

Public Document Pack

North Yorkshire Council
Children and Young People's Service - Executive Members & Corporate Director Meetings

Tuesday, 24 March 2026 / 1.00 pm

A G E N D A

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Proposed Changes to the Leasing Arrangements for Local Authority Maintained Schools (Pages 3 - 12)**
- 4 **Proposals for revised school organisation arrangements requested by several federated governing boards of primary schools in North Yorkshire (Pages 13 - 114)**
- 5 **Exclusion of the public from the meeting during consideration of item(s) # on the grounds that it/they each involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) # of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information)(Variation) Order 2006**

Items for Executive Member decision

Items for Corporate Director decision

Any Other Business

- 6 Date of future formal meetings
14 April 2026
12 May 2026

Circulation:

Executive Members

Janet Sanderson
Annabel Wilkinson

Officer attendees

Howard Emmett
Lisa Cowley
Mel Hutchinson
Amanda Fielding
El Mayhew

Presenting Officers

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**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
Children & Young Peoples Services
Executive Members**

24TH MARCH 2026

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL LEASING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present proposed changes to the North Yorkshire Council accounting arrangements for leases for local authority-maintained schools to the CYPS Executive Members for their consideration and approval.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Prior to April 2024, where a local authority gained the use of an asset under a lease agreement, it had to determine whether it was a finance lease or an operating lease. The distinction was based on which entity had substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. The determination was important because finance leased assets were deemed capital and accounted for on the authority's balance sheet, whereas operating lease costs were charged to expenditure over the life of the lease.

On 1 April 2024, a new International Financial Reporting Standards rule (IFRS 16 Leases) came into effect. This rule changes how local authorities are required to record leases in the financial accounts of their maintained schools.

IFRS 16 Leases ends the distinction between operating and finance leases for accounting purposes. Now all leases will count, in principle, as capital, unless the total value of the lease is deemed low value (where the value of the asset as at the commencement date on an individual asset's value when new is below the threshold set) or is short term (where the lease at commencement date has a lease term of 12 months or less)

Under the Education Act 2002, all leases are classed as borrowing and require the Secretary of State for Education's consent. The Secretary of State has however agreed to provide blanket consent to a range of the most common leasing activities, as set out in the IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024. Leases not included in this Order require the written consent of the Secretary of State.

2.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 2.1 IFRS 16 Leases came into force on 1st April 2024 and therefore North Yorkshire Council needs to ensure that local authority-maintained schools align with the updated legislative requirements.
- 2.2 In order to comply with the changes North Yorkshire Council will need to set the value of the local capitalisation threshold for leases for local authority-maintained schools. In

December 2017 North Yorkshire Education Partnership (now Schools Forum) approved a de minimis level for schools' capital expenditure of £2k. The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed that North Yorkshire Council is able to set the local capitalisation threshold for school leases as it is a local decision for the council to make in accordance with its accounting policy.

2.3 Under IFRS 16 Leases, the value of a lease for accounting purposes is based on the total value of the term of the lease, not just the in-year costs. Therefore, if the Council sets the local capitalisation threshold for leases at £2k (the de minimis level for schools' capital expenditure of £2k) it would include non-material, low value assets such as photocopiers, IT peripherals etc and would increase the administrative burden for schools.

2.4 The intention is for North Yorkshire Council's local capitalisation threshold to be set at £20k; it is recommended that the local capitalisation threshold for leases for local authority-maintained schools is also set at this level. When the Council accounts are prepared, the Council's threshold is applied when determining what leases are included.

3.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's budget from this proposal.

4.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 No specific legal implications are identified as a result of the recommendation contained within this report. The Council is required to comply with the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard.

5.0 **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 An Equalities Impact Screening Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken in respect of the proposal contained in this report. It is anticipated that there will be no impact on any persons with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The EIA is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

6.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 No climate change or environmental implications have been identified, through the completion of Climate Change Impact Assessments (Initial Screening Form), with the proposal outlined in this report. The Climate Change Impact Assessment (Initial Screening Form) is attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

7.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The local authority is required to comply with the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 CYPS Executive Members are asked to consider and approve the changes to the North Yorkshire Council accounting arrangements for leases for local authority-maintained schools.

EL MAYHEW

Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

Report prepared by: Howard Emmett, Assistant Director - Resources

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Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Central Services		
Service area	Resources - Finance		
Proposal being screened	A proposal to set the capitalisation threshold value within the North Yorkshire Council accounting arrangements for leases for local authority-maintained schools in order to comply with accounting standards.		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Sally Dunn		
What are you proposing to do?	North Yorkshire Council proposes to set the capitalisation threshold for leases for local authority-maintained schools at £20,000; this value reflects the Council's local lease capitalisation threshold.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	To comply with accounting standards (IFRS 16 Leases)		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No. There is no direct impact on the Council's budget from this proposal		
Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 			
If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		X	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (for example, disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		

Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	The proposal will impact on the accounting arrangements for local-authority maintained schools. The proposal is not deemed to result in a significant impact on the operations of local-authority maintained schools.			
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:	
Reason for decision	No adverse impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics.			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Howard Emmett			
Date	16/03/2026			

Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Title of proposal	The capitalisation threshold value for leases for North Yorkshire Council local authority-maintained schools
Brief description of proposal	North Yorkshire Council proposes to set the capitalisation threshold for leases for local authority-maintained schools at £20,000; this value reflects the Council's local lease capitalisation threshold. The capitalisation threshold is required to be set in order to comply with accounting standards.
Directorate	Resources
Service area	Finance
Lead officer	Howard Emmett
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Sally Dunn – Head of Finance – Schools, Early Years & High Needs

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

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Environmental factor to consider	For the county council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Decision (Please tick one option)	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full CCIA: <input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for decision	No environmental factor effects have been identified with the proposals related to the setting of the capitalisation threshold for leases for North Yorkshire Council local authority-maintained schools.	
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Howard Emmett	
Date	16/03/2026	

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North Yorkshire Council

Children and Young People's Service

Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Member

24 March 2026

Proposals for revised school organisation arrangements requested by federated governing boards of primary schools in North Yorkshire

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide the Executive Member with information upon which to determine the proposals made at the request of the following federated governing boards, to change their school organisation arrangements: -

- BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation
- Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation
- The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools; and
- The Synergy Schools Federation (Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School).

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 This report, together with appendices, provides the background to the publication of statutory proposals about the school organisation arrangements at four federations of schools.

2.2 The report provides information about the response to the publication of the statutory proposals and provides the following recommendations in respect of the determination of the statutory proposals and the agreement of discretionary arrangements for home to school travel which are linked to the proposals:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

Statutory Proposals

1. That West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School should be closed with effect from 31 March 2026
2. That the age range of Bainbridge Church of England Primary should be changed from 3-11 to 3-7 such that it should become Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School
3. That the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School should be changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that it should become Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School
4. That the two remaining schools should have a shared catchment area that comprises an amalgamation of the current catchment areas of the three schools
5. The PAN will be 15 at both Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School and Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School to reflect the pupil number forecast

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

Statutory Proposals

6. That the age range of Reeth Community Primary School is changed from 3-11 to 3-7, such that the school becomes Reeth Community Infant School

7. That the age range Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that the school becomes Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School
8. That the schools should have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
9. The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the combined pupil forecast

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Statutory Proposals

10. That the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 4-7 such that the school becomes Spennithorne Church of England Infant School
11. That the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 7-11 such that the school becomes Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School
12. That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
13. The PAN will be increased to 20 places at each school
14. That the status of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided.

Home to school travel discretionary arrangements

15. The Local Authority approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport, which would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.

The Synergy Schools Federation

16. That Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School be closed with effect from 13 April 2026, and be amalgamated with Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School
17. That Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School be enlarged onto the site of the Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School with effect from 13 April 2026
18. That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
19. The PAN for the school will be 15.

