

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Date and Time:- Thursday 13 November 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Venue:- Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chair of the Local Admissions Forum

To appoint the Chair of the Local Admissions Forum for the municipal year 2025/26.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Local Admissions Forum

To appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Admissions Forum for the municipal year 2025/26.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 13th February 2025 (Pages 3 - 7)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 13th February, 2025.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

To consider any matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. Membership of the Local Admissions Forum (Page 9)

To review the current membership arrangements for the Local Admissions Forum.

7. Local Admission Forum Terms of Reference, Conditions and Constitution (Pages 11 - 15)

To review the 2025/26 Local Admissions Forum Terms of Reference.

8. School Adjudicator Report for 2025 (Pages 17 - 29)

To receive and note the School Adjudicator Final Report for 2025.

9. School Admissions Proposed Arrangements for Entry in the 2027/2028 Academic Year (Pages 31 - 41)

To receive the School Admissions Proposed Arrangements for Entry in the 2027/2028 Academic Year and to agree to a period of consultation.

10. School Organisation Update

To receive an update on School Organisation.

11. Admissions Update

To receive an update on Admissions.

12. School Admission Appeals and Primary & Secondary Fair Access Protocol Update (Pages 43 - 46)

To receive the latest update and position on School Admission Appeals and Primary and Secondary Fair Access Protocol.

13. Academies Update - September 2025 (Pages 47 - 51)

To receive the latest position with regards to academies across the Rotherham Borough.

14. Term Dates consultation for 2027/28 (Pages 53 - 55)

To receive and note the provisional draft Rotherham option of Term Dates for 2027/28.

**The next meeting of the Local Admissions Forum will be
held on Thursday 12 February 2026
commencing at 10.00 a.m.**



**JOHN EDWARDS,
Chief Executive.**

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM
THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025**

Present:- Mrs. I. Hartley (in the Chair); Mrs. M. Gambles, Mrs. R. Hibberd, Mrs. K. Beresford, Mr. D. Shenton and Mrs. N. Towers. and

Also in attendance were:- Ms. S. Gilbert, Ms. M. Jordan, Mr. C. Stones and Mrs. S. Whitby.

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors Allen and Cusworth, Mrs. J. Unwin and Mrs. K. Peart.

24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER, 2024

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2024.

Agreed: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

25. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

With regards to Minute No.15 (Local Admission Forum Terms of Reference, Conditions and Consultation), it was noted that the Terms of Reference for the Local Admission Forum were to be circulated following the meeting to allow for further comments. Any feedback received would be relayed to the Monitoring Officer for consideration before the final approval by the Council in June 2025.

A warm welcome was issued to Nevine Towers, who recently joined the Local Admissions Forum.

Agreed:- That the Local Admission Forum Terms of Reference be circulated following the meeting.

26. MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Consideration was given to the membership of the Local Admission Forum, and the existing vacancies were discussed. It was noted that there were currently two vacancies for Voluntary Aided/Controlled schools, one vacancy for the Church Dioceses, one vacancy for a Parent Representative, and two vacancies for Community Representatives.

Various suggestions were made on how to circulate information about these vacancies and engage potential candidates. The Forum agreed to work collaboratively to fill the positions.

Additionally, the Chair wished to formally record thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Panel to Mrs Ann Gyte who had recently stepped down.

Agreed:- (1) That vacancy nominations be sought for:-

The Parent or Carer Representative vacancy through the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum.

Community Representative vacancies and information circulated to Admission Appeal Panel Members and other mediums.

(2) That a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs. Ann Gyte in recognition of her contribution to the Local Admissions Forum.

27. SCHOOLS ADMISSION CONSULTATION DETERMINATION REPORT TO APPROVE OUTCOME FOR THE 2025/26 ACADEMIC YEAR

Consideration was given to the consultation on proposed admission arrangements for the 2026/2027 academic year, as outlined in Appendix 1. The consultation took place from 25 November 2024 to 17 January 2025, in line with the School Admission Code. It was shared with relevant consultees, made available on the Council's website, and publicised via RMBC social media channels. Feedback was collected through an online survey on the RMBC webpages.

A parallel consultation on the 'Relevant Area' – the geographical area within which admission authorities must consult other schools – was also undertaken.

No changes were proposed to the existing admission arrangements or the defined relevant area, which remains the whole of Rotherham.

Fourteen responses were received via the online consultation, with an additional email highlighting incorrect dates in the oversubscription criteria. These errors had now been corrected.

Agreed:- That the admission arrangements for 2026-27 for community and voluntary controlled schools, as detailed in Appendix 1, be determined.

28. UPDATE ON ADMISSIONS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Consideration was given to the latest update on admissions and secondary school allocations for September 2025. It was noted that the team had experienced significant staffing challenges over the past eighteen months; however, these had now been resolved, and the team

was fully staffed. Three new team members joined in January and integrated well, making a positive contribution.

In-year school admissions remained high, with many parents requesting school transfers during the academic year. Efforts were made to comply with response timeframes for applicants, with a target of responding within 10 days and a maximum of 15 days. The Fair Access Protocol was revised and implemented in September 2024, which improved the timeframe for placing children in schools and ensured a more efficient process.

A total of 96 children were placed through the Fair Access Protocol across primary and secondary schools. However, many children were initially placed through the standard admissions process before reaching the Fair Access Protocol stage. This stage was only used when a school place had not been secured through a regular admissions process. Additionally, it was informed that efforts were made to place children via the Fair Access Protocol before their admission appeal was heard in an attempt to reduce the number of appeals. However, parents had retained the right to appeal if they chose to do so.

Agreed:- (1) That the update be received and the content noted.

(2) That the detailed information on the number of children placed through the Fair Access Protocol be provided to the next meeting.

29. SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the submitted report, which set out the latest statistics on admission appeals received and the number of appeals held. The report included data for the full 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years.

It was noted that the number of full appeal days had been 127 in 2023, but had significantly reduced to 98 in 2024, due to the implementation of the revised Fair Access Protocol. The total number of secondary school appeals was 942 in 2022/23 and 509 in 2023/24. Primary school appeals remained steady, with 392 in 2022/23 and 366 in 2023/24. The total number of appeals received so far for 2024/25 remained at 281.

Regarding arrangements, it was stated that in-year transfers were typically held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a full day. However, these arrangements had recently been changed to mornings on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

It was also noted that provisional dates for the relevant year for secondary and primary school admission appeals had been set based on last year's schedule, with the hope that this year's process would proceed smoothly.

In terms of the venue, most in-year appeals had been conducted via

Teams, while those with specific requests had been held at the Rockingham PDC. However, the group appeal hearings were held at the Town Hall for its convenience.

Agreed:- That the update be received and the content noted.

30. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Consideration was given to an update on school organisation. It was noted that consultation had taken place regarding the proposal to change the age range at the Sitwell Infant School. However, the decision had not yet been made and was currently under review by the senior management team.

The forum was informed that the Todwick Primary School was considering reducing its school age range, linked to a DfE funding grant, which would allow schools to apply for up to £150,000 to support extensions or renovations for lowering the age range.

The expansion of Waverley School was ongoing, with the expanded school set to open in September. It was reported that a few days had been lost earlier in the year due to adverse weather conditions, but confidence remained that the project would be completed and the keys would be handed over in July.

With regard to the Bassingthorpe Farm development, it was noted that a consultation would be held from Monday, 10th February until 21st March. The consultation would be made available at Rawmarsh, Greasbrough, and Riverside House libraries, as well as online, to gather views from the public.

Agreed:- That the update be received and the content noted.

