



Tracey Wilson
Mainstream School Admissions Manager
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

twilson@worcestershire.gov.uk

1st December 2025

Dear Tracey,

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for the 2027/28 Academic Year - Worcestershire

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revision to the Millfields First School Bromsgrove catchment area. As Charford First School is one of the schools within the Worcestershire Hills Trust, the Trust has taken the time to review the proposal carefully and provide a response on behalf of the organisation.

Consideration of Proposal

The Trust notes the rationale provided for expanding the shared catchment, including the aim of ensuring parents are aware of both schools as options and supporting sustainable pupil numbers across the area. We also acknowledge that the area identified lies broadly equidistant between the two schools and may therefore provide families with meaningful choice.

However, having reviewed the forecast data for pupil numbers for both Charford First School (PAN 90) and Millfields First School (PAN 60), the Trust recognises significant implications:

- Forecasts indicate that Millfields First School will remain notably below capacity over the coming years.
- Charford First School, by contrast, is predicted to experience higher demand with projected cohorts in several years exceeding PAN.
- An expansion of the shared catchment area could reduce Charford's ability to maintain full intake numbers, with potential financial and operational impact should the school experience a falling roll.

Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge that:

- Not all children living within Charford's catchment would automatically attend the school; some may choose alternative local settings such as St Peter's Catholic First School, further influencing numbers.
- The Stoke Heath area identified as part of the proposed shared catchment is comparatively more affluent. Changes in cohort characteristics could impact Charford's pupil profile and the level of resourcing required to support disadvantaged learners.
- The new housing development on Whitford Road is expected to contribute to Millfields First School's future intake; its location means that families living there are unlikely to choose Charford First School due to distance.
- Millfields First School has previously received S106 funding to support infrastructure readiness associated with projected growth from the new estate.

Victoria Avenue, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 4QH
t: 01386 765588 • e: enquiries@worcestershirehillstrust.co.uk •
www.worcestershirehillstrust.co.uk

Conclusion

In light of the above considerations, the Worcestershire Hills Trust is unable to support the proposed expansion of the shared catchment area between Millfields First School and Charford First School at this time. Based on available data and local context, the proposal presents a potential risk to stability at Charford First School without demonstrable necessity for altering the current catchment arrangements.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further clarification or discussion would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Evans'.

Dr A. Evans
Chief Executive Officer
Worcestershire Hills Trust