2.3 This report is supported by several appendices as listed below: -

- Appendix 1: Report of Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills – 11 September 2025
- Appendix 2: Report of Meeting of the Executive Committee – 16 December 2025
- Appendix 3: Statutory proposals and public notices in accordance with sections 15(1), 19(1) and 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Appendix 4: Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 sets out the procedures for making changes to and closing maintained schools.¹ These are detailed in School Organisation regulations and guidance. The regulations and guidance apply to Local Authorities and governing boards proposing changes, and to Local Authorities (including the Council's Executive and Executive Members) acting as decision-makers.
- 3.2 A copy of the report providing detailed information about the background to each of the proposals made by the federated governing boards is included at Appendix 1. On 11 September 2025 the Executive Member considered this report, approved consultations on the proposals identified within the report, and the consultations took place between 22 September 2025 and 7 November 2025.
- 3.3 A copy of the report to the Executive Committee providing detailed information about all the responses that were received is included at Appendix 2. At its meeting on 16 December 2025 the Executive Committee considered this report and approved a recommendation that statutory proposals be published. The statutory proposals were published on 12 January 2026, for four weeks.
- 3.4 In accordance with the DfE's Statutory Guidance for 'prescribed alterations', governing boards of voluntary controlled and aided schools are required to publish statutory proposals in respect to age range. The governing boards of the voluntary schools met in November and December 2025 and confirmed that, subject to the approval of the Council's Executive, they would publish, jointly with the Council on 12 January 2026, the required statutory proposals and notices for their voluntary schools.
- 3.5 A copy of each of the statutory proposals, including all the information required in the school organisation regulations and guidance, is attached as Appendix 3. Statutory notices were placed at the entrances of all the federated schools and published in the Darlington and Stockton Times newspaper, and the complete proposals were published on the Council's website.
- 3.6 Subject to the final approval of the proposals, the Executive also agreed on 16 December 2025 that the following home to school travel discretionary arrangements be approved:
- i) That the Council provides discretionary travel for children, already assessed as eligible for travel *and* on roll at schools on 1 September 2026, within the BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation, Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation and The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE schools for the duration of their education at the schools within the federation, subject to there being no change in their circumstances.
 - ii) That the Council approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport to Reeth and Gunnerside schools, which would be conditional upon the Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.

¹ School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013, School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, Department for Education statutory guidance Opening and closing maintained schools and Guidance for decision makers October 2024 and Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers August 2025.

- 3.7 On 12 March, following a further consideration of the issue, the federated governing board of The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE schools submitted an additional proposal for consideration, as noted below:

The Local Authority approves, through its discretion, a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home-to-school transport. This would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where this is required.

4.0 ISSUES RAISED IN RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Following the publication of the statutory notices the Council received no objections to the proposals.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no further capital or revenue implications beyond those identified in 'financial implications' sections of the reports to the Executive Member on 11 September 2025 and the Executive Committee on 16 December 2025, attached as appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

- 6.1 The consideration and determination of school organisation proposals by the Local Authority is set out in regulations and in guidance produced by the Department for Education.² Careful regard has been had to these provisions.
- 6.2 The Education & Inspections Act 2006 section 15 refer to proposals to discontinuance of schools. The statutory guidance refers to closure of schools, for the purpose of this report the term closure has been used.

PRELIMINARY CHECK

- 6.3 The Decision Maker must consider, on receipt of each proposal:
- whether any information is missing
 - whether the published notice of the proposal complies with statutory requirements
 - whether the statutory consultation has been carried out prior to the publication of the notice
 - and whether the proposal is related to other published proposals.
- Having undertaken an audit of these preliminary checks, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advises that:
- all information required has been supplied
 - the published notice complies with statutory requirements
 - statutory consultation has been carried out prior to publication of the notice
 - and that the preliminary points for consideration have been dealt with sufficiently to permit the Executive or Executive Members to proceed to determine this proposal.

² School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013, School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, Department for Education statutory guidance Opening and closing maintained schools and Guidance for decision makers October 2024 and Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers August 2025.

TYPES OF DECISION THAT CAN BE MADE

- 6.4 In considering school organisation proposals, the Executive (or the Executive Member for Education, Learning & Skills, if there are no objections received during the representation period), as Decision Makers can decide to:
- reject the proposals
 - approve the proposals
 - approve the proposals with a modification
 - approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition.

PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING

- 6.5 The Executive agreed on 25 September 2007 that in making a decision on school organisation proposals:
- (a) The decision maker must have regard to the Decision Makers' Guidance and to the Executive Procedure Rules laid down in the Council Constitution.
- (b) All decisions must give reasons for the decision, indicating the main factors/criteria for the decision.

7.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Human Rights issues in relation to this decision.

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of these proposals and is attached (Appendix 5).
- 8.2 There are no further implications beyond those identified in the reports to the Executive Member and Executive (appendices 1 and 2).

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of these proposals and is attached (Appendix 4).
- 9.2 The assessment concluded that there are no further implications beyond those identified in the reports to the Executive Member and Executive (appendices 1 and 2).

10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The recommendations contained within this report will:
- Ensure that the schools referenced above are compliant with the legislation and guidance that govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration
 - Provide a sustainable basis for the continued provision of high-quality education within their local communities; and
 - Establish discretionary arrangements for home to school travel provision in accordance with the proposals received from each federated governing board

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 That having undertaken the required preliminary checks, the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills resolves that the issues listed above in section 6.2 have been satisfied and there can be a determination of the proposals.

- 11.2 That the following statutory proposals should be determined, and discretionary home to school travel arrangements approved:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

Statutory Proposals

1. That West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School should be closed with effect from 31 March 2026
2. That the age range of Bainbridge Church of England Primary should be changed from 3-11 to 3-7 such that it should become Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School
3. That the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School should be changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that it should become Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School
4. That the two remaining schools should have a shared catchment area that comprises an amalgamation of the current catchment areas of the three schools
5. The PAN will be 15 at both Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School and Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School to reflect the pupil number forecast

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

Statutory Proposals

6. That the age range of Reeth Community Primary School is changed from 3-11 to 3-7, such that the school becomes Reeth Community Infant School
7. That the age range Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that the school becomes Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School
8. That the schools should have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
9. The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the combined pupil forecast

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Statutory Proposals

10. That the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 4-7 such that the school becomes Spennithorne Church of England Infant School
11. That the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 7-11 such that the school becomes Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School
12. That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
13. The PAN will be increased to 20 places at each school
14. That the status of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided.

Home to school travel discretionary arrangements

15. The Local Authority approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport, which would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.

The Synergy Schools Federation

16. That Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School be closed with effect from 13 April 2026, and be amalgamated with Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School
17. That Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School be enlarged onto the site of the Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School with effect from 13 April 2026
18. That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
19. The PAN for the school will be 15.

El Mayhew

Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

Report prepared by: Jon Holden, Head of School Organisation and Transport,
Mark Ashton, Strategic Planning Officer

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Report of Corporate Director Meeting to Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills – 11 September 2025
- Appendix 2: Report to the Executive Committee – 16 December 2025
- Appendix 3: Statutory proposals and public notices
- Appendix 4: Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment

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North Yorkshire Council

Children and Young People's Service

Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Member

9 September 2025

Proposals for revised school organisation arrangements requested by federated governing boards of primary schools in North Yorkshire

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides information about the current school organisation arrangements that are being operated by several primary school federations within the county, and the action that is proposed by the following federated governing boards to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration ('the regulations'). In the following three cases the proposals made by the federated governing boards will require that consultation is undertaken:

- BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation
- Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation
- The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

1.2 The report also provides information about a proposal made by the Federated Governing Board of the Synergy Schools Federation to amalgamate Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School with effect from April 2026. This proposal will also require that a consultation is undertaken.

1.3 The report seeks the Executive Member's approval for four consultation exercises to be undertaken relating to the proposals made by the above federated governing boards.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 This report provides information about the alternative school organisation models that have been considered by each governing board, and the proposals that have been made for the future school organisation arrangements within each of the federations.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The DfE's guidance, 'Federations: guidance on the governance processes' defined a federation as 'two or more maintained schools operating under the governance of a single governing body' but identified that each school within a federation is treated as an individual school, including for admissions purposes.

3.2 Through the provision of a formal framework for collaborative working for schools, federations have been identified as providing the potential for a range of benefits including shared governance and leadership, enhanced educational opportunities and resource efficiency.

3.3 The following four federations within North Yorkshire further developed their models to include at least some cross-federation class structures. These involve pupils in one or more-year groups from within each of the federated schools being educated at schools that the individual pupils are not registered. In each case the federated governing board provided transport for some pupils to move between the schools involved in the federation. These federations are:

- BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation
- Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation
- The Federation of Follifoot and Spofforth CE Primary Schools
- The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

3.4 The federated governing boards established these arrangements in response to falling roll numbers, and the arrangements have been successful in enabling the federated schools to achieve efficiencies whilst continuing to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils.