31. UPDATE OF SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2026/27

It was noted that consultation on the school calendar for the 2026/27 academic year had been held in January 2025 and approved in February 2025. It also was noted that, for the first time in many years, the school term dates for Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield for 2026/27 were aligned.

Agreed:- The calendar update be received and the contents noted.

32. UPDATE ON FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to the latest position with regard to the Fair Access Protocol. It was noted that since the new arrangements were

implemented in September 2024, the number of Fair Access cases in primary schools has significantly increased, leading to a decrease in the school admission appeals.

It was explained that these Fair Access cases included children who had not secured a place through the normal admissions or appeal routes. However, it was highlighted that these cases were being addressed before the appeal process even began.

In cases where parents had chosen elective home education and it was deemed unsuitable, and where parents had not made preferences for a school through the normal process, a school place could be allocated to those children under the Fair Access Protocol.

This protocol also applied to children who were reintegrated following permanent exclusion, including those returning from the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. Additionally, children who had been removed from the roll due to new DfE regulations were also eligible for inclusion in the Fair Access Protocol. Therefore, a diverse cohort of children could be supported through the protocol.

In secondary schools, the Fair Access Protocol had been revised in September, with more schools grouped in central areas. This adjustment was made due to increased pressure for places from families relocating, and initial indications suggested it was proving effective.

In primary schools, the team continued to contact local schools and arrange meetings where necessary. Although Fair Access cases were less frequent in primary schools, the process was still working well.

Agreed:- That the update be received and the content noted.

33. **ACADEMIES UPDATE**

The Forum noted the list of Rotherham schools that had either converted to academies or were in the process of conversion. It was noted that, since the last meeting, three schools, such as Newman School, Bramley Sunnyside Junior School and Anston Park Junior School, had successfully academised, leaving only eighteen schools remaining under local authority control.

Agreed:- That the information be received and the contents noted.

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM****MEMBERSHIP 2025**

The membership of the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum is:-

Community Schools:- One Member (Primary)
Kirstey Peart (Sitwell Infant School)

Voluntary Aided/Controlled Schools:- Two Members
Two Vacancies

Academies:- Two Members (one Primary and one Secondary)
Mrs. R. Scutt/Rebecca Hibberd, Aston Academy Trust
Kirsty Beresford, Eastwood Village School

Church Dioceses:- Two Members
The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust:- Nevine Towers
Sheffield Diocese:- **Vacancy**

Parent:- One Member
Anne Wing (Primary/Secondary Age Children)

Community Representatives:- Ten Members
Councillor Allen
Councillor Cusworth
Mrs. S. Butterworth
Mrs. M. Gambles
Mr. R Griffiths
Mrs. I. Hartley
Mrs. J. Hudson
Mr. D. Shenton
Two Vacancies

18 Members - Quorum 6

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ROTHERHAM LOCAL ADMISSION FORUMTERMS OF REFERENCE1. Role of the Forum

The Local Admission Forum provides a vehicle for admission authorities and other key interested parties to discuss, approve and monitor the effectiveness of local admission arrangements and to consider how to deal with difficult admission issues as well as advising admission authorities on ways in which their arrangements can be improved.

The Forum has a key role in ensuring a fair admissions system that promotes social equality and must, under Section 84 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, act in accordance with the School Admissions Code “the Code” issued by the Department for Education.

Admission authorities of all maintained schools and Academies when exercising their functions must have regard to any advice offered by the Forum.

The Forum shall receive, consider and share advice and recommendations upon:-

: the extent to which current admission arrangements in the area serve the interests of looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs;

: the effectiveness of the published fair access protocol in place in the area;

: the effectiveness of any scheme for co-ordinating admission arrangements where relevant with any adjoining local authority area;

: details of any other matters which affect the fair operation of admission arrangements for relevant schools in the area:

: to all Admission Authorities, Maintained Schools and Academies, City Technology Colleges or City Colleges of the arts within the area of the Local Authority (“the Authority”), and make available such advice and recommendation to any other person with an interest.

Specifically the Local Admissions Forum must:

(a) consider, approve and monitor the effectiveness of the Authority’s proposed Admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission arrangements

(b) advise on whether they differ substantially from the previous year

(c) consider how well existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents within the area of the Authority

(d) promote agreement on admission issues

(e) review the comprehensiveness, effectiveness within the local context, and accessibility of advice and guidance for parents by the authority through the published annual Admissions to Primary and Secondary School Booklets. The Forum must consider what if any action is needed to raise the standard to ensure it is the best that can possibly be achieved

(f) advise the Authority and governing bodies of all voluntary aided and foundation schools in the area by 30 November each year which persons or bodies in the area the Forum considers have an interest in proposed admission arrangements to ensure that the Local Authority includes them in the consultation process

(g) consider and advise on any proposed qualifying scheme for the co-ordination of admission arrangements referred to it by the Authority pursuant to regulation 5 of the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements Regulations (obligation on Local Authority to refer qualifying scheme which they propose to be adopted to the Forum)

(h) consider the means by which admissions processes might be improved, and how actual admissions relate to the admission numbers published

(i) monitor the admission of children who arrive in the Authority's area outside a normal admission round with a view to promoting arrangements for the fair distribution of such children among local schools, taking account of any preference expressed in accordance with arrangements made under Section 86(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and in accordance with the relevant Admissions Code

(j) promote the arrangements for children with special educational needs, children in care and children who have been excluded from school

(k) monitor the effectiveness of Local Authority Fair Access Protocols and together with the Local Authority ensure that no school including those with places is asked to take a disproportionate number of children who have been excluded from other schools or who have challenging behaviour or who are known to have a history of behavioural problems

(l) to receive reports from LA officers in relation to School Organisation, Admissions, Appeals, Fair Access protocol and Statutory Returns

(m) consider any other admissions issues that arise

In discharging the responsibility for ensuring fair access the Forum should:

(n) refer an objection to the Schools Adjudicator where it identifies admission policy, practice or oversubscription criteria of a school that may be unfair, unlawful or contravene the mandatory provisions of the Code or where Forum advice has been disregarded by admission authorities

(o) review the impact of local admission policies on achieving fair access

2. Declaration of Interests

Members of the Forum shall declare a personal interest in any proposal which directly affects them for example if the proposal concerns the school at which they are a Governor or which their children attend. If the personal interest is pecuniary or could be viewed as prejudicial the member should withdraw from the discussion and take no part in the decision. Where it is clear that a decision in which a member of the Forum has such an interest or it is likely to arise at a particular meeting, the member concerned may wish to invite an alternative member to attend that meeting.

3. Annual Report

Under Section 85A (1A) of the SSFA the Forum may publish an annual report for all maintained schools. Where the Forum chooses to do so, the report must include Academies. The report will be on such matters as the Forum consider appropriate and of local interest and provide input to the Authority's report to the School's Adjudicator.

4. Indemnification

The Authority shall indemnify members of the Forum against reasonable legal costs and expenses arising from decisions or recommendations of the Forum made in good faith.

5. Chair and Vice Chair

(a) The members of the Forum shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair at the first meeting of the Forum and at the next meeting which falls after the date which is a year after the meeting at which the Chair and Vice Chair was elected.

(b) The Chair and Vice Chair shall hold office until the next meeting which falls after the date which is a year after the meeting at which they were elected.

(c) The Chair or Vice Chair shall cease to hold office if they resign their office by giving written notice to the Secretary.

(d) On ceasing to hold office the former Chair and Vice Chair shall be eligible for re-election.

