

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.