3.5 During summer 2024, the council received legal advice that the models that had been established by the federations noted above were not compliant with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration. The advice, which was partly informed by information provided by the Department for Education (DfE), noted that pupils are required to receive their education at the school at which they are registered.

3.6 This advice was provided to each of the federated governing boards with a request that they consider the school organisation options available to them and make proposals for their future organisation which would take account of local circumstances including transport, school funding arrangements and which would enable compliance with the regulations to be achieved.

3.7 Each federated governing board were requested to consider the four school organisation models that are described in Section 4 below and were provided with indicative school funding models that set out the potential impact upon the federation's budget arising from each of the options. They were asked to develop a proposal which represented a sustainable solution for the federation whilst enabling them to achieve compliance with the admissions and registration regulations.

3.8 In addition to the above, the Council has also received a proposal from the Governing Board of the Synergy Federation for the amalgamation of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School with effect from April 2026. This proposal has been made in response to low pupil numbers on the roll of each school, and to provide a basis for the continued improvement of the educational provision for pupils. The schools are already compliant with admissions and registration requirements.

4.0 SCHOOL ORGANISATION OPTIONS CONSIDERED TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION REGULATIONS

4.1 The Council advised the federated governing boards of the following potential solutions to enable compliance to be achieved:

- Continue as separate primary schools with pupils receiving their education at the school at which they are registered
- Establishing one primary school at one of the existing school sites, closing one school
- Establishing one primary school to operate from the existing sites through amalgamation; or
- Restructuring the primary schools to establish separate infant and junior schools to operate from the existing sites.

4.2 Each of the four governing boards reviewed each of the options prior to reaching a conclusion about their preferred option, taking account of the specific circumstances that applied to the schools in their federation.

4.3 The table below provides a summary of the issues considered: -

Description	
1. Continue as two separate primary schools.	This option would require teaching all seven primary groups in each primary school, with all pupils receiving their education at the school at which they are registered.
2. Become one primary school on one of the sites.	This option, which would involve school closure, and all pupils being educated at the remaining school (subject to parental choice). The continuing school would receive funding as a single school in accordance with the usual school funding arrangements.
3. Become one school across several sites.	This option would involve the amalgamation of the federated schools into a single primary school that could operate at more than one site. It would require the technical closure of the other school. The continuing school would receive funding as a single school in accordance with the usual arrangements, and the funding would include an element of split site funding.
4. Restructure as separate infant and junior schools.	This fourth option involves the retention of separate schools but with revised age ranges and a transition at age 7, between two schools (subject to parental preferencing). The schools would receive funding in accordance with the usual arrangements but with smaller age ranges available for admissions.

4.4 Having undertaken a detailed appraisal of the options for the future organisational arrangements of their schools, as detailed above, and having reviewed a range of implications arising from each option, including financial implications, the Governing Boards of three of the federations have requested that the Council undertake consultations on their proposals to restructure into separate infant and junior schools.

5.0 EACH FEDERATIONS' CONSIDERATION OF THE OPTIONS AND THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE FEDERATED GOVERNING BOARDS

5.1 The federated governing boards considered each of the options identified above and submitted the linked proposals set out below for consideration:

5.2 BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

The Federated Governing Board of BAWB suspended teaching at West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School with effect from September 2024, due to the low number of pupils on roll at the school for the academic year 2024-2025. Pupils registered at the school continued to be educated at the other schools within the federation.

The table below provides a summary of the Federated Governing Board's conclusions:

Description	Why was the option <u>Discounted</u> or <u>Recommended</u> ?	Result
1. Continue as three separate primary schools.	The Governing Board did not consider there to be sufficient pupils on roll at the schools for this to be a viable option.	Discounted
2. Become one primary school on one of the sites.	The Governing Board concluded that there would be insufficient space on one school site for the full age range, including nursery provision.	Discounted
3. Become one school across two or three sites.	Utilising the indicative financial model provided by the council, the Governing Board identified that this option would result in a significant reduction in the revenue received compared to that currently received by the federation and considered that that would have a detrimental impact upon the schools if it were to be pursued.	Discounted
4. Restructure as separate infant and junior schools and close one school	<p>The Governing Board considered that this option would improve education of children in their peer groups by enabling classes with a narrower age range than Option 1 above, and that it provided a more financially viable solution than Option 3 above.</p> <p>The Governing Board concluded that it should propose that West Burton CofE (VC) should be closed, and that the proposed infant and junior schools should be established at the other two sites.</p> <p>The Governing Board noted that either school may not be the nearest suitable school (for transport eligibility purposes) for all children living in the proposed joint catchment area.</p>	The federated governing board requested that the Council consider a number of linked proposals arising from their conclusion and, if approved, to undertake the required statutory processes to enable them to be implemented.

The the following linked proposals have been requested for consideration by the Council:

- That West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School should be closed (this is detailed further below, in section 6 of this report)
- That the age range of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School should be changed from 3-11 to 3-7 such that it should become Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Infant and Nursery School
- That the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School should be changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that it should become Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School;
- That the two remaining schools should have a shared catchment area that comprises an amalgamation of the current catchment areas of the three schools.
- To establish a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 15 at each of the two schools
- That the proposal be implemented from 1 September 2026

5.3 Federation of Follifoot and Spofforth Schools

The table below provides a summary of the federated governing board's conclusions arising from their consideration of the options:

Description	Why was the option <u>Discounted</u> or <u>Recommended</u> ?	Outcome
1. Continue as two separate primary schools.	The Federated Governing Board considered that this was the most suitable option, but noted the requirement for works to be completed at Follifoot CofE (VC) Primary School to enable Reception aged pupils to receive their education the school.	Recommended
2. Become one primary school on one of the sites.	The Federated Governing Board concluded that there would be insufficient space on one school site for the full age range.	Discounted
3. Become one school across two sites.	Utilising the indicative financial model provided by the council, the Federated Governing Board identified that this option would result in a significant reduction in the revenue received compared to that currently received by the Federation and considered that that would have a detrimental impact upon the schools if it were to be pursued.	Discounted
4. Restructure as separate infant and junior schools.	The Federated Governing Board did not consider this to be a suitable proposal.	Discounted

Currently children in reception class are registered at Follifoot but are educated alongside their peers in Spofforth. The Federated Governing Board have advised the council that it is their intention to undertake works at Follifoot CofE (VC) Primary School to achieve compliance with the regulations by providing their Follifoot registered reception pupils with their education at the Follifoot school site in the summer term of 2026, this will support their transition into Year 1. All new pupils after this date will be educated at the site at which they are registered.

This change will not require that a statutory process is undertaken and does not require the council to take any further action.

5.4 Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

Description	Why was the option <u>Discounted</u> or <u>Recommended</u> ?	Result
1. Continue as two separate primary schools.	The Governing Board did not consider there to be sufficient pupils on roll at either school for this to be a viable option.	Discounted
2. Become one primary school	The Governing Board concluded that there would be insufficient space on one school site	Discounted

on one of the sites.	for the full age range, including nursery provision.	
3. Become one school across two sites.	Utilising the indicative financial model provided by the council, the Governing Board identified that this option would result in a significant reduction in the revenue received compared to that currently received by the federation and considered that that would have a detrimental impact upon the schools if it were to be pursued.	Discounted
4. Restructure as separate infant and junior schools.	<p>Utilising the indicative financial model provided by the council, the Federated Governing Board identified this option as providing the most sustainable solution. It concluded that the option would enable the current efficiencies associated with the federation to be maintained, without the significant financial impact associated with Option 3 above.</p> <p>The Federated Governing Board noted a risk arising from the Home to School Transport Policy such that, if a joint catchment area is served, then for some pupils the infant or junior schools may not be the nearest suitable school to their home address for travel eligibility purposes.</p>	The federated governing board requested that the Council consider a number of linked proposals arising from their conclusion and, if approved, to undertake the required statutory process to enable them to be implemented.