(e) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of Chair or Vice Chair the members shall at the next meeting elect one of their members to fill that vacancy and the member so elected shall hold office until the date of the meeting at which the Chair or Vice Chair would have held office had the vacancy not occurred.

6. Secretary to the Forum

Members of the Forum shall appoint a person, nominated by the Authority, who is not a member of the Forum to act as Secretary to the Forum. The Secretary to the Forum will keep a record of each meeting of the Forum

7. Sub Committees

The Authority is responsible for establishing the Forum sub-committees pursuant to Section 85A (2) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The Forum shall be responsible for determining a sub-committee's:

- membership and constitution
- procedure for convening and holding meetings
- communication of advice and recommendations

8. Meetings of the Forum

The members of the Forum may regulate the procedure of the Forum subject to The School Admissions (Local Authority Reports and Admission Forms) (England) Regulations 2008 ("the Regulations")

9. Attendance at Forum

Non attendance at three (3) consecutive meetings may result in the termination of membership, at the discretion of Forum members

10. Venue and Times of Meetings

(a) The Secretary will convene a meeting of the Forum, by giving a minimum of seven (7) working days notice of the time and place of each meeting.

(b) The date of the meeting will be given to the Secretary by the Forum at a previous meeting, or on the direction of the Chair or in their absence the Vice Chair.

(c) The Agenda shall be set by the previous meeting of the Forum, or if appropriate by the Secretary in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence, the Vice Chair.

(d) The Forum shall meet at least twice (2) each year.

(e) Proceedings and meetings of the Forum shall be open to the public, except in such limited circumstances as decided by the Forum as may be prejudicial to the Forum's work. The Secretary shall arrange for meetings to be advertised to the public.

(f) Members may invite interested parties to a meeting of the Forum if they consider it appropriate to do so having regard to the matters arising for discussion.

11. Quorum

The quorum for any meeting of the Forum shall be one third of the Forum's membership.

12. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting, after approval by the Chair or Vice Chair, may be made available for public inspection.

13. Voting Arrangements

Decisions on matters including the exercise of the Forum's power to refer an objection to the adjudicator shall be taken by a simple majority vote of all members present. In the case of equality of votes the Chair or in his/her absence the Vice Chair, shall have a second or casting vote.

14. Public Statements

Public Statements on behalf of the Forum may only be made by the Chair or Vice Chair either with the approval of the Forum, or without such approval having regard to the importance or expediency. Any such action taken by the Chair or Vice Chair shall be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum is:-

Community Schools:- One Member (Primary)

Voluntary Aided/Controlled Schools:- Two Members

Academies:- Two Members (one Primary and one Secondary)

Church Dioceses:- Two Members

Parent:- One Member

Community Representatives:- Ten Members

18 Members - Quorum 6

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Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

**Template for
Local Authority Report
to
The Schools Adjudicator
from**

**Rotherham Local Authority
to be provided by
31 October 2025**

Report Cleared by: Name Sarah Whitby

Job Title Service Lead – Access to Education

Telephone number 01709 255097

Email: sarah.whitby@rotherham.gov.uk

Date submitted: October 2025

By: Name Christopher Stones

Job Title Principal Officer – Access to Education

Telephone number 01709 254831

Email: christopher.stones@rotherham.gov.uk

Website: [Office of the Schools Adjudicator](#)

**Please email your completed report to: [Office of the Schools Adjudicator](#) by
31 October 2025 and earlier if possible**

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Introduction

1. Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) requires every local authority to make an annual report to the adjudicator. The Chief Adjudicator then includes a summary of these reports in the annual report to the Secretary of State for Education. The School Admissions Code (the Code) sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities in paragraph 6. Paragraph 3.30 specifies what must be included as a minimum in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other matters. Paragraphs 6 and 3.30 of the Code require that each local authority publish its report locally.
2. **This year's report must cover the 2024/2025 academic year and be submitted to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) by 31 October 2025.**
3. Please note that, in response to feedback on the previous template and in the light of consultation with a group of local authorities, changes have been made to various sections of this year's template.

Guidance on completing the template

4. We have included all the guidance on completing specific parts of the template in this section. There is no requirement for local authorities to include the introduction and the guidance in their published reports, but they are free to do so if they wish.
5. We should be grateful if in completing questions which ask for information about primary and secondary schools and/or pupils, local authorities would follow the approach to classification of schools used in statutory provisions and in the Department for Education Statistical First Release¹ and the Education Middle School (England) Regulations 2002².
6. The Code sets out some minimum requirements on the contents of each local authority report stating that each must cover as a minimum "information about how admission arrangements in the area of the local authority serve the interests of looked after children and previously looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs, including any details of where problems have arisen."
7. The Department for Education's aim through the annual reports from local authorities is to understand how well the admissions system is working nationally, rather than to hold individual local authorities to account. By understanding the effectiveness of the system, including outcomes, the Department hopes to identify areas where the admissions system is working well and areas where it could be improved. With that in mind, when the template asks, "how well does the admission system serve the needs of

¹ [Department for Education Statistical First Release](#)

² [The Education Middle School \(England\) Regulations 2002](#)

children,” the Department appreciates that it is asking local authorities to make a subjective judgement, in the understanding that everyone’s experience with the admission system will be different. The Department encourages local authorities in responding to the open questions and spaces for open comments to set out challenges that are proving difficult to overcome.

8. Guidance on specific questions and/or meaning of specific terms in this report:
 - a. “in-year admissions”: This means admissions (that is children admitted to a school and not applications for places):
 - i. to a year group which is not a normal point of entry for the school concerned (for example to Year 2 for a five to eleven primary school); and
 - ii. after the end of the statutory waiting list period (31 December) to a year group which is a normal year of admission for the schools concerned (such as Year R and Year 7).
 - b. Not applicable means that there were no children falling within the relevant definition.
9. We welcome all comments that local authorities make in the comment boxes and we aim to reflect those comments in the Annual Report, but we ask for the comments to be entered under the right headings. Section 3 invites comment on any other matters not specifically addressed in this template if local authorities wish to do so. The views expressed in previous years also remain a matter of public record.
10. We ask that where possible, you return the template in Word instead of PDF formatting. A number of you have commented on the formatting of the template and we have tried to make it as accessible as possible, but we are aware that some local authorities use different versions of Word.
11. Where questions request a comparison with the previous year, any new local authorities formed as a result of reorganisation should note this on the form.

Information requested

Section 1 - Normal points of admission

A. Co-ordination

Which of the following best describes the level of challenge for your **main admissions round in 24/25 compared to 23/24?**

Year Group	Much less challenging	Less challenging	No change	More challenging	Much more challenging
Reception			X		
Year 7			X		
Other relevant years of entry			X		

Please give examples to illustrate your answer if you wish:

Sufficiency across Rotherham continues to meet need at usual points of admission, although falling numbers in Primary Schools is presenting a level of challenge. Certain schools are oversubscribed as a result of parental preference, but no catchment applications were refused in 2024/25.

B. Looked after and previously looked after children

- i. How well does the admissions system in your local authority area serve the interests of looked after children at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- ii. How well do the admissions systems in other local authority areas serve the interests of children looked after by your local authority at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iii. How well does your admissions system serve the interests of children who are looked after by other local authorities but educated in your area at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iv. How well does the admissions system in your local authority area serve the interests of previously looked after children at **normal points of admission**?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

v. If you wish, please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which exemplify your answers about the admission to schools of looked after and previously looked after children at **normal points of admission**:

We have not been contacted to support issues in relation to the admission of children in care or previously in care at normal points of admission.

