

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CATCHMENT AREAS CONSULTATION IN NORTH TYNESIDE

Q. Why are the catchment areas for Holystone, Backworth, Shiremoor and New York Primary Schools being changed?

A. The reasons for the proposed changes are partly due to the successful relocation and expansion of Backworth Park Primary School and partly due to the new developments that have been built in the area. Catchment areas have not been reviewed for many years and some of the new developments have been built on existing boundary lines and this has caused some streets to be split.

Q. How were the proposed changes determined?

A. We have considered the capacity of each school, the number of homes in each area, the proximity of each area to each school, the road network and the walking distances to each school. We have generally made the catchment areas equal in size, in terms of number of homes.

Q. What would happen if the changes are not implemented?

A. The catchment area for Holystone Primary is very large, and in recent years, not all in catchment applications have been successful in gaining a place at that school. Leaving the catchment areas as they are would mean that as a number of new homes have been built, closer to Holystone Primary School, some applications from in catchment, but further away by distance, may be unsuccessful. Unless those applicants state a second choice school, they would be allocated a school where surplus places exist, which could be much further away from their home address.

Q. When will the proposed changes be implemented?

A. If accepted the changes will be implemented for the admission intake of September 2021. The application process for admission in September 2021 will commence in September 2020.

Q. Will the proposed changes affect my application that I have submitted now for September 2020 admission?

A. No, all applications submitted for September 2020 admission will be considered under the current arrangements.

Q. Will my child be guaranteed a place in a school that their older sibling already attends if my address is no longer in the catchment area?

A. The Local Authority or admission authority cannot guarantee places in any school even if you **do** reside in the catchment area of your preferred school. A sibling link is an older brother or sister residing at the same address (including adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings, and long term fostered children). For an older sibling to be taken into consideration, they must still be attending the school in September 2021. Cousins are not considered as a sibling link.

Q. What do the proposed changes mean for my child already attending the school?

A. If your child is already in one of the schools they will not be affected by the changes. However, any future siblings may be affected from 2021.

Q. Can I still apply for a school if I am not in the catchment area and what are my chances of gaining a place?

A. Yes, you can apply for any school in any area. If the school is oversubscribed, then the oversubscription criteria will be applied. If you are not in the catchment area and there are more applications made which fall within a higher category of the oversubscription criteria, then this will reduce your chance of gaining a place at the school.

Q. What is the purpose of a catchment area?

A. A catchment area is only used as part of the oversubscription criterion for a school when there are more applications than places available at the school. If a school is undersubscribed all applicants who applied will be allocated a place.

Q. What will happen to the numbers at each school and will there be enough places in the locality?

A. There are no proposed changes to the admission numbers for the schools in the locality. The Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that there are enough places in the area. Currently all schools in the locality are not oversubscribed in every year group.

Q. Do I have a right to a place at the school of my choice for my child?

A. No. Parents do not have an absolute right to choose the school their child will attend. Parents have a right to state a preference for a school and the Local Authority and other admission authorities have a duty to take the preference into consideration, but this does not guarantee you will get a place at the school or schools you have chosen.

Q. Will my child be guaranteed a place in the catchment area school?

A. The Local Authority or Admission Authority cannot guarantee places in any school. If you apply to your catchment school the chances are usually high that you will be offered a place, but this cannot be guaranteed. Changes in the pattern of parents' preferences and changes in local population may mean that some schools will be oversubscribed from within their catchment area.

Q. How do I find out the catchment area school for my address?

A. By logging onto www.northtyneside.gov.uk or contact the Access Team at school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk. Please note that your child's permanent address determines your catchment school and it is this address which must be used on the application form.

Q. My child attends the nursery at the school. Will I automatically be offered a place?

A. No. Attendance at a nursery class does not guarantee a place at the reception class of a school. You must make an application for a place in reception class even if your child is

currently attending the school's nursery class. Where the school receives more applications than places available the published oversubscription criteria will be applied

Q. What do the proposed changes mean for my child transferring to the High School?

A. The catchment area for the High School for these areas is unaffected.