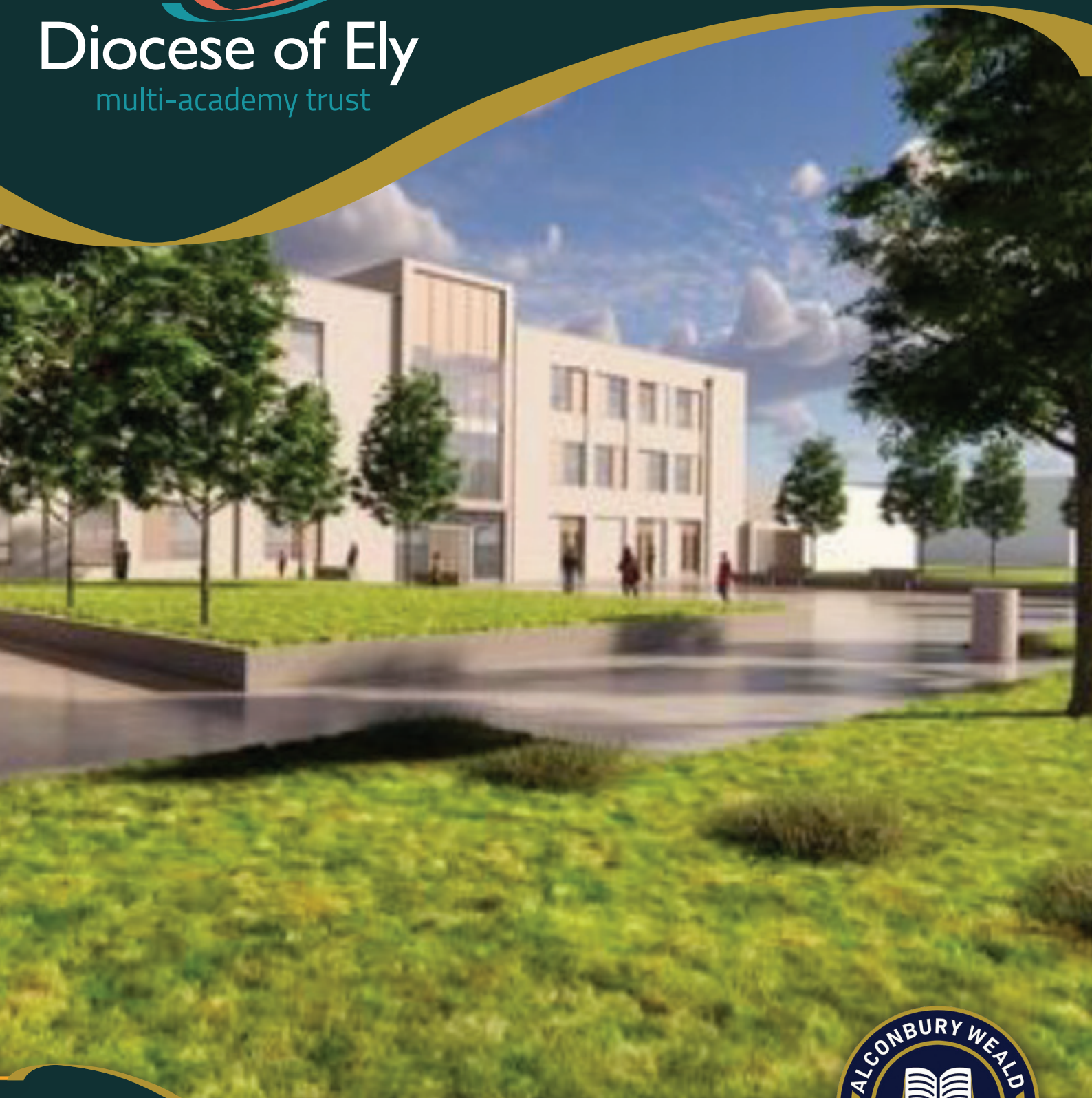




Section 10 | Consultation

Alconbury Weald Church Academy



Section 10 consultation

The Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy-Trust (DEMAT) is delighted to be appointed by the Department for Education to open Alconbury Weald Church Academy (AWCA). The school is now in its pre-opening phase and we are now required to undertake a public consultation. Alconbury Weald Church Academy is a brand new, fully inclusive, state funded, mixed secondary school, located on the Alconbury Weald development in Huntingdonshire.