Arising from their consideration of the options the Federated Governing Board have submitted the following linked proposals for consideration by the Council:

- That the age range of Reeth Community Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 4-7, such that the school becomes Reeth Community Infant School
- That the age range Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that the school becomes Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas; and
- The Local Authority approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport, which would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.
- To establish a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 15 at each of the two schools
- That the proposal be implemented from 1 September 2026

5.5 The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

The table below provides a summary of the Federated Governing Board's conclusions arising from their consideration of the options:

Description	Why was the option <u>Discounted</u> or <u>Recommended</u> ?	Result
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1. Continue as two separate primary schools.	The Governing Board did not consider there to be sufficient pupils on roll at either school for this to be a viable option.	Discounted
2. Become one primary school on one of the sites.	The Governing Board concluded that there would be insufficient space on one school site for the full age range, including nursery provision.	Discounted
3. Become one school across two sites.	Utilising the indicative financial model provided by the council, the Governing Board identified that this option would result in a significant reduction in the revenue received compared to that currently received by the federation and considered that that would have a detrimental impact upon the schools if it were to be pursued.	Discounted
4. Restructure as separate infant and junior schools.	<p>Utilising the indicative financial model provided by the council, the Federated Governing Board identified this option as providing the most sustainable solution. It concluded that the option would enable the current efficiencies associated with the federation to be maintained, without the significant financial impact associated with Option 3 above.</p> <p>The Federated Governing Board noted a risk arising from the Home to School Transport Policy such that, if a joint catchment area is served, then for some pupils the infant or junior schools may not be the nearest suitable school to their home address for travel eligibility purposes.</p>	The Governing Board requested that the Council undertake consultation of a proposal to establish this option on the basis of the linked proposals below.

Arising from their consideration of the options the Federated Governing Board have submitted the following linked proposals for consideration by the Council:

- That the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School be changed from being 4-11 to 4-7 such that the school becomes Spennithorne Church of England Infant School
- That the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School be changed 4-11 to 7-11 such that the school become Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- That the Local Authority through its discretion continue to provide transport to either Spennithorne Church of England Infant School or Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School to all eligible pupils on roll at either school as of 1 September 2026
- That the status of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided (this is detailed further below, in Section 7).
- To establish a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 20 at each of the two schools

- That the proposal be implemented from 1 September 2026

5.7 School organisation proposals for Church of England schools would also require approval from the Diocesan Board of Education, and for Gunnerside Methodist Primary School from the Methodist Church.

6.0 The Proposed Closure of West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

- 6.1 West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is a rural school. The DfE's guidance (Opening and closing maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, October 2024) notes that decision makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, the guidance confirmed that this does not mean that a rural school will never close but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.
- 6.2 The school has a capacity for 51 pupils and there are currently 14 pupils on the school's roll.
- 6.3 In 2013 Askrigg and Bainbridge schools formed a collaboration and in 2014 West Burton joined the collaboration. In 2016, the BAWB Federation was created and "BAWB" refers to the first letter of each school name. Due to the organisation arrangements that were implemented by the Federation, 22 pupils received their education at the school and the remaining pupils were transported to the other schools within the federation, where they received their education alongside peers from other schools. West Burton Church of England Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2023 which judged the overall effectiveness of the school to be Good.
- 6.4 The BAWB Federation's Governing Board temporarily suspended teaching at the West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School site with effect from 1 September 2024, and transported pupils registered at the school to either the Bainbridge or Askrigg sites, according to their age. This decision was taken because of the low numbers on the school roll, and because of issues associated with the transport of pupils between the various school sites, this included a loss of learning time within in the school day. The Federated Governing Board considered that the decision was necessary to ensure the continued provision of high-quality education within the federation.
- 6.5 There are currently three neighbouring schools located within 10 miles of West Burton Primary School, including the two federation schools at Askrigg and Bainbridge. Across the three schools there is a combined net capacity of 163 places but there is currently a total of 85 surplus places.
- 6.6 As noted above, the Federated Governing Board's proposal regarding the closure of West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School forms part of a series of linked proposals which includes a proposal for the school's catchment area to be combined with those of Bainbridge and Askrigg.
- 6.7 The council will engage with the parents of all pupils who are registered on West Burton's roll to discuss the requirement for them to apply for an alternative school place should a

closure be agreed, including if it is their intention to transfer to either of the proposed infant or junior schools in the federation.

6.8 The school site is wholly owned by a charitable trust and will revert to the trust if a decision is made for it to close.

7.0 Proposal to change the category of Spennithorne Church of England School from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided

7.1 The Federated Governing Board of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools has requested that the category of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided as part of a series of linked school organisation proposals.

7.2 Joint working with Middleham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School could be enhanced should Spennithorne become a Voluntary Aided School due to greater alignment between the two schools. For example:

- the schools would have the same Religious Education syllabus enabling greater shared provision;
- the federated governing board would be the single employer of staff, making shared staffing arrangements easier;
- the inspection processes under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework would be more aligned.

7.3 As a Voluntary Aided school, the federated governing board would become the Admissions Authority and therefore be responsible for determining the school's admission arrangements, with admissions applications continuing to be processed under North Yorkshire Council's co-ordinated admissions scheme.

7.4 In a Voluntary Aided school, the federated governing board is the employer of all staff, rather than the local authority. Staff in Spennithorne would automatically transfer their employment on their existing terms and conditions from the local authority to the federated governing board under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE).

7.5 The local authority receives school condition allocation to invest in priorities across the schools for which they are responsible, including Voluntary Controlled schools. As a Voluntary Aided school, Spennithorne would not look to the local authority for this funding, instead, the Diocese receives school condition allocation to distribute based on an assessment of priorities across the Voluntary Aided schools in the Diocese. As a Voluntary Aided school, Spennithorne would be responsible for making a 10% statutory contribution to all capital works funded from school condition allocation funding or Devolved Formula Capital.

8.0 How will the federated schools operate?

8.1 In all cases, the federated governing boards have confirmed their intention to continue to operate as federations in order that they can continue to derive the benefits associated with doing so, and which are identified at 3.2 above.

8.2 Under the proposed new structure, children would be taught at the school in which they are registered within the BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation, Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation, and The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools. the following would also apply:

8.3 Transition

Transition between Key Stages would be marked since it would coincide with a transition between schools. It is considered that the federated schools would work together to deliver a smooth transition and help to ensure that the good progress made by children at Key Stage 1 is maintained and built upon at Key Stage 2.

8.4 Admissions

Pupils on roll at the infant school would not automatically transfer to the junior school. It would be necessary to apply for a place at the junior school, for provision through to age 11. Parents of children attending the infant school would need to express a preference and when they are making their decision parents could also express a preference for any alternative school.

Admissions to maintained and voluntary controlled schools would continue to be managed by the local authority in accordance with its admission policy for community and voluntary controlled schools. The governing bodies of voluntary aided schools would continue to control their own admissions.

8.5 Maintained Schools with a Religious Designation

Schools changing their age range would retain their existing status (community, voluntary controlled or voluntary aided) and those which currently have a religious designation would retain this.

8.6 Admissions Catchment Areas

Under the proposals, the infant and junior schools within each federation would serve the catchment areas which are currently separately served by each primary school. For this reason, the catchment areas within each federation would be merged, with each extended to include the other.

8.7 Home to school travel implications

Eligibility for assistance with home to school travel would be determined in accordance with the Council's home to school travel policy, including any decision to provide discretionary eligibility linked to the individual proposals.

Each federation has asked that special considerations or discretion be given to pupils already on roll at the point that consultation is requested in September 2025.

The tables below identify the expected number of pupils within each federation by year group, and who have been assessed as having eligibility for assistance with home to school travel from their existing home address to the school at which they are registered (i.e. under either the 2019 Home to School Transport Policy or the 2024 Home to School Travel Policy).

BAWB Federation

Year Group	Askrigg CE	Bainbridge CE	Total
Reception		1	1

Y1	2	1	3
Y2	1	6	7
Y3	2	2	4
Y4		5	5
Y5	2	1	3
Y6	3	4	7
Total	10	20	30

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

Year Group	Reeth Community Primary School	Gunnerside	Total
Reception	6	5	11
Y1	5	4	9
Y2	6		6
Y3	7	5	12
Y4	2	1	3
Y5	6	5	11
Y6	3	5	8
Total	35	25	60

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Year Group	Middleham CE (VA) Primary School	Spennithorne CE VC Primary School	Total
Reception	2		2
Y1	2	1	3
Y2	1	4	5
Y3	2		2
Y4	1	3	4
Y5	2		2
Y6	2		2
Total	12	8	20

Any new applications for assistance with home to school travel to either school received after 3 September 2025 would only be considered under the current home to school travel policy, unless part of a linked proposal that is decided by the Council.

