

Consultation on Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's proposed admission arrangements for entry to community and voluntary controlled schools 2025/26

You are invited to give your views during the consultation period 27 November 2023-14 January 2024. You can give views by completing the online survey, if you are not able to do so then views can alternatively be Emailed to admissions.arrangements@rotherham.gov.uk

Statutory guidance

[School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781222/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf)

Background information

RMBC is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Rotherham and is responsible for setting admission arrangements for these types of school.

Admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements when changes are proposed, and at least once every 7 years even if there have been no changes during that period.

For all other types of school, such as academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools, RMBC is not the admission authority and is not responsible for setting the admission arrangements. Consultations for these types of schools, where one is required, can be found on the individual schools website.

This document relates only to the consultation on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the admission year 2025-26.

Key principles

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

These must include:

- The Published Admission Number for each relevant age group, this is the number of places that will be offered at each usual point of intake to a school (Reception, year 3 for Junior Schools and year 7 for Secondary).
- The criteria against which places will be allocated at the school when there are more applications than places and the order in which the criteria will be applied. It is for admission authorities to decide which criteria would be most suitable to the school according to the local circumstances, but they must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation.

In drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear, and objective.

Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually.

The proposals being consulted upon

1. The 'Relevant Area'

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.

No changes are proposed to the established relevant area, which is the whole of the Borough of Rotherham. Views are being sought to meet the requirement to consult every two years.

2. A change in the admission number at Sitwell Infant School from 75 to 60

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.

Across the Borough there is a reduction in the number of children requiring a place in reception, this is in line with national trend. Forecast data indicated that the proposal to reduce the PAN at Sitwell Infant School will not impact on place sufficiency across the local area, meaning that every child requiring a school place will have access to one within a reasonable distance. The forecast numbers for children living in the catchment are of Sitwell Infant for 2025-26 are below the proposed PAN of 60.