

## Consultation Document– Proposal to reduce the capacity of Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy

### 1. Introduction

This document outlines a proposal to reduce the capacity of Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy, a primary Academy within the North East Learning Trust and seeks views from stakeholders as part of a formal consultation process.

### 2. Background

Middleton-in Teesdale Academy currently has a published admission number of twenty-five, which allows for up to 175 pupils from reception to Year 6 plus an 18-place nursery. Over recent years, pupil numbers have consistently fallen below this level, and projections indicate that this trend is likely to continue.

The Academy and Trust are committed to ensuring high-quality education and efficient use of resources. A reduction in capacity will help align provision with demand, support sustainable staffing structures, and maintain high standards of education.

### 3. The Proposal

The Trust is proposing a capacity of 118 with effect from 1 September 2026:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Ages 5 years – 11 years | 90  |
| Nursery                 | 13  |
| Reception               | 15  |
| Total                   | 118 |

The consultation will take place for three weeks from 2 October 2025 until 23 October 2025.

### 4. Rationale

The rationale for this proposal includes:

**Demographic Trends:** predicted numbers for the area based on Durham County Councils pupil place panning document are:

| School                    | Nursery | Capacity | 2025/2026 | 2026/2027 | 2027/2028 | 2029/2030 | 2030/2031 |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Montalbo                  | YES     | 210      | 197       | 190       | 186       | 182       | 185       |
| Green Lane                |         | 240      | 187       | 181       | 186       | 184       | 185       |
| Bowes<br>Hutchinson       |         | 70       | 69        | 64        | 64        | 66        | 66        |
| Cotherstone               |         | 84       | 41        | 40        | 39        | 44        | 41        |
| Middleton-in-<br>Teesdale | YES     | 193      | 76        | 74        | 71        | 74        | 76        |
| St Mary's RC              |         | 105      | 85        | 83        | 96        | 99        | 99        |
| PA Total                  |         | 902      | 655       | 632       | 642       | 649       | 652       |

The numbers for the area in the document from 2031 to 2038 are predicted to be no higher than 655. The current numbers on role at the Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy are currently sixty-eight. The reception intake for September 2025 was five pupils. The capacity for the new school which is expected to be completed by March 2028 is 118.

**Educational Quality:** Smaller cohorts will allow for more targeted support and improved pupil outcomes.

**Financial Sustainability:** Aligning staffing and resources with pupil numbers ensures long-term viability.

**Local Context:** There are sufficient places in nearby school to meet demand and no negative impact on parental choice is anticipated.

## **5. Impact Assessment**

No current pupils will be affected. Future cohorts will be smaller, allowing for more focused teaching and support.

## **Responses to the Consultation**

The Trust welcome comments from parents, carers, staff, Local Authority, neighbouring Multi Academy Trusts and Governing Bodies, diocese, early years providers, community groups and members of the local community on the proposed change to the capacity of Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy. You can respond to the consultation [here](#) local schools, or by email to [schooladmissions@nelt.co.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@nelt.co.uk) or by post to Admission Consultation, North East Learning Trust, Traynor House, Traynor Way, Whitehouse Business Park, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 2RU. The deadline for responses is 5pm on Thursday 23 October 2025.