



Sleights Church of England
(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

North Yorkshire County Council Admissions Policy 2017-2018

North Yorkshire County Council, being the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools in its area has determined the admission arrangements for the 2018-19 school year. The admission arrangements for those schools within North Yorkshire that are not community or voluntary controlled schools are determined by their respective governing bodies or academy trust.

Copies of the determined admission arrangements for voluntary aided, foundation and trust schools and academies are available from the individual schools.

Any person or body who considers that any maintained school or academy's arrangements are unlawful, or not in compliance with the code or relevant law relating to admissions, can make an objection to the schools adjudicator.

Objections **must** be referred to the adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year. Further information on how to make an objection can be obtained from the office of the schools adjudicator:

Office of the Schools Adjudicator, Bishopsgate House, Feethams, Darlington DL1 5QE
Telephone: 01325 340402

Email: osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk

Website: [GOV.UK office of the schools adjudicator](http://GOV.UK/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator)

North Yorkshire County Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools across the county, this means that the Authority is the body responsible for setting and applying the admission arrangements for these schools. For foundation, trust or voluntary aided schools, the governing body is the admission authority. For Academies, the academy trust is the admission authority.

The term admission arrangements are applied to the overall procedure, practices and over subscription or admissions criteria used in deciding the allocation of school places.

Over subscription/admissions criteria is the list of criteria and admission authority must adopt for its schools which are only used when the school is oversubscribed (i.e. when there are more applicants than the number of places available), they enable the admissions authority to assess which children will be offered a place.

The admission arrangements including admission policies for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary and secondary Schools and for nursery schools and schools with nursery or pre-reception classes, Published Admission Numbers and the Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements including Selection Scheme are determined each year by the County Council.

The Local Authority has a duty to publish, on its website, the admission arrangements for all schools and academies. Any school which is its own admission authority (i.e. the governing body are responsible for admission arrangements) and academies must also publish their own admission arrangements on their website if they have one.

In addition to publishing admission arrangements for all schools the Local Authority must publish a composite prospectus for parents. This prospectus which we refer to as ' A Guide for Parents' contains information about each maintained school and Academy in North Yorkshire.

All governing bodies are required by section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the school a child with a statement of special needs that names the school. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final statement of special educational needs (SEN) has been issued.

If the number of applications exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN), after the admission of children where the school is named in the statement of special educational needs (SEN) or Education Health & Care Plan the following oversubscription criteria will apply:

| Order of priority: | Notes: |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Priority Group 1:</p> <p>Looked after children and all previously looked after children for whom the school has been expressed as a preference. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted¹ or became subject to a child arrangement order² or special guardianship order.</p> | <p><i>This applies to all looked-after children, including those who are in the care of another local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application.</i></p> <p><i>In the case of previously looked after children, a copy of the relevant documentation will be required in support of the application.</i></p> <p>¹<i>This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and Children who were adopted under the Adopted & Children’s Act 2002.</i></p> <p>²<i>Child Arrangement Orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a Child Arrangement Order.</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Priority Group 2 :</p> <p>Children the Authority considers have special social or medical reasons for admission.</p> | <p><i>We will only consider applications on social or medical grounds if they are supported by a professional recommendation from a doctor, social worker, or other appropriate professional. The supporting evidence should set out the particular social or medical reason(s) why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.</i></p> <p><i>Panels of professionally qualified people will consider all applications made under priority group 2.</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Priority Group 3 :</p> <p>Children living within the normal area of the school.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Priority Group 4:</p> <p>Children living outside the normal area of the school.</p> | |

Children in higher numbered priority groups will be offered places ahead of those in lower numbered priority groups. All applications within each priority group will be considered equally (i.e. all applications, regardless of order of preference).

Tie break:

If there are not enough places for all the children in one of these priority groups, we will give priority first to those with a sibling at the school in September 2017 (in all cases sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent / carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling) and then to those living nearest the school.

If within a priority group there are not enough places for all those with a sibling at the school in September 2017, we will give priority to those children with a sibling living nearest the school.

All distance measurements are based on the nearest route recognised by the County Councils electronic mapping system from a child's home address to school. The measurement is made from a fixed point within the dwelling, as identified by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school entrance using footpaths and roads. The routes measured to determine the allocation of school places will be those recognised by the electronic mapping system used by the school admissions team.

If the distance tie-break is not sufficient to distinguish between applicants in a particular priority group a random allocation will be used.

Random Allocation Procedure

Random allocations are necessary where:

1. There is more than one applicant ranked equally according to the published admission rules and there are insufficient places available to allocate all of the equally ranked applicants
2. This occurs where applicants are equidistant from a school because the usual method of measuring distance to the school results in two unrelated applicants having the same distance measurement.

Each random allocation event only holds for the allocation of the currently available school place. On any waiting list the remaining applicants remain equally ranked and any further place is offered as the result of a further random exercise.

In making a random allocation it is important that there is scrutiny from a person who is not involved in the allocation process.

