

Consultation on proposal to change the published admission number and over-subscription criteria for Rye Hills Academy.

The Trustees of the North East Learning Trust are required to determine our school admissions arrangements every year. This involves reviewing a range of related factors and then deciding whether any changes need to be made.

The School Admissions Code produced by the Department for Education states that where the admission authorities propose to change their admission arrangements, they must first publicly consult on these arrangements.

In its role as the Admissions Authority, the North East Learning Trust is proposing to change the published admission number and oversubscription criteria for admission to Rye Hills Academy. The proposed changes will take effect from September 2023 and will apply to admission arrangements going forward. In addition, the proposed changes will align Rye Hills Academy with the Trust's admission arrangements.

The consultation will take place between 1 October 2021 and 19 November 2021.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

The PAN is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal intake. Once the PAN has been set for an Academy, we will not refuse any applications submitted during the normal admission round for Year 7 where the PAN has not been exceeded.

However, if there is an unexpectedly high demand and the Trust believes we could admit additional children, we will inform the LA and admit children above the agreed PAN.

PAN for Rye Hills Academy:

Academy	Phase	Current PAN	Proposed PAN 2023/2024
Rye Hills	Secondary	237	180

PAN and Student Numbers on Roll – September 2021

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Numbers on roll	196	191	208	168	174
PAN	237	237	237	237	237

Current Oversubscription Criteria for Rye Hills Academy

- 1. Looked after children in local authority and previously looked after children**

Children who are looked after; or who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (Section 22 (1) of the Children's Act 1989). This category includes children who are in care/previously in care from other countries.

2. Children who are permanently resident in the admission zone defined for the school

For the purposes of determining whether a child lives within the admission zone, only the address at which the parent/guardian ordinarily resides and with whom the child normally lives will be taken into account.

If parents are separated and the child lives for periods of time with both parents, the address used will be of the parent who receives child benefit for the child (if eligible). If neither parent is eligible for child benefit, the address used will be that on the child's medical registration card (proof may be required). Short term tenancies entered into with the prime objective of securing admission for a child at a particular school will not qualify as places of ordinary residence. The local authority will take action should false information be submitted in order to secure a place at a particular school.

3. Children not living in the admission zone who have elder brothers or sisters attending the school in the 2022/23 school year.

Brothers and sisters and step brothers and sisters will qualify under this criterion as long as they both live at the same permanent address and the elder sibling is still attending the preferred school in the 2022/23 school year.

'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent / carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

4. Children not living within the admission zone who have exceptional social and/or medical reasons for attending a particular school, professionally supported by an independent third party and sustained by the Authority's professional advisors.

Social reasons generally do not include domestic circumstances such as parents' working commitments, childcare arrangements, or separation from friends.

In the case of medical reasons, evidence would need to demonstrate the exceptional long-term nature of the condition. Rye Hills Academy is able to cater for a wide range of medical needs which may be encountered by children.

Parents/carers are strongly urged to provide independent third party information (e.g. from a professional person who knows or is involved with your child) in support of any exceptional long-term medical or social reason why you think your child should be given special consideration for placement in a particular school. This written support must make clear why Rye Hills Academy is the **only** school which could meet their child's needs.

The submission of independent information will not automatically guarantee a place under this criterion. However, the evidence will be carefully considered by the local authority's professional advisors as to whether or not your application falls into this category.

5. Children living closest to the Academy

The distance from home to the Academy will be measured by computer on a straight-line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the Academy.

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for Rye Hills Academy

1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order*.

A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. (see definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.

2. Children who appear to the admission authority of the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

3. Medical reasons

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

4. Sibling links

Children who have a sibling already attending the school (in Years 7-11) and who is expected to be on roll at the time of admission.

This includes step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address.

5. Children of staff employed at the Academy

Children of staff employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage, and/or the member of staff has relocated.

6. Distance

Those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address measured by the shortest walking route. This will be based on the child's address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e. twins, triplets, or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling

group will be given priority over other children. Otherwise, if only one final place can be offered, and two applicants live equidistant from the Academy, the LA's system of random allocation will apply.

The distance from home to the Academy will be measured by computer on a straight-line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the Academy.

7. All other applicants

Tiebreaker

Where an Academy is oversubscribed within any of the categories above the following tiebreakers will be applied:

- a) For those children who have applied for a place at the school nearest to their home address (category 4), priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school.
- b) For other children (category 5), priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for.

In the unlikely event of the Academy being oversubscribed within categories 1, 2 and 3 tiebreaker (b) will apply.

The North East Learning Trust welcome comments on the proposal to change the oversubscription criteria and responses to the consultation can be sent by email to school.admissions@nelt.co.uk or by post to Joanne Barker, Governance Manager, North East Learning Trust, Traynor House, Traynor Way, Whitehouse Business Park, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 2RU. The deadline for responses is 5pm on Friday 19 November 2021.