

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Local Admission Forum
	DATE:	12 February 2026
	LEAD OFFICER:	Sarah Whitby Sarah.whitby@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	Admission arrangements determination and consultation regarding relevant area
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.	
1.2	As the admission Authority for Community and Voluntary controlled schools, Rotherham has a responsibility to determine the admission arrangements for these schools.	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	The proposed admission arrangements for 2027-28, detailed at Appendix 1 , were consulted upon between 1 December 2025 and 19 January 2026. This consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the School Admission Code as it ran for the required 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January, was 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 were 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 were available.	
2.2	Parallel consultation 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> , was also undertaken.	
2.3	The changes to the admission arrangements that were consulted upon were as follows: <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 are made by a panel of Officers in line with guidance. It could be perceived that these 	

	<p>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; 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>
2.4	<p>Following consultation and current issues raised by the Admissions Team note b) on page 8 of Appendix 1 has been rewritten with clear definitions now added to simplify arrangements where parents have shared responsibility.</p>
2.5	<p>The consultation in respect of the relevant area proposed no changes, and for this to remain as the whole of Rotherham.</p>
2.6	<p>19 responses were received to the online consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Other Admission Authority in Rotherham 16 parents/ carers 1 School Governor 1 Other <p>The responses are summarised at Appendix 2.</p>
2.7	<p>Following review of the consultation responses, it is proposed that the admission arrangements go forward for determination without any changes from those consulted upon, with the addition noted at 2.4 included. There was no significant level of agreement or disagreement, and some of the concerns commented upon can be resolved separately even with the changes made. A response to these is included in the document at Appendix 2.</p>
<p>3. Key Actions and Timelines</p>	
3.1	<p>The Local Admission Forum, as the delegated decision maker, must formally approve and determine the proposed admission arrangements by 28 February 2024.</p>
<p>4. Recommendations</p>	
4.1	<p>That the Local Admissions Forum formally determine the admission arrangements for 2027-28 for community and voluntary controlled schools, as detailed in Appendix 1.</p>
4.2	<p>That the Local Admission Forum note that the relevant area remains the whole of Rotherham following the period of consultation.</p>