The planned opening date is September 2027, with the first 120 students joining in Year 7 then growing year on year to reach phase 1 full capacity of 600 by September 2031. As demand grows there is scope to extend the PAN up to 330 in each year group. Current year 5 pupils will be the first cohort of young people to join the school.

The school will be part of DEMAT, a large multi-academy trust which exists to create the foundations to build successful futures. This vision is underpinned by the desire to do more for high-quality education for all children and young people – and a commitment to schools working together to secure an inclusive, ambitious, collegiate and imaginative offer for parents and their children. DEMAT will be appointing a Headteacher for AWCA shortly, along with teaching and other staff. We will keep you updated as this process progresses.

As part of the process of opening a new school, DEMAT is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education. This consultation will allow parents/carers and pupils, staff and governors from local schools, other Local Authorities, Councillors, local residents and any other interested parties to learn more about the school, DEMAT, and to share their views.

This is an important step in our journey towards the opening in September 2027 and we look forward to listening to your views in order to provide children and young people of Alconbury Weald with the best school possible.



About the Trust

DEMAT exists to create the foundations for our pupils to build successful futures. Our pupils deserve educational excellence, and we are committed to delivering that entitlement to ensure all DEMAT pupils secure the knowledge, confidence and expertise to succeed in their later lives.

We recognise the importance of continually improving the quality of education across our schools. As a result, we will invest in developing our curriculum, teaching and wider provision to ensure these improvements are realised. Our schools will give children the chance to learn, know and lead in a happy and inclusive environment. Most importantly, we will provide them with a firm foundation for the future and the opportunity to succeed.

We will equip children with the skills and knowledge to fulfil their potential, to build their confidence and aspirations. So, our aim is to help them understand the positive role they can play in their local communities. Above all, we seek to instil a lifelong love of learning and to expand each child's horizons, giving them the tools to succeed in whatever they set their minds to.

The Church of England has been providing high quality education in England for more than 200 years. As an Academy trust founded with a Christian ethos in the Diocese of Ely, the DEMAT family continues this legacy providing the best education and life chances through our values of **love, trust, respect, ambition, and community.**

Our work is underpinned by Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* We are here to create the foundations to build successful futures especially when faced by challenges. Our pupils leave our schools well prepared for the next stages of their lives and this will be no different at AWCA.