8.8 Sites and Buildings

The Federated Governing Board of Follifoot and Spofforth CE Primary Schools has noted the requirement for works to be completed at Follifoot CofE (VC) Primary School to enable Reception aged pupils to receive their education the school.

If Spennithorne CE changed category from a Voluntary Controlled to a Voluntary Aided school, there would be no change of ownership of the building. The landlord of Spennithorne School House is the Rector, Church Wardens and Trustees of School House Trust and the landlord of land adjoining Spennithorne CE Primary School is Trustees of the Ferrand Family Irrevocable Trust.

There would be no necessity for landlord consent for a change of age range at Askrigg. The landlord, Yorebridge Educational Foundation, recently signed a lease agreement with NYC from 1/04/2024 – 31/03/2049. 'The Authorised Use' of the premises is educational use only, with no specific mention of age-range.

The West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary site is managed but not owned by the Council. The absence of any information in the NYC deed packet would indicate that the whole site is owned by a trust. A note from 1989 states that the deeds for the school are held by the Church Authority.

8.9 Learning and Progress

In each case the federated governing boards have confirmed that pupils would be in class groups with their peers. The proposals of separate infant and junior schools share the benefit of greater numbers of children being taught together in similar age groups and curriculum groups. The schools would aim to have integrated arrangements for the assessment of learning, including recording of progress and transition across the infant and junior schools. As now, each separate school would have its own Ofsted inspection and its own budget. With the agreement of the governing board and approval of local authority officers, schools within federations can continue to request to amalgamate budgets.

8.10 Pupil Numbers and Proposed Published Admission Numbers (PANs)

The Published Admission Number (PAN) is the number of school places that the admission authority must offer in each relevant age group of a school. The relevant age group is the age group at which pupils are normally admitted to the school e.g. Reception for a primary school or infant school, and Year 3 for a junior school.

8.10.1 BAWB Federation

As of January 2025, there were 44 pupils registered at Bainbridge Church of England Primary School, 14 pupils registered at West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and 33 pupils registered at Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School. These numbers do not reflect pupils being educated at the three schools, since teaching is currently grouped by age group, irrespective of the school in which they are registered.

Based on projected pupil numbers in 2025/6, including pupils from new open market housing, the forecast pupil numbers in the proposed re-organised infant and junior schools are set out below:

Year	2026/27		2027/28	
	Bainbridge Infant	Askrigg Junior	Bainbridge Infant	Askrigg Junior
Reception	11		11	
Year 1	10		11	
Year 2	5		10	
Year 3		16		5
Year 4		12		16
Year 5		10		12
Year 6		10		10
Total	26*	48	32*	43

Potential 9 further pupils from 35 houses with existing permissions and 35 Local Plan houses	+9
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Based on May 2025 school census and assumes all pupils currently enrolled at West Burton CE transfer to Askrigg or Bainbridge

*Not including nursery pupils

Currently, the PAN of Bainbridge Church of England Primary School is 12, the PAN of West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary is 12 and the PAN at Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School is 12. Given the pupil forecast of circa 11 Reception pupils across the Federation, it is not proposed to combine these individual PANs to make a combined PAN of 36. Instead, it is proposed to increase the PANs at the retained Askrigg and Bainbridge sites to 15 allowing choice for parents and accommodating all children within the buildings, which have net capacities of 79 and 84 places respectively. The proposed PANs of 15 would accommodate combining three Reception intakes and takes account of future pupil projections.

It is important to ensure sufficient school places in the local area. BAWB schools are currently in the Outer Wensleydale school place planning area and, even with the proposed closure of West Burton CE, there would remain surplus spaces in the locality.

8.10.2 Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

As of January 2025, there were 58 pupils registered at Reeth Community Primary School and 35 pupils registered at Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School. These numbers do not reflect pupils in the two schools, since they are taught together by age group, irrespective of the school in which they are registered.

Based on projected pupil numbers in 2025/6, including pupils from new open market housing, the forecast pupil numbers in the proposed re-organised infant and junior schools are set out below:

Year	2026/27		2027/28	
	Reeth Infant	Gunnerside Junior	Reeth Infant	Gunnerside Junior
Reception	15		15	
Year 1	18		15	
Year 2	11		18	
Year 3		17		11
Year 4		13		17
Year 5		6		13
Year 6		18		6
Total	44	54	48	47
Potential +9 pupils from 35 houses with existing permissions and 0 Local Plan houses				+9

Based on May 2025 school census

Currently, the PAN of Reeth is 8 and the PAN of Gunnerside is 7. It is proposed to increase the PANs at both schools to 15. This increase is to accommodate combining two Reception intakes and takes account of future pupil projections.

It is important to ensure sufficient school places in the local area. Both schools are in the Outer Wensleydale school place planning area and there are surplus spaces in the locality.

8.10.3 Pupil Numbers and Proposed PANs at the Federation of Spennithorne and Middleham

As of January 2025, there were 42 pupils registered at Spennithorne CE VC Primary School and 50 pupils registered at Middleham CE VA Primary School. These numbers do not reflect pupils in the two schools, since they are grouped together by year group, irrespective of the school in which they are registered.

Based on projected pupil numbers in 2025/6, including pupils from new open market housing, the forecast pupil numbers in the proposed re-organised Infant and Junior schools are set out below:

Year	2026/27		2027/28	
	Spennithorne Infant	Middleham Junior	Spennithorne Infant	Middleham Junior
Reception	16		16	
Year 1	15		16	
Year 2	17		15	
Year 3		15		17
Year 4		9		15
Year 5		17		9
Year 6		13		17
Total	48	54	47	58
Potential 19 further pupils from 76 houses with existing permissions				+19

Based on May 2025 school census

Currently, the PAN of Spennithorne is 13 and the PAN of Middleham is 15. It is proposed to increase the PANs at both schools to 20. This increase is to accommodate combining two Reception intakes and takes account of future pupil projections.

It is important to ensure sufficient school places in the local area. Both schools are in the sparsely populated Outer Wensleydale school place planning area and there are surplus spaces in the locality.

9.0 **The Proposal to Amalgamate Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools**

9.1.1 Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Primary Schools are part of the Synergy Schools Federation, which is a federation of six primary schools within North Yorkshire, for which governance is provided via a single federated governing board and leadership by an Executive Headteacher. The schools, which have adjacent catchment areas serving the Leeming area, south of Bedale, joined the federation in 2024 and 2021 respectively.

9.2 Both schools have low numbers of pupils on roll. Aiskew Leeming Bar has a net capacity of 103 places, with 47 pupils on roll in the May 2025 census, while Leeming and Londonderry has a net capacity of 56 places, with 24 pupils on roll in the May 2025 pupil census. Both operate similar two class structures that involve Reception and Key Stage 1 cohorts being educated in one class, and Key Stage 2 children in other classes.

9.3 Following the incorporation of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School into the Synergy Federation work has been undertaken to improve the quality of the education provision within both schools and the federated governing board have undertaken consideration of alternative models for the organisation of the schools to allow for further improvement in learning.

10.0 School Organisation Options Considered by the Federated Governing Board

10.1 The board have considered the following options for the future organisation of their two schools: -

- Continue as two separate 4-11 primary schools with pupils receiving their education at the school at which they are registered
- Establishing one primary school at one of the existing school sites, eg close Leeming and Londonderry.
- Establishing one primary school to operate from both existing sites; and

10.2 The Governing Board reviewed each of the options and considered a range of criteria, including the potential impact upon teaching and learning, management and financial implications prior to reaching a conclusion about its preferred option.

