

Monkseaton Coastal School's Consultation on Admission Arrangements for Admissions from September 2028

Introduction

The Governing Body of Monkseaton Coastal School is consulting on a proposal to amend the school's admission arrangements for admissions from September 2028.

The proposed change is to remove the existing catchment area oversubscription criterion and replace it with a distance-based criterion for the allocation of places where the school receives more applications than places available.

No decision has yet been made. The Governing Body is undertaking this consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 and will carefully consider all responses received before determining the final admission arrangements. The consultation is genuine and no final decision has been reached.

Statutory Context

As the admission authority for the school, the Governing Body is required to determine admission arrangements that are "clear, fair and objective", in accordance with paragraph 1.8 of the School Admissions Code 2021.

Paragraph 1.14 of the Code permits admission authorities to use distance from the school as an oversubscription criterion, provided that the method used to measure distance is clearly set out in the admission arrangements.

The Governing Body is also required to give highest priority within its oversubscription criteria to looked after children and previously looked after children in accordance with paragraph 1.37 of the Code.

Children for whom the school is named in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must be admitted and are allocated places before the oversubscription criteria are applied, pursuant to section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and paragraph 1.6 of the Code.

Current Admission Arrangements

Currently, where applications exceed the Published Admission Number (PAN), places are allocated according to oversubscription criteria that include:

- Looked after and previously looked after children;
- Catchment area priority;
- Sibling priority;
- Distance from the school; and
- Other criteria as set out in the school's determined admission arrangements.

Proposed Admission Arrangements

If approved, the Governing Body proposes that admissions from September 2028 onwards will be allocated as follows:

Priority 1

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school.

These children are admitted before the oversubscription criteria are applied

Priority 2

Looked after children and previously looked after children.

This priority is required by paragraph 1.37 of the School Admissions Code 2021.

Priority 3

All other applicants, ranked according to the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school.

Distance will be measured using the Local Authority's approved methodology, details of which will be specified in the final admission arrangements, as required by paragraph 1.14 of the Code.

Tie-break

Where two or more applicants live an identical distance from the school and there are insufficient places available, a random allocation process supervised independently will be used in accordance with the school's admission arrangements.

Rationale for the Proposal

The Governing Body is considering this proposal for the following reasons:

Simplicity and Transparency

A distance-based criterion is objective, measurable and readily understandable by parents and carers. The Governing Body considers that this may assist in ensuring that admission arrangements remain clear and transparent, consistent with paragraph 1.8 of the Code.

Reflecting Changing Communities

The Governing Body recognises that patterns of housing development and population change may alter the relationship between catchment boundaries and the community served by the school.

Local Access

The proposal may provide greater priority to children who live closest to the school irrespective of whether they currently reside within the existing catchment area.

Sustainable Travel

Prioritising children living nearest to the school may encourage walking and cycling and potentially reduce home-to-school travel distances.

Potential Impact of the Proposal

The Governing Body recognises that the proposal may affect families differently.

In particular:

- Some families currently living within the catchment area may receive lower priority than applicants living closer to the school outside the existing catchment area.
- Some families currently living outside the catchment area but nearer the school may receive a higher priority than under the existing arrangements.
- Historic patterns of admission may change.

The Governing Body welcomes evidence and views from consultees regarding these potential impacts.

Equality Considerations

The Governing Body has considered its obligations under:

- The Equality Act 2010;
- The Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010; and
- The requirement within the School Admissions Code that admission arrangements must be fair and objective.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken (or will be undertaken before determination) to assist the Governing Body in considering whether any groups sharing protected characteristics may be disproportionately affected by the proposed changes.

Consultees are invited to comment on any equality implications they believe should be taken into account before a final decision is made.

Consultation Process

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with paragraphs 1.45 to 1.48 of the School Admissions Code 2021, which require admission authorities proposing changes to admission arrangements to consult for a minimum period of six weeks between 1 October and 31 January.

The consultation will run from:

Start Date: 01/10/2026

End Date: 12/11/2026

Responses may be submitted by:

Email: consultationadmissions@monkseatoncoastalschool.org

Post: Monkseaton Coastal School, Whitley Bay, NE25 8JN

Next Steps

Following the consultation period, the Governing Body will:

1. Review all responses received.
2. Consider whether amendments should be made to the proposal.
3. Determine the admission arrangements for the relevant academic year.
4. Publish the determined arrangements by the statutory deadline.

Determination of admission arrangements must take place in accordance with paragraphs 1.46 to 1.49 of the ****School Admissions Code 2021**.

Any person may object to determined admission arrangements which they believe do not comply with admissions legislation or the School Admissions Code by referring the matter to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator within the prescribed timescales