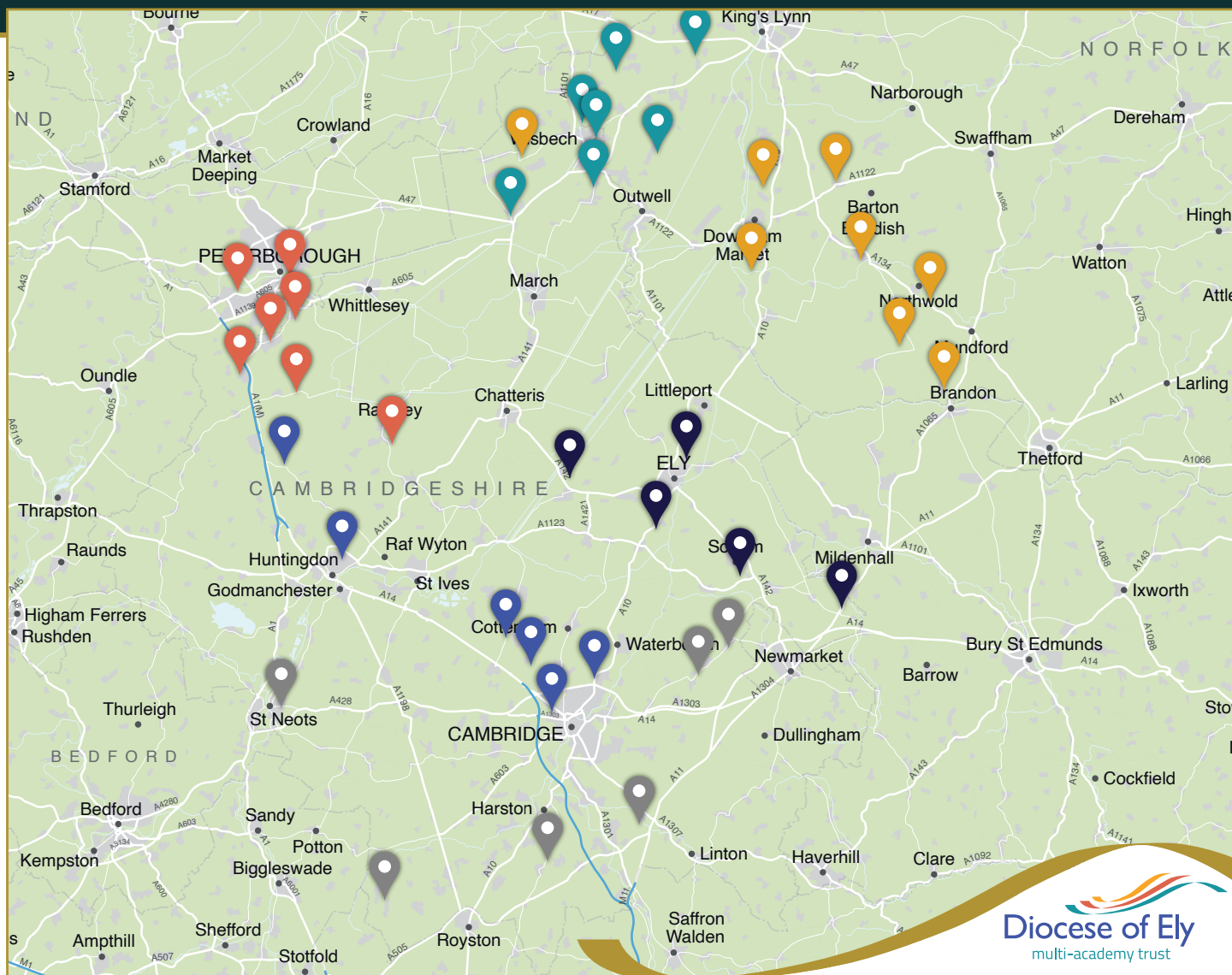
We are especially proud of the recognition given to the Trust when we were awarded MAT of the Year at the 2024 National Schools Awards. This award is testament to the hard work and dedication of our whole staff team and the high-quality provision they offer to all the children who attend our schools.



Diocese of Ely
multi-academy trust

Our schools

There are 38 schools in the DEMAT family situated in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Peterborough (www.demat.org.uk).



Diocese of Ely
multi-academy trust

Wisbech/North Norfolk Hub

- Tilney All Saints CofE Primary School
- Anthony Curton CofE Primary School
- Orchards CofE Academy
- Elm CofE Primary School
- Marshland St James Primary and Nursery School
- Guyhirn CofE Primary School
- St Peter's CofE Junior School

Central Cambridgeshire Hub

- Ermine Street Church Academy
- St John's CofE Primary School
- Milton CofE Primary School
- St Luke's CofE Primary School
- Pathfinder Primary School
- Oakington CofE Primary School

West Norfolk Hub

- Weeting CofE Primary School
- Norman CofE Primary School
- Duchy of Lancaster CofE Primary School
- All Saints Academy
- St Martin at Shouldham CofE Primary Academy
- Holy Cross CofE Primary School
- Hilgay Riverside Academy
- Wisbech St Mary CofE Academy