10.3 The table below provides a summary of the issues considered:

Description	Why was the option Discounted or Recommended?	Result
1. Continue as two separate primary schools.	<p>This option would involve all year groups, from Reception to Year 6, in both schools.</p> <p>An advantage of this option is that no parents or children are unsettled. However, pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with multiple year groups in one class and socialisation with similar aged peers is not improved. Curriculum is more limited that in classes with smaller age-ranges.</p> <p>The Governing Board did not consider that there are sufficient pupils on roll at either school for this to be a viable option, and it was agreed that this would have the potential to have a negative impact upon the quality of the schools' educational provision.</p>	Discounted
2. Become one primary school on one of the sites.	<p>This second option would involve the closure of one school.</p> <p>Teaching all pupils in one building with larger peer groups would enable peer group teaching and selection of the site at Aiskew would give pupils better access to outside space. However, the federation board considered that there would not be adequate space on either site for the age range, which would now include nursery aged children.</p> <p>The option would also result in a significant reduction in the revenue received compared to that currently received by the federation which the governing board considered would have a</p>	Discounted

	detrimental impact. In particular, it would mean that a proposed new structure of four classes would not be affordable.	
3. Become one school across two sites.	<p>This option involves amalgamating into a 4 –11 Primary School, with a governor led nursery, across the two existing sites, with the technical closure of one school and the expansion onto an additional site of the other school.</p> <p>The federation board noted a joint catchment area could be served and that this option would gain split site funding which would result in a smaller reduction in revenue received compared to Option 2. This would mean that the new class structure of four classes could be afforded. With only two-year groups in each class, teaching all pupils in larger peer groups would help their socialisation.</p> <p>With the two sites there could be space to extend early years provision and operate a pre-school.</p>	The Governing Board requested that the Council undertake consultation of a proposal to establish this option.

10.4 Having undertaken a detailed appraisal of the options for the future organisational arrangements of the schools, as detailed above, and reviewed a range of implications, the Governing Board has requested that the Council undertake a consultation on their proposal to amalgamate Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School.

11.0 The Federated Governing Board's Proposal

11.1 The Federated Governing Board have proposed the following: -

- That Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School amalgamate with effect from 13 April 2026
- That this would be achieved through the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and the expansion of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School onto an additional site (the Leeming and Londonderry School site)
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- To establish a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 15

11.2 Under the proposed new structure, all children would be registered at the primary school but the governor led nursery and Reception children would be taught in the EYFS classes at the Leeming and Londonderry site. Another 3 classes, consisting of Year 1 & 2 children in one class, Years 3 & 4 in another, and Y5 & 6 children in another, would be taught at the Aiskew Leeming Bar site. The single primary school would continue to be funded and supported by the local authority with staff employed by the local authority.

11.3 Pupils would transfer from one site to the other at the start of Year 1 via a managed transition. Teachers would be better able to plan for the change and develop a better

understanding of the needs of pupils in different key stages within the context of an amalgamated school.

- 11.4 Under the amalgamation proposal there would also be the flexibility to change the age of transfer at the beginning of an academic year, should pupil numbers dictate
- 11.5 Currently each school has a separate Ofsted inspection, but the single school would have a single Ofsted inspection.
- 11.6 An important part of the proposal is that the single primary school would remain part of Synergy Schools, under a single federated governing board and would continue to be led by an Executive Headteacher. Admissions to the school would be managed by the local authority in accordance with its admission policy for community and voluntary controlled schools.

11.7 A Maintained School with a Religious Designation

The Federated Governing Board have proposed that Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School would be the continuing school. As a result, the amalgamated school would retain the existing denominational status and would be a voluntary controlled school with a Church of England designation.

- 11.8 The Federated Governing Board have undertaken informal consultation with the Diocese of Leeds during their consideration of the options, and the Diocese will be consulted as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

11.9 School Place Sufficiency

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available locally to meet the requirements of pupils locally. Utilising projected pupil numbers in 2025/6, including pupils from new open market housing, Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School is forecast to have a pupil roll of 47 while Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School is forecast a pupil roll of approximately 24 pupils. The schools have net capacities of 103 and 56 respectively and 77 and 29 pupils currently living within the two catchments.

Currently, the PAN of Aiskew Leeming Bar is 14 and the PAN of Leeming and Londonderry is 8. It is proposed to that the PAN of the amalgamated school will be 15. This increase will accommodate combining the two Reception intakes and takes account of future pupil projections.

- 11.10 There are 8 other primary schools within the Outer Bedale school place planning area and there will be an overall reduction in places.

DfE No.	Outer Bedale Primary School	Net Capacity	NOR 2025 - May	Position 2026/27	-/+ capacity (May 2025)
3001	Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE	103	47	49	56
3337	Burneston CE VA	133	117	137	16
3020	Crakehall CE	106	113	118	-7
2063	Hunton and Arrathorne CP	70	86	90	-16
2040	Leeming and Londonderry CP	56	24	26	32
2166	Leeming RAF CP	280	156	143	124
2133	Snape CP	52	30	25	22
3124	St Nicholas CE, West Tanfield	70	44	47	26
3119	Thornton Watlass CE	51	21	12	30
		921	638	647	283

11.11 The above table shows that across the area there is a general surplus of places.

12.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

12.1 Through continuing with the federations and ensuring school communities are collaborating closely, all of the proposals outlined above, if implemented, will contribute to the 'Place and Environment' vision in the Council Plan. Through supporting pupils to have a good quality of life, they will also contribute to the 'Health, Wellbeing and People' vision in the Council Plan.

13.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

13.1 A detailed appraisal of alternatives to the each of the alternatives that have been proposed by each federated governing boards is provided within this report above

13.2 Having undertaken the detailed option appraisal outlined in Section 4 above, the Governing Boards informed parents and the local community about their proposals for the future organisational arrangements of each school.

14.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Capital Position

Capital investment is not included within the proposal.

14.2 Revenue Position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposal would not lead to an increase in revenue funding. The school organisation proposal of infant and junior schools provides the same level of funding across the federation as that currently received by the separate schools with the lump sum funding retained for each school. In an amalgamation of two schools (Option 3 above), one school's lump sum would cease and whilst an amalgamated school across two sites may receive split site funding, this would be a reduced funding amount compared to the lump sum funding for the two schools. Under the BAWB proposal all funding for West Burton CE VC Primary School would cease.

14.3 Federated governing boards can request to amalgamate their individual school budgets; these arrangements could continue under the infant and junior school proposals.

14.4 Based on the proposal taking effect during the start of 2026/27 financial year, and other things being equal, the governing boards have determined the optimum funding position, based on best estimates of revenue funding for each financial year for the individual schools within the federations. Irrespective of this school organisation proposal, the federation governing boards are continuously required to oversee financial management, and this includes considering efficiency actions where improvements are identified as being necessary in the school financial forecast.

15.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 Legal advice has been provided to the federations by North Yorkshire Council that explains that the school that the child is admitted to, and is registered at, on their admission register, is required to educate the child, at that physical school. Whilst there are provisions that allow schools to educate a pupil offsite, the formal arrangements that the federations have been using go beyond the parliamentary intent. Furthermore, whilst the federation

arrangements are in place for the governing board, the schools remain individual legal entities. Therefore, legally, statutory proposals would need to be agreed by the following bodies:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

- i) North Yorkshire Council would publish proposals to close West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.
- ii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School to change the age range of the school to 3 to 7 years.
- iii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School to change the age range of the school to 7 to 11 years.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

- i) North Yorkshire Council would publish proposals for Reeth Community Primary School to change the age range of the school to 4 to 7 years.
- ii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School to change the age range of the school to 7 to 11 years.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

- i) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School to change the age range of the school to 4 to 7 years.
- ii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided Primary School to change the age range of the school to 7 to 11 years.
- iii) The federated governing board would publish their proposal to change the status of Spennithorne from a Voluntary Controlled to a Voluntary Aided school

15.2 In order that the proposal by the Synergy Federation can be progressed the following statutory proposal would need to be agreed:

- (i) North Yorkshire Council would publish proposals to amalgamate Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School through the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and the expansion of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School onto an additional site (the Leeming and Londonderry school site).

15.3 These proposals will follow the DfE's statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers. (DfE, 'Opening and closing maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' and 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers')

16.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

16.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached (Appendix 4).

