11 September 2026

Information for Year 6 parents about applying for a secondary school place for September 2027 and important information on home to school travel

Dear Parent/Carer,

This information relates to children who are in Year 6 and who are due to transfer to secondary school in September 2027. It is to let you know that the application round to apply for a place is open from 12 September 2026 and the deadline to apply is 31 October 2026.

You must only complete one application per child and an application must be made to the Local Authority where you live i.e. your home local authority to whom you pay your council tax. You will need your council tax reference for your application.

If you live in North Yorkshire, you can list up to five schools in order of your preference, you can apply for any school or academy either in North Yorkshire or in any other Local Authority. Listing only one school on your application does not increase your chance of getting a place there and an application must be made for any school regardless of the type of school you are applying for (Academy, Community, Aided, Trust, or Foundation). If the school you want is in another Local Authority you must list this on your application, and we will coordinate with that Authority.

Some religious and Academy schools require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to assess your application according to the school's admission policy. Failure to submit a SIF to the school may result in your application being considered after all others where a SIF has been provided. A SIF is not an application for a school place, and you will still need to apply via the Local Authority.

Should you need more information about individual schools, you can obtain a prospectus directly from the school.

Before completing the online application form, please ensure you have read all the information on the school admissions and home to school travel pages on the North Yorkshire website:

https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning

These pages contain essential information that will assist you in the application process.

Home to school travel

Since September 2024 there have been some changes to the eligibility criteria for home to school travel. The main change is that transport will only be provided to the nearest school to the home address, subject to statutory walking distances. Please be aware that the nearest school for free travel purposes may not be the catchment school used for admissions purposes.

If home to school travel is an important factor in your school choice, you can use the online distance calculator 'Find your nearest school 2026-2027' which is available on our website to identify the nearest school to your home address. Please note that the mapping layers used to determine the distances to schools for admissions and transport purposes are updated on an annual basis, this update took place on 11 September 2026 ahead of applications being made from 12 September 2026. It is important that you check your nearest schools when making your application to ensure that you have the most up to date school list.

For full information on home to school travel, the eligibility criteria, and to access the nearest school calculator please visit the website: School transport for reception to year 11 children | North Yorkshire Council

If you preference a school that is not your nearest school, and your child is allocated a place, and your child does not qualify to free transport under the Home to School Travel Policy, you will be responsible for transport arrangements and costs.

Important points to note when making an application:

Applications can be made online at Starting secondary school | North Yorkshire Council

The school round (2027 September - Transfer to Secondary School) is specific to your child's date of birth. If the application round is not showing after you've added your child's details, please check that you've entered their date of birth correctly.

If your child is working outside of their chronological year group, you will not be able to apply online, please contact us (see below) to request a paper copy of the form.

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2026. An application received after this date will be considered as a 'Late Application'. This means it will be processed after on time applications, which could affect the allocation of your child's school place. Should you submit a late application, and you have a valid reason for this, please provide them for consideration. Reasons for a late application must be submitted in writing via email.

Once you have submitted your application you will receive an acknowledgment email. You can go back in to view your application at any time but once the Council has downloaded your application, you will not be able to make any changes. If you do need to make a change after you have submitted your application, you will need to complete a 'changes to submitted school application form' which is available separately online, or you may request a paper copy.

Please note: the last date for submitting late applications or making changes, e.g. change of address, is 30 November 2026. Any change to an application or late application received after this date will not be actioned until after National Offer Day.

National Offer Day is Monday 1 March 2027: this is the day you will be notified of the secondary school place that has been allocated to your child. If you applied online, an email notification will be sent, during office hours on the same day, with a secure link to access your child's school place offer. You will also be able to log back into your account to view the offered school place, please remember to save your login details. If you submitted a paper application, allocation letters will be sent out by second-class post on 1 March and could take 3-5 days to arrive. Please note that we cannot provide school place information over the phone.

Where we are unable to allocate a place at your preferred school/s, in line with current legislation, you have the statutory right to an admission appeal, more information on this will be provided in your offer letter.

Please retain all correspondence, including emails and acknowledgments, as you may need them if you wish to appeal the decision on the school that is allocated.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Herdman

Lisa Herdman
Lead for Admissions
Education & Skills, Children and Young Peoples Service

Business Support Team, Admissions, Travel Eligibility and Free School Meals, contact details: North Yorkshire Council, Admissions, Transport and Welfare Team, Document Management Centre, County Hall, Racecourse Lane, Northallerton, DL7 8AE.

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