

Admissions Arrangements Consultations Response

January 2024

Consultations

In line with our statutory duty as an Admission Authority outlined in the DfE Admissions Code and further to the agreement from Trust Board for three consultations to take place as detailed below, this report provides details of the outcomes for Trustees following the end of consultation.

- No change to admissions arrangements at Beckfoot Allerton, Beckfoot Heaton, Beckfoot Nessfield, Beckfoot Priestthorpe. This consultation is required in line with paragraph 1.45 of the School Admissions Code, which states that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period. Special schools are not subject to this regulation.
- A reduction to the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Beckfoot Oakbank from 300 to 255 or 250.
- An alteration to oversubscription criteria within admissions arrangements for Beckfoot School, Beckfoot Thornton and Beckfoot Upper Heaton to include Beckfoot feeder primaries.

Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. In accordance with statutory guidance, these consultations ran from 5 December 2023 to 22 January 2024.

The consultation invited representation from a range of stakeholders including:

- Parents / carers at each school
- Members of the public
- Staff
- All schools in Bradford via the Local Authority
- Bradford Local Authority and North Yorkshire Local Authority

Full details of the consultation and how to access were published on the Beckfoot Trust website, the relevant school websites and Bradford Schools Online. Headteachers updated the school community through newsletters.

Next Steps

As the Admissions Authority, the Trust Board are required to determine the Admission Arrangements for 2025/6 by 28 February 2024.

Respondents who have indicated they would like to be informed of the outcome of consultation will be sent an email with the outcome and decision.

The arrangements will be sent to the Local Authority and published on the school websites by 15 March 2024.

Responses to the 7-year consultation for 2025/26 admission year with no change to admissions arrangements for:

- Beckfoot Allerton
- Beckfoot Heaton
- Beckfoot Nessfield
- Beckfoot Priestthorpe

Respondents were asked to indicate which school their response related to and whether they agreed with the current admission arrangements.

Number of Responses				
	Allerton	Heaton	Nessfield	Priestthorpe
Yes	1	2	0	1
No	0	1	0	0
Maybe	0	0	0	0
Total	1	3	0	1

Respondents were also asked to select which of the following categories best represented their interest in this consultation.

Number of Responses				
	Allerton	Heaton	Nessfield	Priestthorpe
Parent / carer	1	3	0	1
School staff	0	0	0	0
Member of the public	0	0	0	0
Local Authority	0	0	0	0
Community or religious organisation	0	0	0	0
Politician	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	1	3	0	1

Trust Response:

The Admissions Arrangements should remain as previously published.

Responses to the consultation for 2025/26 admission year for a reduction to Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Beckfoot Oakbank with either:

- Reduction of PAN from 300 to 255
- Reduction of PAN from 300 to 250

The reduction is planned in line with the number of places required in Keighley secondary schools and the option chosen will be determined by the responses to the consultation and the Local Authority sufficiency forecasting data which will be updated in January 2024.

There is a forecasted surplus of 46 places by September 2025 in the planning area. The impact on the local area is therefore expected to be a positive one and will allow both Beckfoot Oakbank and other local secondary schools to match the demand for required places.

In addition to supporting effective place-planning in the local area, the reduction will benefit the community at Beckfoot Oakbank. The current school is above average in size, and this can mean that there is less access to large spaces for communal learning, limited space in the canteen and movement around the building can be slow.

Response to Consultation

Respondents were asked to select if they were in favour of a reduction from 300.

Number of Responses	
Yes	13
No	5
Total	18

Respondents in favour were also asked to select the preferred reduction in PAN.

Number of Responses	
250	7
255	0
Either / Both	6
Total	13

Respondents were asked to tick which of the following categories best represented their interest in this consultation.

Number of Responses	
Parent / carer	16
School staff	0
Member of the public	1

Local Authority	1
Community or religious organisation	0
Politician	0
Other	0
Total	18

Trust Response:

- All 13 in favour commented on the connection between the size of the school and barriers to improvement.
- The 4 not in favour assumed it would lead to a lack of local places. Our initial analysis suggests this is not the case and there may be a surplus.
- The Local Authority are concerned based on initial forecast data that there could be a shortfall. If this is the case, we have agreed with the Local Authority that we will look to provide those places for this year, up to 300 and our published PAN will be officially 250. Further data is due in April.