Mid Diocese Hub

- Mepal and Witcham CofE Primary School
- Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School
- Little Thetford Primary School
- St Andrew's CofE Primary School
- St Christopher's CofE Primary School

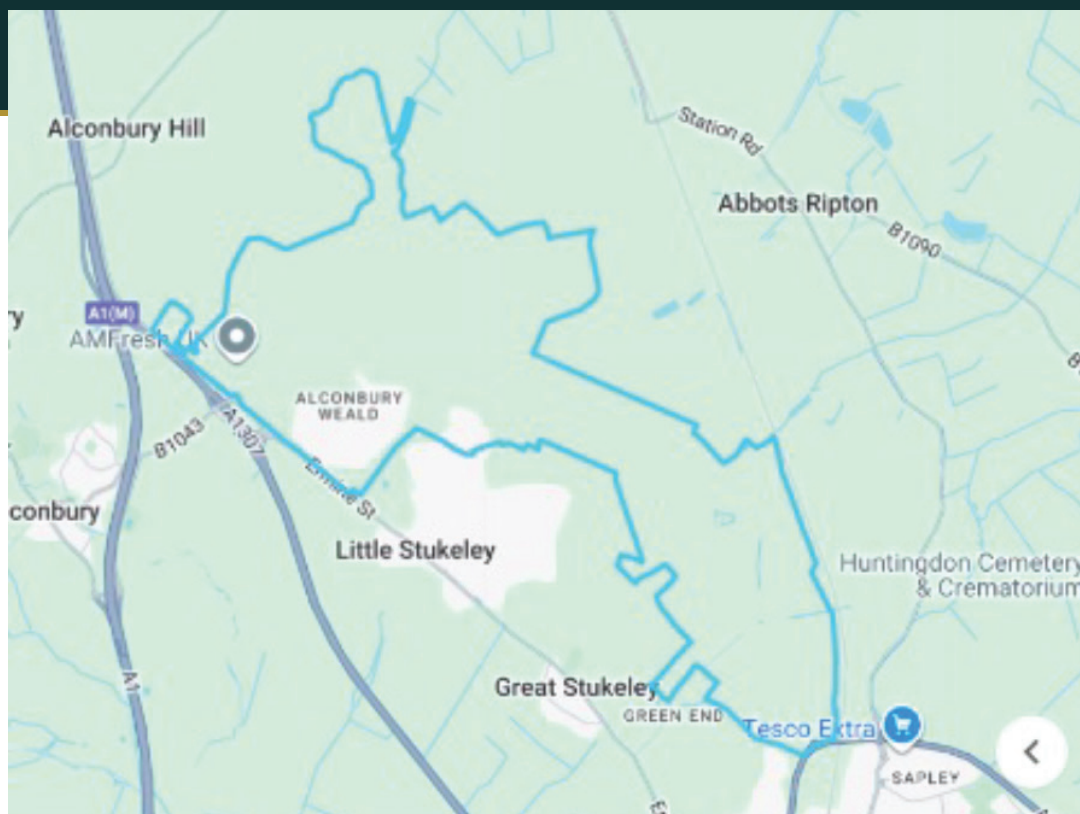
Peterborough Hub

- Stanground St John's CofE Primary School
- St Botolph's CofE Primary School
- Farcet CofE Primary School
- William De Yaxley CofE Academy
- Stilton CofE Primary Academy
- Holme CofE Primary School
- Bury CofE Primary School

South Cambridgeshire Hub

- Guilden Morden CofE Primary Academy
- Babraham CofE Primary School
- Thriplow CofE Primary School
- Swaffham Bulbeck CofE Primary School
- Swaffham Prior CofE Primary School