17.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

17.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached (Appendix 5)

18.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS AND TIMESCALES

18.1 A period of six weeks of consultation is proposed. An indicative timetable is set out below.

- 18.2 The final decision on the linked proposals would be taken by the Executive (or by the Executive Member if there are no objections) and, if agreed, the proposals would be implemented from 1 September 2026

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	22 Sept 2025
Public meetings	During Sept and Oct 2025
Consultation closes	7 Nov 2025
North Yorkshire Council's Executive considers consultation responses	16 Dec 2025
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	12 January – 6 February 2026
Final decision by North Yorkshire Council's Executive	17 March 2026
Implementation	1 September 2026

19.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 19.1 Separate staff consultation processes, including meetings for staff and their professional associations and unions, would run in parallel with these consultations.

20.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 20.1 The current school organisation arrangements that are being operated by five federated governing boards are not compliant with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration, and action is required to be taken to implement compliant arrangements.
- 20.2 The federated governing boards, including Synergy Federation's governing board, have undertaken a thorough assessment of the different school organisation options available to them and have made proposals that will achieve or maintain compliance and provide a sustainable basis for the future provision of education within each locality.
- 20.3 Where the proposals made require that statutory processes are undertaken, each federated governing boards and council officers agree that it is desirable that the views of the school community and key stakeholders should be sought on the school organisation proposals.

21.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 21.1 To ensure that the school organisation arrangements operated by the above federated governing boards are compliant with the legislation and guidance that govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration.

22.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

22.1 The Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills is recommended to: -

1. Note the action that is proposed by the Federated Governing Board of The Federation of Follifoot and Spofforth CE Primary Schools to achieve compliance with the regulations; and
2. Give approval to consult on the following proposals:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

- That the age range of Bainbridge Church of England Primary should be changed from 3-11 to 3-7 such that it should become Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School
- That the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School should be changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that it should become Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School
- That West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School should be closed; and
- That the two remaining schools should have a shared catchment area that comprises an amalgamation of the current catchment areas of the three schools.
- The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the pupil forecast.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation:

- That the age range of Reeth Community Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 4-7, such that the school becomes Reeth Community Infant School
- That the age range Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that the school becomes Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The Local Authority approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport, which would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.
- The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the combined pupil forecast

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools:

- That the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 4-7 such that the school becomes Spennithorne Church of England Infant School
- That the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 7-11 such that the school becomes Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- That the Local Authority through its discretion continue to provide transport to either Spennithorne Church of England Infant School or Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School to all eligible pupils on roll at either school as of 1 September 2026
- The PAN will be increased to 20 places at each school
- That the status of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided

The Synergy Federation:

- That Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School amalgamate with effect from 13 April 2026
- That this would be achieved through the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and the expansion of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School onto an additional site (the Leeming and Londonderry school site)
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The PAN for the school will be 15

Stuart Carlton
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE.

Report prepared by: Mark Ashton, Strategic Planning

Action AgreedExecutive Member
Date:

Action RequestedCorporate Director
Date:

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Example Consultation Papers
- Appendix 2 – Maps showing future catchment area proposals
- Appendix 3 – Indicative Pupil Forecasts under proposals
- Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix 5 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

THE EXECUTIVE

16 December 2025

Proposals for revised school organisation arrangements requested by federated governing boards of primary schools in North Yorkshire

Report by the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details the outcomes arising from public consultation exercises that have been undertaken by the council at the request of the following federated governing boards about proposals to change their school organisation arrangements: -

- BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation
- Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation
- The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools; and
- The Synergy Schools Federation.

1.2 The report recommends that the Executive authorises the publication of statutory notices in respect of each of the proposals and to schedule taking final decisions about the proposals on 17 March 2026.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 On 11 September 2025, the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills gave approval for consultation exercises to be undertaken about the school organisation proposals received from the federated governing boards identified at 1.1 above.

2.2 A copy of the report that was considered by the Executive Member is attached at Appendix 1. That report provides detailed information about the background to each of the proposals made by the federated governing boards.

2.3 This report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix 1: Report of Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills – 11 September 2025

Appendix 2: Published consultation documents

Appendix 3: A list of the consultees for each consultation exercise

Appendix 4: Notes of each of the public meetings

Appendix 5: Consultation responses

Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment

Appendix 8: Statutory Proposals and Statutory Notices

3.0 PROPOSALS

3.1 The Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills gave approval to consult on the following proposals:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

- That the age range of Bainbridge Church of England Primary should be changed from 3-11 to 3-7 such that it should become Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School
- That the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School should be changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that it should become Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School
- That West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School should be closed; and
- That the two remaining schools should have a shared catchment area that comprises an amalgamation of the current catchment areas of the three schools.
- The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the pupil forecast.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation:

- That the age range of Reeth Community Primary School is changed from 3-11 to 3-7, such that the school becomes Reeth Community Infant School
- That the age range Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that the school becomes Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The Local Authority approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport, which would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.
- The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the combined pupil forecast.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools:

- That the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 4-7 such that the school becomes Spennithorne Church of England Infant School
- That the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 7-11 such that the school becomes Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The PAN will be increased to 20 places at each school
- That the status of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided.

The Synergy Federation:

- That Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School amalgamate with effect from 13 April 2026
- That this would be achieved through the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and the expansion of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School onto an additional site (the Leeming and Londonderry school site)
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The PAN for the school will be 15.

Home to school travel discretionary arrangements

That the Council provides discretionary travel for children, already assessed as eligible for travel *and* on roll at schools on 1 September 2026, within the BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation, Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation and The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE schools for the duration of their education at the schools within the federation, subject to there being no change in their circumstances.

4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

- 4.1 The consultation papers setting out the proposals were sent to parents, staff, governors, local schools, local elected members, town and parish councils, MPs and other stakeholders and were also published for six weeks on NYC's website. A copy of each of the consultation papers are attached as Appendix 2, and lists of the consultees for each consultation are at Appendix 3.
- 4.2 In accordance with the requirements of the Department for Education's (DfE's) Statutory Guidance (Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools, August 2025) the consultation exercises were undertaken during a period incorporating 6 term-time weeks and ran from 22 September 2025 to 7 November 2025. The council held public meetings on each the four proposals on 2, 8, 14 and 15 October. These were attended by officers of the Council, diocesan representatives, governors, a number of parents, members of the local community and other local stakeholders. A record of each public meeting is attached as Appendix 4. In addition, the federated governing board of the BAWB federation held a public meeting at West Burton at which all of their proposals were discussed.
- 4.3 A total of 18 written responses were received which included:

Federation	No of Responses
BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation	2
Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation	7
The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools	6
The Synergy Schools Federation.	3

The consultation responses are shown at Appendix 5.

- 4.4 The following section of the report summarises the main issues raised in both the written responses to the consultation exercises, and at the public meetings that were held and provides a response to each.

5.0 ISSUES RAISED AND RESPONSES

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

Analysis of responses

- 5.1 2 individuals (1 parent from West Burton, 1 parent from Bainbridge) responded during the consultation period.
- 5.2 Both respondents supported the proposal to change the age ranges of the schools at Askrigg and Bainbridge.

Issues Raised

5.3 The proposed closure of West Burton CE Primary School

Whilst respondents noted their sadness at the proposed closure of West Burton CE Primary School, they acknowledged that the school is not viable. Several contributions made during the two public meetings expressed the view that the school was no longer viable due to the small number of pupils currently in attendance. Others stated that the relatively large element of the BAWB federation's revenue budget that is spent on transporting pupils to and from the school, needed to be reprioritised to funding education in the other two schools.

Response

The federated governing board's proposal has arisen from the low number of pupils who are currently registered at the school. This impacts upon the level of funding received by the school, and also the school's ability to deliver the whole curriculum effectively.

5.4 Importance of the school to the community

While recognising the lack of viability, respondents were saddened by the potential loss of the school to the village community. One respondent asked for a celebration assembly to acknowledge the special place and role that West Burton CE Primary School has held in the community for such a long time and said closing the school would be a big loss to the village.

Response

The request has been passed to the federated governing board.

5.5 Demographics

One respondent said that the federation, the local authority and the government had all done little to support young families to settle in the Upper Dales and how this had impacted on school numbers.

Response

The demographic trend in the Dales is creating a fall in pupil numbers. The Council and the federation have worked together to establish local collaborative organisational arrangements to secure the more efficient use of resources to maintain the viability of education in the Upper Dales.

5.6 Changes to the Uniform

One consultee asked, during the public meeting, if school uniform would remain the same, while another was worried about the cost of purchasing a new school uniform.