Responses to the consultation for 2025/26 admission year for alterations to oversubscription criteria at:

- Beckfoot School
- Beckfoot Thornton
- Beckfoot Upper Heaton

The proposed changes to the admission arrangements are:

To create a single Beckfoot Trust local primary feeder school for each of the Trust’s good or outstanding secondaries as detailed in the table below. This will mean that children attending the local primary feeder school will be a 4th priority category to the linked secondary school only (see below). By creating a local feeder school arrangement for our good and outstanding secondaries, children who attend a Beckfoot Primary School can choose and benefit from a Beckfoot Trust education throughout their school career.

Consultation to change oversubscription criteria at:	Feeder School
Beckfoot School	Beckfoot Priestthorpe
Beckfoot Thornton	Beckfoot Allerton
Beckfoot Upper Heaton	Beckfoot Heaton

For each of the schools listed the oversubscription criteria are listed below including the proposed change highlighted. There will be no impact on the first 3 priority, including siblings.

Priority Order	Beckfoot School	Beckfoot Thornton	Beckfoot Upper Heaton
1	Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.		
2	Children who have exceptional social or medical needs, supported by a written recommendation from the child’s paediatrician/consultant or professional from Children’s Services. The letter must explain why the school is the only suitable school to meet the child’s needs and why no other school could provide the appropriate support for the child.		
3	Children whose home address in the school’s priority admission area who have a brother or sister, attending from the same address, who are at present in years 7 – 10 and who will still be attending the school at the time of admission.		
4 (NEW)	Children who attend Beckfoot Priestthorpe Primary School for Beckfoot School only	Children who attend Beckfoot Allerton Primary School for Beckfoot Thornton only	Children who attend Beckfoot Heaton Primary School for Beckfoot Upper Heaton only

5	Other children whose home address is in the school's priority admission area
6	Children whose home address is outside the school's priority admission area who have a brother or sister, attending from the same address, who are at present in years 7 – 10 and who will still be attending the school at the time of admission
7	Other children whose home address is outside the school's priority admission area

Response to Consultation

Respondents were asked to tick whether they agreed with the proposed changes.

	Number of Responses		
	Beckfoot School	Beckfoot Thornton	Beckfoot Upper Heaton
Yes	5	1	0
No	38	4	0
Maybe	0	1	0
Total	43	6	0

Respondents were also asked to tick which of the following categories best represented their interest in this consultation.

Number of Responses	
Parent / carer	39
School staff	2
Member of the public	8
Local Authority	1
Community or religious organisation	0
Politician	0
Other	0
Total	50*

*Includes LA response who raised concerns for Thornton and Beckfoot School below

Trust Response:

Thornton

- There were no qualitative comments.

- The Local Authority were concerned that if Beckfoot Thornton became more popular with Beckfoot Allerton parents' local children may become displaced. There is no indication that this will happen and there is a projected demographic drop into secondary by September 2026. Thornton has never been over-subscribed. There is a connection between ethnicity and school chosen which does mean this is unable to happen.

Beckfoot School

- 5 Priestthorpe parents responded and were in favour.
- Those responding with concerns or not in favour, provided reasons which have been analysed and set out below:

Category	Trust Response
Disproportionate impact on children who do not attend Beckfoot Priestthorpe (34 out of 35 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have modelled the impact and it is not significant • We are not intending to increase the PAN at Priestthorpe, it works well as a small one form entry school • Priestthorpe’s admission policy gives preference to local children therefore this will not lead to children from outside of the area being preference over catchment area children <p>We have moved to all our secondary schools having a feeder school although only in the geographical area, e.g. we have not made our other two primary schools feeder schools to Beckfoot School</p>
It is a private school admissions policy (1 comment within the above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeder schools are part of the admission code and are common within the state sector • Some of the parents who objected have children in schools that have a feeder school system
Should be consulting on children of staff (1 out of 35 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment noted. This would have the potential to displace significantly more local children.
Local Authority - this may lead to displacement of local children if Priestthorpe becomes more popular due to being a feeder school for Beckfoot school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have no intention to increase the PAN at Priestthorpe and the school has a ‘distance’ clause.