C. Special educational needs and/or disabilities

- i. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who **have** an education, health and care plan that names a school at **normal points of admission**?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any comments you wish to make on the admission of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities at normal points of admission:
Please provide any comments you wish to make on the admission of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities at normal points of admission:

2024/25 Academic Year

Primary Phase Transitions (early years provider to school, infant school to junior school and primary school to secondary school) – 99.5% of placements agreed on deadline date of the 15th February

Secondary/Post 16 Phase Transitions (secondary school to post 16 institution or apprenticeship including YR 14) – 93.6% of placements agreed on deadline date of the 31st March

Section 2 - In-year admissions

A. Which of the following best describes the overall level of challenge for your in-year admissions in 24/25 compared to 23/24?

Phase	Much less challenging	Less challenging	No change	More challenging	Much more challenging
Primary		x			
Secondary		x			

If you wish, please explain the factors that have changed the level of challenge for your in-year admissions:

B. Looked after children and previously looked after children

- i. How well does the **in-year admission** system serve children who are looked after by your local authority and who are being educated in your area?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- ii. How well does the **in-year admission** systems in other local authority areas serve the interests of your looked after children?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iii. How well does the **in-year admission** system serve the interests of children who are looked after by other local authorities but educated in your area?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iv. How well does your **in-year admission** system serve the interests of previously looked after children?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

v. If you wish, please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers about **in-year admissions** for looked after and previously looked after children:

There are more challenges in relation to in-year admissions for children in care but, in the main, these are managed well. Challenges are greater where children have additional needs and an EHCP and are in care.

C. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities

i. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who **have** an education, health and care plan that names a school when they need to be **admitted in-year**?

☐ Not at all well ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

ii. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who **do not have** an education, health and care plan when they need to be **admitted in-year**?

☐ Not at all well ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Do not know

iii. Please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers about **in-year admissions** for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities:

iv. Please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers about **in-year admissions** for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities:

EHCP processes that determine whether a setting is named fall to the following: 20 week assessment process, annual review process (transitions/change of placement), mediation/tribunal process.

Performance on 20-week timeliness for 24/25 academic year: 80.4% of EHCP assessments (554/689) were issued within statutory deadline of 20 weeks.

Performance on annual reviews timeliness for 24/25 academic year:

- Number of reviews completed in the date range: 2675
- Number of reviews completed in the date range within the 12 months timescale of the previous review: 1156 (43.2%)
- Number of reviews requiring an amendment: 1653 (61.8%)
- Number of reviews requiring an amendment issued within 12 weeks of the review meeting: 480 (29%)

Performance on mediation: Of the mediations conducted where an element of the appeal was in relation to placement, 37 mediations were held, 19 were upheld by the LA and 18 were overturned in favour of the parent.

	Number	Upheld	Overtured
Section I only	22	12	10
Combinations of B, C, D, F, G, H and I	15	7	8
Total	37	19	18

Performance on tribunals: Between 1st September 2024 to the 31st August 2025, 65 appeals were received by the LA that included a request for change of placement.

21 of those appeals are ongoing.

of the 44 remaining:

7 were withdrawn by parents

7 were conceded by the LA (conceded on LA response)

26 were concluded by consent (where the LA and parents came to an agreement after the LA response).

3 went to a full hearing and found in favour of the LA (so appeal dismissed)

1 went to a full hearing and the outcome is awaited.

D. Fair access protocol

What proportion of the state-funded mainstream schools in your area have said that they agree to the local authority fair access protocol?

Primary

Between 0% and 49% ☐

Between 50% and 74% ☐

Between 75% and 89% ☐

Between 90% and 99% ☐

100% ☒

Secondary

Between 0% and 49% ☐

Between 50% and 74% ☐

Between 75% and 89% ☐

Between 90% and 99% ☐

100% ☒

If you have below 75% for either phase, please explain why:

- i. How many children were admitted to schools in your area under the fair access protocol between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025?

Type of school	Number of Primary aged children admitted	Number of Secondary aged children admitted
Community and voluntary controlled	8	0
Foundation, voluntary aided and academies	24	81
Total	32	81

- ii. If you have seen a change in the number of children referred to your Fair Access Protocol between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025 compared to the previous academic year please indicate what you consider the key reasons for this change to be?

Following a sharp increase in referrals since 2021/22 the number of children referred has fallen slightly into 2024/25. The FAP was reviewed and the updated Protocol agreed for the 2024/25 academic year and this may have supported the decrease in referrals as the process has been more clearly defined.

- iii. How well do you consider children referred to the Fair Access Protocol are served in in your area?

☐ Not at all well ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

iv. Please provide any comments you wish on the protocol not covered above: All schools work within and contribute to the operation of the Protocol to admit vulnerable children requiring a school place. Children are allocated and admitted in a timely manner through regular locality meetings of school leaders. The FAP works in a very child centred way, with children and young people usually being offered a place in a catchment or next nearest school. Distance and ease of travel to school is considered a priority when taking decisions regarding placement.

E. Directions to maintained schools to admit children³

How many directions did the local authority make between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025 to maintained schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority to admit children (including children looked after by the local authority but resident in another area)?

Total number of children	Of which, looked after	Of which, not looked after
0	0	0

F. Other points on in-year admissions

- i. For the schools for which the local authority co-ordinates in-year applications, in the year between 1 Aug 2024 and 31 July 2025 did you receive

- ☐ Significantly fewer applications than last year
☒ slightly fewer applications than last year
☐ about the same
☐ slightly more than last year
☐ significantly more than last year

- ii. For what proportion of **primary** schools in your area did the local authority co-ordinate in-year admissions during the 2024/2025 academic year

- Between 0% and 24% ☐
 Between 25% and 49% ☐
 Between 50% and 74% ☐
 Between 75% and 100% ☒

³ It is important that only Directions to maintained schools are included here. Numbers of Directions to academies are already held by the Department.

- iii. For what proportion of **secondary** schools in your area did the local authority co-ordinate in-year admissions during the 2024/2025 academic year

Between 0% and 24% ☐
Between 25% and 49% ☐
Between 50% and 74% ☐
Between 75% and 100% ☒

- iv. If you wish, please provide any comments about how **well in-year admissions** works for children who are **not** looked after or previously looked after and/or do **not** have SEND:

The number of In Year preferences made has fallen slightly in 2024/25 in comparison to the previous year, following these rising significantly since 2021/22.

The majority of schools in the Borough continue to co-ordinate through the LA and this means that children can be tracked, monitored and placed in a timely manner.

- v. If you wish, please provide any other comments on the admission of children **in-year** not previously raised (you may wish to include here any comments about cases where it has not proved possible to find places for children):

Section 3 - Other matters

Are there any other matters that the local authority would like to raise that have not been covered by the questions above?

Section 4 - Feedback

We would be grateful if you could provide any feedback on completing this report to inform our practice for 2026.

Thank you for completing this template.

Please return to [Office of the Schools Adjudicator](#) by 31 October 2025.

