

**30 November 2021**

**From: NYCC Children and Young People's Service**

**To: Parents / Carers of Weaverthorpe CE VC Primary School**

*Preference exercise for Alternative Schools*

During the meeting at School on 10 November we discussed how the LA could assist parents/carers with consideration of alternative schools, by conducting a managed and co-ordinated preference exercise. We confirmed the LA view that, ideally, the preference exercise approach for provisional school transfers should not be undertaken until the end of the consultation period, but also that this would be kept under review.

Over the past two weeks, we have seen some parent/carers, as is their right, submitting school transfer applications to the LA. The number of applications to date is small but represents a significant percentage of the pupils in School. The school staff and governors have also received feedback from a number of parents/carers with general concerns about current uncertainty, and specifically that they would like further information and support about school admissions in this coming period.

Having reflected on this, the LA and the School have agreed that subject to the NYCC Executive Member agreeing to start the consultation process (which is due on 7 December) the preference exercise should be brought forward. There are three main reasons for this:-

- To support all parents/carers
- To ensure fairness for all
- To reduce the period of uncertainty

The confirmed dates for the admissions preference exercise are therefore as follows:-

- Thursday 9 December - preference exercise commences
- By Friday 7 January - parents/carers confirm their preferred school(s)
- Monday 10 January to Monday 24 January - LA contact schools
- By Friday 28 January - LA confirm allocated places

There will be opportunity for parents /carers to speak to an LA Admissions Officer on Thursday 9 December. This will be based on pre-booked appointments, either for a phone call or a video call via MS Teams, and the School Office will issue further information in due course.

Through this exercise parents/carers will be asked to apply for the preferred school(s) (at least two preferences are strongly recommended) that they would like their child to transfer to in September 2022, should Weaverthorpe School close at the end of the current academic year. Parents/carers can apply for an earlier date of transfer for their child, again as is their right, but there is no requirement to do so.

Once the full picture of all preferences is known, the LA will liaise with the schools regarding potential allocations, and seek to meet the highest stated preferences wherever possible.

It is unlikely that any decisions will be taken, including for applications already received, before the end of the preference exercise. This is certainly the case for any requested transfers to the two nearest schools, Luttons CP School and Sherburn CE VC Primary School. The exceptions to this, where a

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quicker decision could potentially be possible, would be if an early transfer date has been specifically requested by the parent/carer and the alternative school is significantly undersubscribed, or for a current Reception age application.

Please note that in these particular circumstances, related to a potential school closure, the LA will suspend adherence to normal response times on mid-year applications to achieve the fairest approach for all.

The overall intention here is to ensure fairness around the school transfer process in the event that a decision is ultimately taken to close the School. It would allow us to apply consideration of admissions criteria to each request and avoid first come first served. Applying this co-ordinated preference exercise approach will achieve that, and provide parents/carers with the support that has been requested.

Applications for transfer must be made via the NYCC application process at [Changing schools and in year applications | North Yorkshire County Council](#). We have made arrangements that any applications for maintained schools in the East Riding are also to be managed by the co-ordinated NYCC process.

#### *Catchment areas and transport*

As stated at the 10 November meeting the consultation (if agreed) will seek your views on the proposal that from 1 September 2022:

- The stand-alone part of the existing Weaverthorpe catchment area would transfer to Luttons School
- The shared area (Butterwick) would become solely attached to Hertford Vale CE School

We have separately provided a map so that you can see the catchment areas. A decision on changing the catchment areas would not be taken until the end of the process.

Under the NYCC home to school transport policy free transport is provided to the catchment school, or nearest school to the home address, subject to qualifying distance:

- two miles for children under eight years of age;
- three miles for children aged over eight; or
- where the route to the catchment or nearest school is not safe to walk accompanied by a responsible adult.

The policy can be found here [School transport for reception to year 11 children | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

Information on other local schools is provided below.

## Local School Information (correct as at November 2021)

### **Luttons Community Primary School**

Rec	5
Y1	6
Y2	3
Y3	5
Y4	5
Y5	3
Y6	1
TOTAL	28

2 classes are currently in operation (not including nursery).

Rec/Y1/Y2 – 14 Pupils

Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 – 14 pupils

[Welcome to Luttons Community Primary School](#)

First point of contact Jo Harber and Sarah Buntin in the school office. Tel 01944 738232

### **Sherburn CE VC Primary School**

Rec	9
Y1	5
Y2	16
Y3	10
Y4	6
Y5	5
Y6	10
TOTAL	61

3 classes (not including Nursery)

Reception / Year 1 – 14 pupils

Year 2 / Year 3 - 26 pupils

Year 4 / 5 / 6 - 21 pupils

[Welcome to Sherburn C.E Primary School \(sherburnprimarieschool.co.uk\)](http://sherburnprimarieschool.co.uk)

First point of contact Jo Harber and Sarah Buntin in the school office. Tel 01944 710282

### **West Heselton CE VC Primary School**

Rec	10
Y1	9
Y2	10
Y3	8
Y4	7
Y5	8
Y6	14
TOTAL	66

3 classes (excluding pre-reception) - this is due to change in January 22, please ask the school for details

Rec / Year 1 / Year 2 – 29 pupils

Year 3 / Year 4 – 15 pupils

Year 5 / Year 6 – 22 pupils

[West Heselton CE VC Primary School](#)

First point of contact Julie Mason in the school office. Tel. 01944 728286

**Hertford Vale CE VC Primary School**

Published Admission Number = 18

Rec	19
Y1	16
Y2	19
Y3	19
Y4	16
Y5	16
Y6	23
TOTAL	128

5 classes

Rec / Year 1 – 26 pupils

Year 1 / Year 2 – 28 pupils

Year 3 / Year 4 – 26 pupils

Year 4 / Year 5 – 25 pupils

Year 6 – 23 Pupils

[Hertford Vale Church of England Primary School - Home](#)

First point of contact Liz Blogg in the school office. Tel. 01944 710273

*Other local schools*

Please contact the following schools direct for information on the numbers shown below, or alternatively information is available at [Get Information about Schools - GOV.UK \(get-information-schools.service.gov.uk\)](http://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk)

North Yorkshire Schools

Rillington Primary School – Tel. 01944 758402

Settrington All Saints' CE Primary School – Tel. 01944 768238

East Riding Schools

Sledmere CE VC Primary School – Tel. 01377 236267

Wetwang CE VC Primary School – Tel. 01377 236679

Wold Newton Foundation School – Tel. 01262 470633