Our schools in the locality



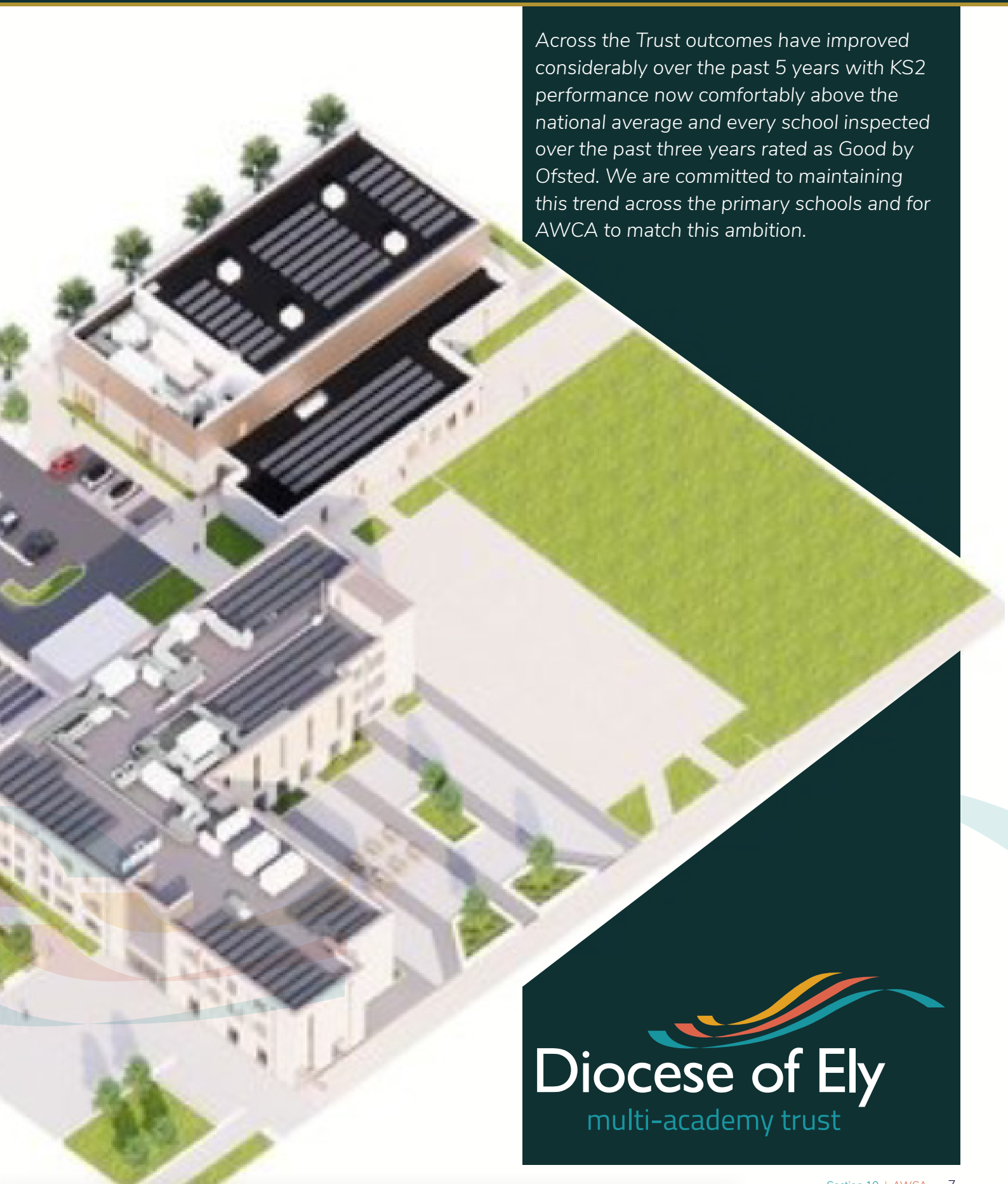
In the immediate vicinity of AWCA we are also responsible for Ermine Street Church Academy which will be the main feeder school for AWCA. As Alconbury Weald grows and further primary schools are opened they too will become feeder schools to the secondary.