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BRIEFING	TO:	Local Admission Forum
	DATE:	13 November 2024
	LEAD OFFICER:	Sarah Whitby Sarah.whitby@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	Proposed RMBC admission arrangements 2027-28
1. Background		
1.1	Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually by 28 February, regardless of whether there has been any consultation or changes proposed. This a requirement of the School Admission Code 2021 .	
1.2	As the admission Authority for Community and Voluntary controlled schools, RMBC has a responsibility to determine the admission arrangements for these schools.	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	The proposed RMBC admission arrangements for 2027-28, detailed at Appendix 1 , have been redrafted from the 2026-27 arrangements to take into account the academisation of Anston Park Junior, Bramley Sunnyside Junior and Brinsworth Manor Infant Schools.	
2.2	There are no changes proposed to the Published Admission Number of any Community and Voluntary controlled schools.	
2.3	There are no changes proposed to the catchment for any Community and Voluntary controlled schools.	
2.4	There are changes proposed to the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary controlled schools.	
2.5	Summary of key changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of Anston Park Junior, Brinsworth Manor Infant School and Bramley Sunnyside Juniors from the arrangements following academisation (as RMBC is no longer the admission authority).• Removal of medical and social oversubscription criteria, as previously specified at criteria 2 and 3. The decision to consult on this change was ratified at CYPS DLT on 2 September 2026. The rationale for this proposed change is as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Code does not provide that Social and/ or medical reasons must be included;➤ any child with such significant medical or social reasons making attendance at a specified school essential is likely to have an Education Health and Care Plan naming the school;➤ The Code states that 'Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation'. Decisions on the basis of social and medical evidence	

	<p>are made by a panel of Officers in line with guidance. It could be perceived that these are subjective, the inclusion of these criteria can lead to raising of parental expectations as there is no defined 'benchmark' and a level of disappointment when a place is not allocated. This could lead to a perception amongst applicants that the arrangements are not clear and objective;</p> <p>➤ the last time a place was allocated on such a basis for a Community and Voluntary controlled school was 2016, evidencing that there is no recent need for them to be included.</p>
2.6	In line with the requirements of the School Admission Code to consult on any proposed changes for at least 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January, it is planned to consult between 1 December 2025 and 19 January 2026.
2.7	Consultation will be distributed to the consultees specified at 1.47 of the Code in addition to being available on the Council's website and publicised through RMBC social media channels. Consultees will be invited to respond via an online survey, hosted on the RMBC webpages. Alongside the online survey the proposed arrangements and a consultation document explaining the proposals being consulted upon will be available.
2.8	Parallel consultation is planned in respect of the 'Relevant Area', <i>The area for a school (determined by its local authority and then reviewed every two years) within which the admission authority for that school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements.</i>
2.9	The Local Admission Forum, as the delegated decision maker, must formally approve and determine the proposed admission arrangements by 28 February 2025.

3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	13 November 2024	Proposed admission arrangements agreed by LAF to go out to consultation
	1 December 2025- 19 January 2026	Consultation period
	20-31 January 2026	Analysis of consultation responses and any required redrafting of the proposed arrangements
	12 February 2026	Proposed admission arrangements determined by LAF following consultation

4. Recommendations

4.1	That the Local Admissions Forum agree that consultation can commence regarding the proposed RMBC admission arrangements 2027-28, as detailed in Appendix 1 .
4.2	That the Local Admission Forum agree consultation on the relevant area remaining the whole of Rotherham.

Admissions Arrangements for Entry to Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2027/28

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools within the Borough and as such is responsible for setting and applying the admission arrangements for them. Where a school is an Academy, the admission authority is the academy trust. For foundation and voluntary aided schools, the governing body of the school is the admission authority.

Composite Prospectus

The Local Authority is required each year to publish online by 12 September a composite prospectus. This document is a collation of all admission arrangements for schools within the Borough, including those where RMBC is not the admission authority. Information within this document is available to support applicants to understand the admission criteria and Published Admission Number for entry to each school in the Borough and therefore enable parents to make informed decisions about the schools their child may have higher priority for.

The composite prospectus can be found at [Starting Primary School – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Co-ordinated Scheme

The Local Authority is required to co-ordinate all applications for children resident in the Borough in the normal admissions round and late applications for primary and secondary schools in their area. The normal admissions round is the period during which parents are invited to express 3 preferences for a place at any state funded school for entry to a relevant age group (the age group to which children are normally admitted - Reception year in an Infant, Junior & Infant or primary school and Year 3 in a Junior School). Details of the co-ordinated scheme must be published by 1 January in the determination year (this is the school year immediately preceding the offer year, so for entry to school in 2027/28, the determination year is 2025/26).

Details of RMBCs co-ordinated scheme can be found at [School admissions – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

In Year Applications

The Local Authority is not required to co-ordinate all applications for children requiring a school place outside of the normal admissions round, although in Rotherham most schools choose to be part of the co-ordinated scheme. This means that, if you require a school place for your child at any other point than the normal point of entry (an In Year application or transfer) you are advised to check on [Applying for a School during the School Year – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#) to ensure you make an application in the correct way.

Timeline for applications for a school place in the normal admissions round

Children do not automatically transfer from one phase of education to another and for all children requiring a place in reception, requiring a transfer from an infant only school to a junior school, and those transferring from primary to secondary an application must be made through RMBCs co-ordinated scheme. This includes children already in a school based nursery who require a place in the reception class.

Parents of children resident in Rotherham are asked to submit up to 3 different preferences for any state funded school they wish their child to be considered for admission to - this can be in Rotherham or any other local authority area. Even if you only wish your child to attend school outside of Rotherham you must still apply to RMBC if your child is a Rotherham resident. All applications for schools in other local authority areas will be transferred to that local authority in line with the co-ordinated scheme.

Relevant age group	Children born between	Application round open	National closing date	National Offer Day
Children entering reception	1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023	October 2026	15 January 2027	16 April 2027
Children transferring from an infant only school to year 3 in a different junior or primary	1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020	October 2026	15 January 2027	16 April 2027
Children transferring from primary to year 7 in secondary	1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016	July 2026	31 October 2026	1 March 2027
Children applying to transfer to a school with an atypical age of admissions in year 9 or 10	Children starting in the school year preceding the school year of admission	Letters issued to parents of Y8 pupils before 12th September 2026.	31 October 2026	1 March 2027

Starting Reception

All children are entitled to start school full time in reception in the September following their fourth birthday, where an application has been made and a school place offered. Parents can request that:

- the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made
- their child attends part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission outside the normal age group

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.

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.

Parents considering requesting that their child is admitted outside of the normal age group must still make an application in the usual way by the specified closing date and should submit to RMBC alongside this a formal request for admission outside of the normal age group on the form that can be found on our website [Request delayed school admission – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

For community and voluntary controlled schools, for which RMBC is the admission authority, this request will be considered by officers from the local authority, taking account of the views of the head teacher. Information considered in making a decision will include 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.

Where RMBC is not the admission authority then parents should consult the admission arrangements in place for the school for further information about how requests for admissions outside of the normal age group are considered. Requests and accompanying information should be submitted to RMBC and will be forwarded to the admissions authority for a final decision.

Parents are strongly recommended to discuss any requests with the head teacher of their preferred schools prior to submitting an application.

How places are allocated

As part of a school's admission arrangements, admission authorities are required to set a Published Admission Number (PAN), this is the number of school places that the admission authority must offer in each relevant age group of a school for which it is the admission authority.

All applicants must be offered a place where one is available. If there are more applicants than places available then these must be offered in accordance with the published oversubscription

criteria, with children in the first criterion the most likely to get a place at the school. Places at Local Authority maintained schools will be allocated using the admissions criteria given below for the relevant age group and will be co-ordinated by the Local Authority. Places will be offered by Rotherham Local Authority as the admissions authority for the school.

Distance Criterion

Where the published admission number for the school is likely to be reached mid category, places will be prioritised within that category by reference to the distance between the home address and the school. Highest priority will be given to those who, on the National Closing Date, live closest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (commonly known as measurement, “as the crow flies”). Distance measurements are calculated (by the Local Authority Admissions Team) using a Geographical Information System which applies seed points as determined by Ordnance Survey. Measurements are taken from the seed point of the ordinary place of residence to the seed point of the school. Where the school has more than one seed point, the seed point closest to the geographical centre of the school site is used.

