

Admissions Consultation response from Trustees

Thank you to everyone who supported YCAT's recent admissions consultation process. We were very grateful for your co-operation and feedback. The Board of Trustees has considered the responses and has ratified the admissions arrangements for 2026-7.

There were some specific questions asked by parents about the arrangements that we wanted to respond to. Please note that the admissions policy adopted by YCAT is based on the North Yorkshire Council model policy, so our arrangements are standard across all maintained schools and other Trusts in our region.

Q Staff children should not be given a place over children living closer. A place in a school should not be given as a perk of employment.

In the (generally unusual) event that a school has more applications than there are places available, under the proposed admission arrangements, children with an EHCP, looked-after children, children with social or medical need and children living in catchment **all** have higher priority than children of staff. Children of staff would only get priority over applicants from outside the area with no specific need. This is designed to help our small, rural schools to recruit good-quality teachers and support staff for our children.

Q Are the schools able to share amongst themselves how they staff the suffering Published Admissions Numbers?

Low birth rates nationally mean that most primary schools are seeing a fall in pupil numbers. One of the advantages of being part of a collaborative trust like YCAT is it allows school leaders to share strategies for managing staffing, small cohort numbers and all the other repercussions of falling numbers on roll, as well as get expert support from Trust leaders.

Q If a child attends the nursery attached to a school, are they more likely to be admitted? If not, why not?

The school admission arrangements are designed to be the fairest system of ensuring school places are available for the children that need them and who live close to the school. Because pre-school provision is managed in an entirely different way to school places, it would be unfair to prioritise children who attended the nursery.