Outside of the Alconbury Weald estate but within the same geographical region, other DEMAT schools can be found in Huntingdon, Stilton, Holme, and Ramsey.



Outcomes

Across the Trust outcomes have improved considerably over the past 5 years with KS2 performance now comfortably above the national average and every school inspected over the past three years rated as Good by Ofsted. We are committed to maintaining this trend across the primary schools and for AWCA to match this ambition.



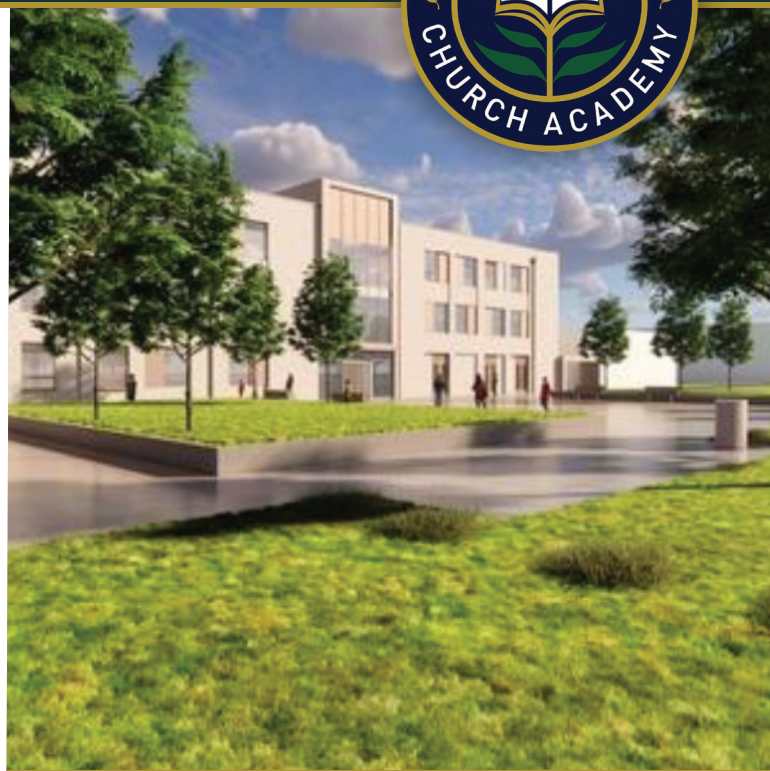
Why does Alconbury Weald need a secondary school?



The Local Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, has a legal duty to ensure there are enough school places for all local children and the latest pupil place planning forecasts have identified a future demand for school places at the point of entry in Year 7.

The Local Authority has been working alongside the developer, Urban & Civic, and its planning departments to identify the education impact of the new housing development of Alconbury Weald. As a result, the Local Authority identified the need to create a new secondary school to meet the anticipated need for new school places.

The Local Authority, DEMAT, and the Department for Education are in partnership on opening Alconbury Weald Church Academy



Admissions

The admissions policy is being consulted upon separately but as the school is being opened to meet demand generated from the Alconbury Weald estate the admissions criteria reflect this with priority given to pupils to live on the Alconbury Weald estate (see map on page 6), and those who attend Ermine Street Church Academy.

If spaces remain after pupils who match the criteria set out in the admissions policy have been admitted, then other pupils who have applied will also be admitted.

If more applications are received than there are spaces available then the over subscription criteria set out in the admissions policy will be applied.

**View our
admissions
policy!**

Scan the QR code to see our admissions policy.



Format of the consultation

We would like to hear from all the community in the coming weeks to help inform the Secretary of State for Education's decision on whether to enter into a funding agreement with DEMAT.