Tie Breaker

Where places are being allocated based on the distance criteria or as part of the distance tie breaker, and there are insufficient places within the admission number for two (or more) children living in the same building (e.g., flats) or otherwise equidistant from the school, then any final place will be allocated by the simple drawing of lots by a representative of the Local Authority independent of the School Admissions Team.

Where applications are received for twins, triplets, siblings born in the same academic year etc these will be treated equally as there is nothing within the admission criteria to distinguish between them.

Catchment area

All schools for which RMBC is the admission authority have a defined catchment area for the relevant age group, these are available to view at [RMBC Mapping](#) where a map showing the whole catchment area for each school is available. Applicants do not have to apply for their catchment area school and living outside a catchment does not prevent an applicant from expressing a preference for a particular school. However, applicants are reminded that living in the catchment area will give higher priority, although does not guarantee a place at a particular school(s).

The Local Authority is the admission authority for the following Schools and has set the published admission number (PAN) for the relevant age group as follows:

All references to the Local Authority in the oversubscription criteria refer to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (as the admission authority).

School	PAN for the relevant age group	Associated Infant or Junior School, where applicable (as referenced in the oversubscription criteria)
Aston Fence J&I	30	
Badsley Primary	90	
Blackburn Primary	30	
Bramley Sunnyside Infant	75	Bramley Sunnyside Junior
Broom Valley Primary	60	
Herringthorpe Infant	90	Herringthorpe Junior
Kimberworth Primary	30	
Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior	60	Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant	60	Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior
Rawmarsh Thorogate J&I	30	
Sitwell Infant	60	Sitwell Junior
Thornhill Primary	45	
Todwick J&I	30	
Wales Primary	30	

Admissions Criteria for entry to Reception in an Infant, Junior & Infant or Primary School maintained by the Local Authority

A) Children with Special Educational Needs:

A small number of children will have an Education Health Care Plan that names a school, and these children must be admitted to the school named as part of that process.

The majority of children with special educational needs will not require an Education Health Care Plan. Applications for children who have special educational needs but no Education Health Care Plan, will be considered on the basis of the Admission Authority's published admissions criteria.

B) For all other applications places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- 1 Relevant Looked After Children and previously looked after children (see note (a) below for full definition).
- 2 Children who, on the closing date for applications, live in the catchment area of the preferred school as defined by the Local Authority and it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school or its associated Junior School in Years 1-6 at the start of the academic year 2027 (see notes (b) and (c) below)
- 3 Children who, on the closing date for applications, live in the catchment area of the preferred school as defined by the Local Authority (see note (b) below)
- 4 Children who, on the closing date for applications, it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school or its associated Junior School in Years 1-6 at the start of the academic year 2027 (see note (c) below)
- 5 Children who, on the closing date for applications, live nearest to the preferred school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as measurement "as the crow flies").

Admissions Criteria for entry to Year 3 of a Junior school maintained by the Local Authority

A) Children with Special Educational Needs:

A small number of children will have an Education Health Care Plan that names a school, and these children must be admitted to the school named as part of that process.

The majority of children with special educational needs will not require an Education Health Care Plan. Applications for children who have special educational needs but no Education Health Care Plan, will be considered on the basis of the Admission Authority's published admissions criteria.

B) For all other applications places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- 1 Relevant Looked After Children and previously looked after children (see note (a) below for full definition).
- 2 Children in attendance at Y2 in the associated Infant School.
- 3 Children who, on the closing date for applications, live in the catchment area of the preferred school as defined by the Local Authority and it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school in Years 3 - 6 or a younger sibling on roll in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 at the associated Infant school at the start of the academic year 2027 (see notes (b) and (c) below)
- 4 Children who, on the closing date for applications, live in the catchment area of the preferred school as defined by the Local Authority (see note (b) below)
- 5 Children who, on the closing date for applications, it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school in Years 3 - 6 or a younger sibling on roll in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 at the associated Infant school at the start of the academic year 2027 (see note (c) below)
- 6 Children who, on the closing date for applications, live nearest to the preferred school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as measurement "as the crow flies").

NOTES – definitions and additional information in relation to the admissions criteria for entry to Reception and Year 3.

- a) A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). All references to previously looked after children in the Code mean such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and

those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

- b) Places will be allocated based on your residential address on the closing date for applications. Therefore, you must notify the Local Authority Admissions Team in writing if you change address before this date. You may be asked to provide proof of residence (e.g., utility/council tax bill). Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residency at the property concerned. The Local Authority reserves the right to request an affidavit where there is uncertainty regarding a child's ordinary place of residence or where multiple applications are received.
- c) For a child to be considered a sibling, one of the following conditions must exist: (you may be asked to provide proof e.g., Birth Certificate and proof of residence)
- brother/sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - stepbrother/stepsister to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - half-brother/half-sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - brother/sister who do not live at the same residence but, who share the same parents.
 - child of the parent/carer's partner to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - adopted brother/sister permanently resident at the same address.
 - foster brother/sister resident at the same address.
- d) Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) – For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, admission authorities must allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. This must include accepting a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child. Admission authorities must not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, or reserve blocks of places for these children.

Waiting Lists

On the National Offer Day, the Admissions Team will establish a waiting list for all Infant, J&I, Primary and Junior schools in Rotherham where the number of applications for those schools has exceeded the available places for entry into Reception or Year 3 for a separate Junior school.

The Local Authority Admissions Team will administer the waiting list on behalf of all schools which will operate until the 31 December in the year of entry, at which point it will cease.

The child's name will automatically be put on the waiting list for a school where they have not been made an offer of a place and where that school is named as a higher preference than the school at which an offer has been made.

Children's positions on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, with no reference to the date of receipt of the application. The waiting list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list. Should a place become available it will be allocated to the child whose name is at the top of the waiting list on the day that the Local Authority receives written confirmation of the vacancy.

Repeat applications

Repeat applications for the same school year will only be considered if there has been a significant and material change in circumstances that would likely affect the consideration of the application.

Find your catchment area school

You can use the catchment map to find your catchment area school and to view catchment areas for each school in Rotherham.

- Visit [RMBC Mapping](#)
- Close the disclaimer
- Type your postcode in the address bar to search
- Select a property from the list (if yours is not shown press MORE)
- Click or tap on the property to select it
- The property will be shown on the map
- Select **What would you like to do?** in the top left corner
- Select **Map features**
- Select **Education**
- Tick the Primary & Secondary catchment boxes as required
- Click or tap the map and catchment area school/s will appear in a pop-up box

Further information

Please visit our website at [School admissions – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#) where you will find further information and an online contact us form if you need to get in touch.

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**ROTHERHAM LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM
SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS STATISTICS
Up to 31 August 2025**

(1) Introduction

This report is included on the agenda as the means of informing the Local Admissions Forum of the numbers of school admission appeals received and the appeal hearings taking place.

Statistics are included for the full academic years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years.

The separation of Local Authority schools and Faith schools has been used in this analysis, but there is no separation for the Academies.

(2) The calendar year of appeal hearings

The following table lists the number of school days, in each calendar month, when school admission appeal hearings took place. All were full days.

