

school admission arrangements for the 2025-26 school year

summary of key changes

The vast majority of the admission arrangements for 2025-26 are procedurally identical to those for previous years. There are also some more significant changes, for example to the admission numbers of six schools – more details on these changes are toward the end of this summary.

Please note the majority of changes will relate only to community and voluntary controlled schools for which the Council is the admission authority, though some changes may also be reflected or have been determined in the coordinated schemes which apply to all East Riding of Yorkshire schools.

Changes this year include some changes to comply with a recent ruling of a Schools Adjudicator into the admission arrangements of a local academy trust in the summer of 2023. As the admission arrangements of that trust were related to those of the Council there has been a need for the Council to also look into its own arrangements. This has involved varying existing admission arrangements to comply with the adjudication, but also to make amendments to future admission arrangements such as those for 2025-26 that are to be consulted on and determined this year. Whilst most of the findings of the adjudicator were improving the clarity of arrangements and improving wording, one more substantial change was to the criterion in the admission arrangements for children who attend a ‘feeder school’ when seeking to progress into a linked junior or secondary school. The adjudicator found that the previous wording and application of this criterion to only apply to children who had attended a feeder school for several years was unreasonable, and therefore instructed its amendment. From that adjudication, attendance at a named feeder school will no longer take account of for how long a child has attended a feeder school. This change is also reflected in all these policy documents.

In terms of other documents and admission arrangements, minor changes have been made this year to clarify in these arrangements what happens when a parent/carer moves home during an admissions application; that head teachers as well as governors may request to vary the number of available ‘in-year’ school places in a particular year group; and clarify what process the Council will follow where there is disagreement between parent/carers when making conflicting preferences for their child’s education.

Please note that although the Fair Access Protocol itself was included in the consultation and has now been determined, the Protocol is a document that is agreed with a majority of schools in the East Riding and comes into force and can be substantively changed only once agreed with schools rather than through the Council’s annual determination of admission arrangements.

There are changes to the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) of six schools, mainly proposed by the governing bodies of those community and voluntary controlled schools. For each of these changes there are some further information and rationale detailed below:

Headlands School

What change has been determined?

The governing body of the school requested that the admission number for the school is increased from 200. The school initially proposed a number of 240 for the Year 7 year group for the start of the 2025-26 school year. Based on data on pupil numbers locally, a number of 210 is thought to be more appropriate in terms of maximising the resources available to the school, whilst not creating an oversupply of school places in Bridlington.

What reasons did the school give for the change?

- the school has historically had a higher PAN and admitted more pupils, for example in the 2005 Year 7 intake the school had around 270 pupils;
- the school building can accommodate greater numbers of pupils than are on roll at present, for example the net capacity figure of the school is 1470 and is therefore sufficient physical space for the change on a sustainable basis;
- the governing body is ambitious to expand the size of the school to up to 240 children per year, but recognises that at present this level of demand is not in evidence, and therefore 210 is an appropriate number; and
- the governing body has received feedback from recent open events that some parents are moving into the north of Bridlington from other parts of the East Riding given the increased popularity of the school.

What other information is available about this change?

- the school currently has 969 children on roll in Year 7-11, with 200 children in the largest year group at present;
- the school currently has an average year group size of 193 pupils in Years 7-11;
- the proposed admission number enables the straightforward organisation of classes as the school is currently operating eight classes in most subjects for 200 pupils in each year group. With a PAN of 210 the school could maximise 30 pupils per class in seven classes which would be a reduced number of timetabled classes as an option, but could continue with eight standard classes;
- the school will grow from the bottom up in order to not create additional school places in year groups at present where those spaces may effect other existing classes at local schools;
- in some years there have been more than 200 children in Year 6 at local schools in the Headlands catchment area, though many of these children may not live in the Headlands catchment area. Increasing the PAN slightly will minimise the number of appeals and children not able to progress to secondary school with their peers;
- there have been an increased number of children seeking school places at Headlands as opposed to previous years when some parents chose for their children to attend schools elsewhere;
- Bridlington is a growing town with more dwellings planned, however there is sufficient capacity within the two secondary schools to accommodate much of this demand. Providing places for these children in their community is important for the school and the community itself and therefore a small increase in PAN is welcome in terms of local sufficiency;
- the school has seen demand for places where the school has been named as a 1st preference to be 221 in the most recent year;
- the school would require no additional staffing to accommodate the increased number of children; and
- the school's finances would be supported by the admission of more children per year given the fixed costs of teaching staff per class and ten extra pupils per year would have a marginal effect in terms of any negative disruptions whilst bringing positive benefits in terms of maximising resources for the school.

If approved, this change will not come into force for the year group starting in September 2024, but only from September 2025.