We would like to listen to your comments and act on any feedback to ensure that AWCA is the best it can be to meet the needs of the community we serve.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- Scan the QR code below to access our online questionnaire or head to the DEMAT website www.demat.org.uk
- Email consultations@demat.org.uk and request a hard copy of the questionnaire
- Return the completed consultation questionnaire via the email address above or post to **Grace Building, 8 High St, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4JU**
- Attend our in-person events and consultations at **Ermine Street Church Academy**

In person meeting date

- 10th March 2026
- 6pm
- Ermine Street Church Academy
2 Swynford Road Alconbury Weald Huntingdon Cambs. PE28 4XG.
- These meetings will provide an opportunity to meet the team and to ask any questions

Start and end dates of the consultation

The consultation will start on the **25th February 2026 and end at 5pm on the 6th April 2026.** After which we will publish the results of the consultation.

If you are interested in applying for a school place or would like to hear more about how you can support us, please get in touch with us.

Consultation@demat.org.uk

**Give us
your views.**

Scan the QR code to fill
in our google form.



About Alconbury Weald Church Academy

AWCA will be the first secondary school in the Trust, and we are working closely with the Church of England Secondary Network to develop and test our plans during the pre-opening period.



What are the ambitions and specific vision for the school

As part of the local community, we are the school where every student is valued. Our vision for learning is based around the whole child, ensuring no child is left behind. Our unique, innovative and exciting curriculum in Year 7 will provide an excellent transition from Primary School. This will enable pupils from all starting points to make rapid progress and enjoy their learning whilst improving their literacy and oracy skills.

What happens at Key Stage Three plays a crucial part in a child's educational journey – and this is something that is quite often overlooked at secondary schools. Due to the fact we are growing from a small cohort of approximately 120 in the first year our sole focus will be on ensuring happy, safe, confident, articulate students who in turn secure maximum progress in all their subject areas.

We are committed to achieving high standards in every area of the school from our vibrant curriculum, which provides a combination of challenging and imaginative learning experiences, to a wide range of stimulating extra-curricular activities and excellent pastoral care.

With the support of our committed teaching and associate staff, we want to help you shape your child's future and encourage them to flourish by giving them the very best all-round education. We are driven by an aspirational approach for our students, and we are determined that they will succeed during their five years with us.

Curriculum overview



- AWCA will offer a broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by a Christian ethos, to ensure students can 'live life to the full and seek for that which is good, that which is right and that which is true';
- The curriculum will align with the National Curriculum and serve the needs of the diverse, multi-cultural local community;
- We will ensure all students have an ambitious, challenging, and powerful curriculum so students learn more, know more and do more;
- A full complement of core and non-core subjects will be on offer to all pupils;
- We will offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities to ensure students develop a broad range of skills, knowledge and cultural capital;
- The PSHE and RSE curriculum will promote fundamental British Values and support students in living healthy, happy lives;
- We will ensure that all students have full access to the curriculum to ensure no child is left behind including those with SEND;
- We will have clearly defined curriculum end points to assess student progress;
- Prioritising opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy across the curriculum is a key feature of AWCA life;
- Our curriculum offer supports young people to become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society;
- We will support our students to develop character and moral virtue.

Key Stage 3

- All students will study English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Computing, Design Technology, MFL, Art, Drama, Religious Studies, Physical Education and Music;
- All students will have timetabled Enrichment sessions each week to develop Cultural Capital and broaden their experiences, reflecting the context of the local area;

Key Stage 4

- All students will have a wide range of academic and vocational subjects to choose from;
- Individual careers guidance will be delivered by external providers throughout the year

Extra-Curriculum

- All students will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sports such as rugby, netball, football, hockey, cricket, and athletics;
- Drama and music extra-curriculum events including peripatetic lessons and drama productions;
- STEM Challenge, talent shows, poetry competitions;
- Leadership development through a Cadet unit, and Duke of Edinburgh awards;
- The library will be available for students to work in every day to support reading and independent study.

Further engagement activities will take place in the Summer term before the admissions process opens on September 1st.

An Open Evening is planned for late September 2026.



01353 656760

www.demat.org.uk

The Diocese of Ely
Multi-Academy Trust (DEMAT)

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To learn. To know. To lead out.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me - Philippians 4:13

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Registered Office: Diocesan Office, Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DX

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