NUMBER OF FULL APPEAL DAYS				
	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	5	10	8	5
February	2	4	7	4
March	6	9	10	6
April	7	7	10	5
May	14	22	12	15
June	15	18	17	18
July	13	17	7	14
August	-	-	-	-
September	10	11	7	
October	7	8	7	
November	10	13	9	
December	4	8	4	
TOTAL	93	127	98	

(3) School Year 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 - All Schools – Summary Statistics

(a) 2022/2023, 2023/24 and 2024-25 - Secondary Schools

Secondary School	Number of Appeals			Upheld / Allowed			Dismissed / Refused			Allocated before hearing			Withdrawn		
	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25
Aston	14	1	5	5	0	1	0	1	2	4	0	1	5	0	1
Brinsworth	21	16	4	7	5	0	1	1	1	8	5	2	5	5	1
Clifton	47	50	22	25	29	9	2	0	1	3	5	3	15	16	5
Dinnington	8	6	3	2	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	0
Maltby	17	6	13	3	3	4	3	0	1	11	0	5	-	3	2
Oakwood	92	62	62	20	17	19	25	21	21	16	8	11	31	16	7
Rawmarsh	32	18	20	13	5	16	4	1	0	3	6	2	12	6	2
Swinton	18	14	16	5	4	1	4	4	5	3	4	7	6	2	1
Thrybergh	12	7	6	5	3	1	4	3	2	3	0	4	-	1	1
Wales	90	36	31	38	5	5	26	10	12	2	7	1	24	14	9
Wath	123	87	94	44	24	23	38	41	44	5	3	6	36	19	20
Wickersley	132	46	42	63	24	21	36	13	7	4	0	6	29	9	6
Wingfield	82	55	52	46	24	22	13	20	20	2	2	5	21	9	3
Winterhill	54	21	7	14	7	1	7	1	1	12	2	3	21	11	1
Faith schools															
St Bernard's	127	34	53	30	5	12	67	17	28	1	4	1	29	8	9
St Pius X	73	50	55	13	13	17	36	24	24	11	6	5	13	7	6
TOTALS	942	509	485	333	170	152	268	157	170	89	53	64	250	129	74

(b) 2022/2023 and 2023/24 - Primary Schools

Primary School	Number of appeals received			Upheld / Allowed			Dismissed / Refused			Allocated before hearing			Withdrawn		
	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary – all years	307	325	331	95	86	76	82	106	88	47	52	75	83	45	69
Faith Schools	85	41	41	20	9	8	12	12	12	9	11	9	44	6	10
TOTALS	392	366	372	115	95	84	94	118	100	56	63	84	127	51	79

(c) 2024/25 - Appeals received to date

Schools	Number of Appeals received
Primary	331
Faith Primary	41
Secondary (All Schools)	485
TOTALS	857

- Grouped summer appeals – due to panel member availability, it was not possible for some schools appeals to be heard by just one panel on consecutive days; the hearings had to be split between a number of different panels and over different weeks. It looks likely that this will be the same in future years.
- Late Y6/7 appeals - it is hoped that this academic year, schools will work closely with parents to ensure all appeals are received on time.
- Reception/FS2 appeals – it is hoped that school will support families to ensure they are aware that they do not automatically receive a school place when attending the school's nursery.

- Appeals have now moved from 2 full days per week to 4 half days per week in response to feedback from panel members and clerks who were concerned about the length of the full days and the time they were required to sit in front of IT screens. This is working well, with longer days arranged as needed.
- Full panels now scheduled for November 2025.
- Recruitment of new panel members continues this continues to be a challenge.
- Training – School admissions appeal training completed by all panel members and clerks (in either Oct 2024 or Feb 2025).
- Additional Training – all panel members and clerks have been asked to complete Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training and updated GDPR training (Sept 2025) modules via Virtual College.

Name of Academy	Name of Predecessor School	Open	Proposed conversion	Lead Sponsor / Name of Trust	Notes
Maltby Academy	Maltby Community School	Jan-10		Maltby Learning Trust	
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	Brinsworth Comprehensive School	Oct-10		Learner Engagement and Achievement Partnership Multi-	New Collaborative Learning Trust
Wales High School	Wales High School	Oct-10		Wales High School Academy Trust	
Aston Academy	Aston Comprehensive School	May-11		Aston Community Education Trust	
St Bernard's Catholic High School	St Bernard's Catholic High School	Jul-12		St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust	
Thurcroft Junior Academy	Thurcroft Junior School	Jul-12		Aston Community Education Trust	
Coleridge Primary School	Coleridge Primary School	Apr-13		Central Learning Partnership Trust	
East Dene Primary School	East Dene Junior & Infant School	Apr-13		Central Learning Partnership Trust	
St Bede's Catholic Primary School	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Jul-13		St Bedes Catholic Primary School	St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust
St Gerard's Catholic Primary School	St Gerard's Catholic Primary School	Jul-13		St Gerard's Catholic Primary School	St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust
St Mary's (Herringthorpe) Catholic Primary School	St Mary's (Herringthorpe) Catholic Primary School	Jul-13		St Mary's (Herringthorpe) Catholic Primary School	St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby)	St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby)	Jul-13		St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust	
Wingfield Academy	Wingfield Business and Enterprise College	Aug-13		New Collaborative Learning Trust	
Canklow Woods Primary School	Canklow Woods Primary School	Sep-13		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Whiston Junior & Infant School	Whiston Junior and Infant School	Sep-13		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Whiston Worrygoose Junior & Infant School	Whiston Worrygoose Junior and Infant School	Sep-13		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Thrybergh Academy and Sports College	Thrybergh School and Sports College	Oct-13		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Sandhill Primary Academy	Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School	Dec-13		Wickersley Partnership Trust	

Update

Name of Academy	Name of Predecessor School	Open	Proposed conversion	Lead Sponsor / Name of Trust	Notes
OakwoodHigh School	Oakwood High School	Dec-13		Insire Trust	Insire Trust merged with Leaders in Learning Multi-Academy Trust on the 1st July 2023 - Inspire Learning Trust
Brookfield Junior Academy	Swinton Brookfield Academy	Jan-14		Aston Community Education Trust	
Maltby Redwood Academy	Maltby Redwood Junior & Infant School	Feb-14		Maltby Learning Trust	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Dinnington)	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Dinnington)	Feb-14		St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Dinnington)	
Wickersley School and Sports College	Wickersley School and Sports College	Mar-14		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Rawmarsh Ashwood Academy	Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School	Apr-14		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Thrybergh Academy and Sports College	Dalton Foljambe Primary School (Thrybergh Academy and Sports College)	May-14		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Sitwell Junior School	Sitwell Junior School	Jul-14		Inspire Trust	Insire Trust merged with Leaders in Learning Multi-Academy Trust on the 1st July 2023 - Inspire Learning Trust
Thrybergh Primary School	Thrybergh Primary School	Jul-14		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Rawmarsh Community School	Rawmarsh Community School	Aug-14		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Bramley Grange Primary School	Bramley Grange Primary School	Oct-14		The Grange Trust	White Woods Primary Academy Trust - Jan 24
Monkwood Primary Academy	Rawmarsh Monkwood Primary School	Oct-14		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
St Albans CofE School	St Albans C of E School	Oct-14		DS Academy Trust	
Listerdale Junior Academy	Dalton Listerdale Junior and Infant School	Nov-14		Aston Community Education Trust	
Anston Greenland's Primary School	Anston Greenland's Primary School	Nov-14		New Collaborative Learning Trust	
Wickersley Northfield Lane Primary School	Wickersley Northfield Lane Primary School	Nov-14		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Aston All Saints C of E School	Aston All Saints C of E School	Dec-14		DS Academy Trust	
Maltby Manor Academy	Maltby Manor Junior and Infant School	Dec-14		Maltby Learning Trust	
Flanderwell Primary School	Flanderwell Primary School	Feb-15		DS Academy Trust	
Thrybergh Fullerton C of E Primary Academy	Thrybergh Fullerton C of E School	Feb-15		DS Academy Trust	
Trinity Croft C of E Primary Academy	Trinity Croft C of E School	Feb-15		DS Academy Trust	
Dinnington High School	Dinnington Comprehensive School	Feb-15		Learner Engagement and Achievement Partnership Multi-	New Collaborative Learning Trust