Definition Of Roles

- Independent Scrutineer (IS) – this is a person who ensures the process is carried out in a correct and transparent way. The IS must be independent of the school for which the allocation is to be made and also must be independent of the Council's Admissions and Transport team.
- Admissions Officer (AO) – this is an officer from the Council's Admissions and Transport team who is responsible for carrying out the administration of the random allocation procedure and recording the results, under the scrutiny of the IS.
- Person who makes the draw (P) – this must be a person independent of the school for which the allocation is to be made and must be a person who is not part of the Council's Admissions and Transport team.

Process to be followed:**N.B. This entire process is to be carried out in sight of, and under the scrutiny of, the IS**

1. The AO allocates each pupil to be included in the draw a number and records it on the 'Random Allocation Cross Reference Sheet'. This is placed in a sealed envelope.
2. The AO prepares as many equal sized pieces of white paper as are necessary, which are numbered consecutively.
3. The AO folds each numbered sheet and seals them in identical envelopes, i.e. envelopes with no visibly identifiable differences.
4. The AO shuffles the envelopes and hands them to P who shuffles the envelopes again, picks one envelope and opens it.
5. The AO records the first number drawn on the 'Random Allocation Record sheet'.
6. If more than one place can be offered they continue to draw envelopes and record numbers until all of the available places are allocated.

7. The AO then opens the previously sealed envelope containing the 'Random Allocation cross reference sheet' and records the numbers drawn on the 'Random Allocation cross reference sheet', marking clearly which child(ren) has(have) been allocated a place and which have not.
8. Once the process has been completed, the AO, IS and P should sign and date both the 'Random Allocation Record sheet' and the 'Random Allocation cross reference sheet' in order to certify that the procedure has been carried out correctly.

We may be able to meet your preference for a place at a school that does not serve the local area you live in. In this case, you will normally be responsible for travel arrangements and the costs of your child's travel to and from school.

Deferred Applications for Infants

Admission authorities **must** provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Summer Born Children

Children born in the summer term are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted – the point at which other children in their age range are beginning year 1. As noted above, school admission authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but flexibilities exist for children whose parents do not feel they are ready to begin school at this point.

If you feel that your summer born child is not ready to start school in the September following his/her fourth birthday, you should still submit your application for your child's normal age group at the usual time and at the same time submit a request for admission out of the normal age group directly to the local authority. You will be advised of the outcome of your request for delayed entry prior to the primary national offer date of 17 April 2017.

The DfE has issued non-statutory guidance, "Advice on the Admission of summer born children", which can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-admission>

The DfE guidance states that:

'It is reasonable for admission authorities to expect parents to provide them with information in support of their request – since without it they are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case. This should demonstrate why it would be in the child's interests to be admitted to reception rather than year one.

In some cases parents may have professional evidence that it would be appropriate for them to submit, for example, when a child receives support from a speech and language therapist. However, there should be no expectation that parents will obtain professional evidence that they do not already have. Admission authorities must still consider requests that are not accompanied by professional evidence. In such cases the supporting information might simply be the parent's statement as to why they have made their request.'

If your request is agreed, your application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If your request is refused, you must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in year application for admission to year one for the September following your child's fifth birthday. Where your request is agreed, you must make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year.

Admission of Children Outside Their Normal Age Group

The School Admission Code states that 'Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.'

When such a request is made, the local authority will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The local authority will notify parents in writing of the outcome of their request setting out the reasons for their decision. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Information for Parents - Changing School Part Way through the School Year
Information for parents of children moving to North Yorkshire or changing school part way through the academic year

An In Year application for a school place is made when your child is already at school and you want them to transfer from one school to another. You can make an in year application at any time of year. In year applications will be processed no more than 6 weeks or 40 school days in advance of when a school place required.

Will a move really be in my child's best interest?

Requesting to change schools because you are moving into North Yorkshire or moving within North Yorkshire is sometimes unavoidable and the Authority will endeavour to place your child at a school as soon as possible.

Where you are requesting to change school for other reasons, you should consider carefully whether a change of schools is in your child's best interest. The Authority does not encourage parents to move their child from one local school to another school mid-year as this can have a negative effect on a child's progress.

Consider whether it is necessary to move schools and speak to your child's current school before completing an application.

Where you are not moving into North Yorkshire or moving address within the local authority your child should continue to attend their current school until a place has been allocated at a new school and an admission date agreed. The admission date is likely to be from the beginning of the next school term.

What will be the effect on my child's education?

It is vital that parents consider the effect on their child if they are considering changing school within the same vicinity.

While schools will try to help children settle into a new school environment quickly, it does take time for children to adjust and some loss in performance can be expected.

All schools teach the Core National Curriculum subjects. However, changing schools may mean that some topics or areas of work are repeated and some missed because subjects are taught at different times, in different ways in different schools.

Will my child make new friends?

Friendships formed in or out of school can be very important to children. Changing school because a child's friend changes school may be unwise as each child has their own needs.

Will my child have a fresh start or just face old problems?

Sometimes a change of school can enable children, who are suffering from an unwanted reputation or a clash of personalities in their local school or community, to start again. However, this does not always happen - especially if old habits or ways of behaving or dealing with problems do not change.

Sometimes the difficulties can transfer too, particularly if the previous school has not been given time to resolve the situation.