Update

Name of Academy	Name of Predecessor School	Open	Proposed conversion	Lead Sponsor / Name of Trust	Notes
Maltby Lillyhall Academy	Maltby Lillyhall Primary School	Mar-15		Maltby Learning Trust	
Ravenfield Primary Academy	Ravenfield Primary School	Mar-15		Maltby Learning Trust	
Herringthorpe Junior School	Herringthorpe Junior School	Apr-15		Willow Tree Academy	
Greasbrough Primary School	Greasbrough J & I School	Jul-15		Willow Tree Academy	
Springwood Junior Academy	Aston Springwood Junior and Infant School	Jul-15		Aston Community Education Trust	
Eastwood Village Primary School	NA	Sep-15		Central Learning Partnership Trust	
Winterhill School	Winterhill School	Feb-16		Leaders in Learning Multi Academy Trust	Insire Trust merged with Leaders in Learning Multi-Academy Trust on the 1st July 2023 - Inspire Learning Trust
Dinnington Primary School	Dinnington Primary School	May-16		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Maltby Hilltop	Maltby Hilltop	Jun-16		Nexus Multi Academy Trust	
Kelford School	Kelford School	Jun-16		Nexus Multi Academy Trust	
Abbey School	Abbey School	Jun-16		Nexus Multi Academy Trust	
Catcliffe Primary School	Catcliffe Primary School	Jul-16		Learner Trust	
High Greave Infant School	High Greave Infant School	Jul-16		Learner Trust	
High Greave Junior School	High Greave Junior School	Jul-16		Learner Trust	
Aston Hall Junior and Infant School	Aston Hall Junior and Infant School	Aug-16		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Aston Lodge Primary School	Aston Lodge Primary School	Aug-16		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School	Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School	Aug-16		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
Swinton Queen Primary School	Swinton Queen Primary School	Sep-16		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Swinton Academy	Swinton Community School	Oct-16		Aston Community Education Trust	
Aughton Junior Academy	Aughton Primary School	Oct-16		Aston Community Education Trust	
Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School	Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School	Nov-16		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Wath CofE Primary School	Wath CofE Primary School	Mar-17		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Brampton Ellis CofE Primary School	Brampton Ellis CofE Primary School	Apr-17		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Anston Brook Primary School	Anston Brook Primary School	Jun-17		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Woodsetts Primary School	Woodsetts Primary School	Jun-17		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	

Update

Name of Academy	Name of Predecessor School	Open	Proposed conversion	Lead Sponsor / Name of Trust	Notes
Brampton Cortonwood Infant School	Brampton Cortonwood Infant School	Jun-17		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Wath Victoria Primary School	Wath Victoria Primary School	Jun-17		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Treeton CofE School	Treeton CofE School	Oct-17		DS Academy Trust	
Roughwood Primary School	Roughwood Primary School	Nov-17		Willow Tree Academy	
Wath Central Primary School	Wath Central Primary School	Dec-17		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Clifton Community School	Clifton Community School	Dec-17		Wickersley Partnership Trust	
St Thomas Kilnhurst	St Thomas Kilnhurst	Dec-17		DS Academy Trust	
Anston Park Infants School	Anston Park Infants School	Jan-18		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Milton School	Milton School	Mar-18		Venn Academy Trust	
Kilnhurst Primary School	Kilnhurst Primary School	Apr-18		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Brinsworth Manor Junior School	Brinsworth Manor Junior School	May-18		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Rockingham J&I School	Rockingham J&I School	Jun-18		Willow Tree Academy	
Wentworth CofE Primary School	Wentworth CofE Primary School	Sep-18		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Laughton J&I School	Laughton J&I School	Oct-18		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Kiveton Park Infant School	Kiveton Park Infant School	Dec-18		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Wath Academy	Wath Comprehensive School	Apr-19		Maltby Learning Trust	
Maltby Craggs Primary School	Maltby Craggs Primary School	Oct-19		Nexus Multi Academy Trust	
Laughton All Saints C of E School	Laughton All Saints C of E School	Oct-19		DS Academy Trust	
Kiveton Park Meadows Juniors	Kiveton Park Meadows Juniors	Dec-19		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Brinsworth Howarth Primary School	Brinsworth Howarth Primary School	Dec-19		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Harthill Primary School	Harthill Primary School	Apr-20		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Redscope Primary School	Redscope Primary School	Sep-20		New Collaborative Learning Trust	
Thorpe Hesley Primary School	Thorpe Hesley Junior and infant School	Sep-20		New Collaborative Learning Trust	
Waverley Junior Academy	NA	Sep-20		Aston Community Education Trust	
St Anns J&I School	St Anns J&I School	Oct-20		James Montgomery Academy Trust	

Update

Name of Academy	Name of Predecessor School	Open	Proposed conversion	Lead Sponsor / Name of Trust	Notes
Thurcroft Infant School	Thurcroft Infant School	Feb-21		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Anston Hillcrest Primary School	Anston Hillcrest Primary School	May-21		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Ferham Primary School	Ferham Primary School	Oct-21		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Meadow View Primary School	Meadow View Primary School	Feb-22		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Elements Academy	The Rowan Centre	Sep-22		Ethos Academy Trust	
Highfield Farm Primary School	West Melton Junior and Infant School	Jan-23		James Montgomery Academy Trust	Note change of school name.
Swallownest Primary School	Swallownest Primary School	May-23		DS Academy Trust	
The Willows School	The Willows School	Sep-23		Nexus Multi Academy Trust	
Newman School Whiston	Newman School Whiston	Sep-24		TEAM Education Trust	
Newman School Dinnington	Newman School Dinnington	Sep-24		TEAM Education Trust	
Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	Feb-25		James Montgomery Academy Trust	
Anston Park Junior School	Anston Park Junior School	Feb-25		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Brinsworth Manor Infant School	Brinsworth Manor Infant School	Apr-25		White Woods Primary Academy Trust	
Saint Pius X Catholic High school	Saint Pius X Catholic High school	Sep-25		St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust	
Our Lady and St Josephs Catholic Primary School (Wath)	Our Lady and St Josephs Catholic Primary School (Wath)		TBC	St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust	
Broom Valley Community School			TBC		
Sitwell Infant School			TBC		

* Name of academy to be confirmed

MAT - Multi Academy Trust

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

PROPOSED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2027/28 ACADEMIC YEAR

September (22 days)							October (16 days)							November (22 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
December (13 days)							January (20 days)							February (16 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29					
							31													
March (23 days)							April (9 days)							May (19 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
June (20 days)							July (15 days)							August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													



Denotes School Holiday



Denotes Bank Holiday

195 days – including 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
PROPOSED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2027/28 ACADEMIC YEAR

September (22 days)							October (16 days)							November (22 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
December (13 days)							January (20 days)							February (16 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29					
							31													
March (23 days)							April (10 days)							May (19 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
June (20 days)							July (14 days)							August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													



Denotes School Holiday



Denotes Bank Holiday

195 days – including 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff

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