Response

Decisions about school uniforms are delegated to governing boards.

The Chair of the federated governing board was in attendance at the public meeting and advised that the board view the proposed changes as an exciting opportunity for a 'fresh start' including a potential change of uniform. However, the federated governing board also confirmed that they would consult with parents/ carers before making any changes to the name or to the existing uniform and would aim to keep the overall cost of a uniform low.

5.7 A safe walking route

At the public meeting a Councillor and a parent asked whether the route between Askrigg and Bainbridge schools had been classed as an unsafe walking route.

Response

A safe route assessment of the route between the primary schools at Askrigg and Bainbridge (as a proxy for the routes that pupils will take) has been undertaken, and the outcome will be applied to all applications for assistance with home to school travel.

5.8 Start and finish times for the school day

A parent said that they had two children and due to their ages, one would be attending the infant school while the other would be attending the junior school. They asked whether there would be any provision for dropping both children off at the same school and of the federation providing their transport between the schools.

Response

The executive headteacher of the BAWB federation of schools has responded that, while funding a minibus from the federation's budget for education would not be practical, the governing board and school leadership had been looking at the possibility of staggered start and finish times for the two schools so that different drop-off and picking up times could be accommodated.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

Analysis of responses

5.9 7 respondents (4 parents, 1 community member, 1 staff member and the governing board) replied during the consultation period.

5.10 7 respondents are strongly in favour of the proposals. 4 are in favour of the PAN proposals, while 3 did not respond. 6 respondents are in favour of a single catchment area and 1 did not respond.

5.11 Regulations

One respondent said that, while the proposals are the best solution for the situation faced by Reeth and Gunnerside, they felt it unfortunate that the current arrangements had fallen foul of the 'one-size-fits-all' regulations put in place for all sizes of schools and locations.

Response

The regulations which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration (the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024) apply to all schools and, therefore, compliance is required to be achieved.

5.12 Catchment Proposals

Several respondents said that combining the catchment areas was essential for unifying families of the dales. One respondent said it unifies primary education in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale and "strengthens the unity of the people of the dales". The governing board stated that maintaining community cohesion and serving the needs of pupils and families in their federation, has been a key consideration for governors, and combining the two catchment areas will help to achieve this.

Response

The proposal would combine the existing admissions catchment areas.

5.13 Home to School Travel

At the public meeting, and also online, parents responded that they supported the infant and junior proposals as their earlier concerns over home to school transport were resolved. They said that the adoption of 'closest gate in the federation' criteria for determining eligibility for assistance with home to school travel, combined with use of the school bus for transferring between sites, was the best option available. The governing board noted that the schools have funded inter-site transport for over a decade and they are therefore confident that this arrangement offers a financially sustainable solution.

Response

The support for this proposal is noted.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Analysis of responses

5.14 6 individual respondents (4 parents and 2 parish/town councils) replied during the consultation period.

5.15 2 of these respondents are in favour of the proposals, while 1 is not in favour and 3 did not say. 1 respondent is in favour of the PAN proposal, while 1 disagrees and 4 did not comment. 1 respondent is in favour of the single catchment proposal, while 1 disagrees and 4 did not know or did not comment. While 2 respondents are in favour of the proposal to change the category of Spennithorne from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided, one thought it would only make a limited difference, 4 did not comment.

5.16 Home to School Travel

A parent, who noted that their child in Year 1 was first transported to Middleham School by NYC and then subsequently transported to Spennithorne School on the school minibus, asked whether this dual transport arrangement would continue under the proposals. Middleham Town Council expressed concerns about how the proposal would affect home to school transport.

Response

Should the proposals be agreed then eligible pupils would be provided with assistance with transport to the school at which they are registered.

5.17 Hidden agenda

A parent governor said that sometimes in these situations people were suspicious about whether council had a hidden agenda, and asked for assurance that the council did not intend to close either school.

Response

The council has worked with the federated governing board to support its decision making in identifying the most suitable solution for achieving compliance with the regulations whilst ensuring the federated schools remain viable. These proposals remain as described within this report and there are no further proposals in respect of either school.

5.18 Change of category to voluntary aided

A parent wondered whether the proposal to change the category of Spennithorne from voluntary controlled to voluntary aided would make any real difference.

Response

The federated governing board's rationale for wanting to change the category of Spennithorne to be the same voluntary category as Middleham is to give the governing board and the diocese the same increased responsibilities for the school. At the public meeting, the Assistant Director of Education in the Church of England Diocese of Leeds, agreed with this point about the advantage of similar involvement of the diocese and governing board.

5.19 Stipulating a feeder school in the admissions policy

The executive headteacher has responded that parents who attend from out of catchment and secure a place in the infant school, might be concerned about securing a place in the junior school. She suggested stipulating that the infant school is a feeder to the junior school in the admissions criteria for allocation of places.

Response

The 2021 Admissions Code does provide for the naming of feeder schools, and additionally, as voluntary aided schools (should the proposal proceed), the federated governing board would be responsible for the determination of the admissions arrangements of the two schools. As such, it will be possible for the board to agree a policy naming a feeder school.

However, admissions policies are required to be agreed and published prior to February, which falls prior to the proposed date upon which the Executive are scheduled to determine the proposals. Therefore, the federated governing board could not agree such a policy for either next year, or 2027-28.

However, the governing board can announce an intention to develop and implement such a policy if / when the proposals are implemented and offer reassurance that the capacities of the two schools remain sufficient to accommodate all pupils that are currently forecast to be attending.

5.20 Wrap around provision

One respondent said at present *Kids Day* nursery serves as the breakfast club and uses transport to get the children to the correct school. "If this is not going to be available then consideration needs to be given to those parents who have to start work before 9. Parents will not do 2 school drop offs for their children and will need the ability for wrap around care."

Response

The federated governing board have stated that the wrap around and nursery provision would continue, and they have budgeted for the school minibus to continue to transport pupils, so parents would not be required to make two school drop offs, if they are using the wrap around care provision.

5.21 School names

A single catchment area links both Spennithorne and Middleham and respondents felt this geographical link should be reflected in the infant and junior school names.

Response

The federated governing board, following consultation with the Diocese of Leeds, are proposing that the school names reflect both geographical areas and are called Spennithorne and Middleham CE Infant School and Spennithorne and Middleham CE Junior School.

5.22 School uniform costs

A parent expressed concern over the cost of replacing a school uniform.

Response

The federated governing board made clear, in response at the public meeting, that there are no proposals currently to change the school uniform.

The Proposal to Amalgamate Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools

Analysis of responses

5.23 3 individual respondents (2 parents and a parish councillor) replied during the consultation period.

5.24 2 respondents are generally in favour of the proposals, while 1 did not know. 1 is in favour of the PAN proposal while 2 did not comment. 1 respondent is in favour of the single catchment proposal while 2 did not comment.

5.25 A need to re-apply

One consultee asked if existing pupils at either school would need to reapply for a place at the single primary school, if the proposals to amalgamate the two schools went ahead.

Response

Existing pupils at both schools would automatically be placed on roll at the amalgamated school.

5.26 Housing

A parish councillor referred to the local plan, and to the significant number of houses proposed in the Leeming area. He questioned whether the Leeming schools had capacity to accommodate the additional pupils generated, should all local plan housing be built out.

Response

The local plan proposes two significant developments in the Leeming vicinity, one for 105 houses and another near one school for 25 houses. These include affordable homes which increase a prospect of generating additional pupils. Using the standard pupil yield generated by new housing which is applied across the county, if the proposed developments in the local plan receive planning approval and are constructed, there is the potential for 38 additional children from the houses in the local plan and these could be accommodated in the existing buildings.

5.27 Funding

A concern was expressed about loss of funding under the proposals.

Response

There would be transitional protection arrangements for the loss of the lump sum for the Leeming and Londonderry school building for two financial years. Subsequently, it is likely there would be split site funding provided.

5.28 Viability of Leeming and Londonderry site

A parent asked what the position would be if there was a very low intake one year. Would the position of Leeming and Londonderry still be viable, they asked, or would pupils be moved to the Aiskew Leeming Bar site?

Response

The federated governing body have delegated responsibility for the teaching arrangements at the school, including the teaching arrangements that are established.

5.29 Parking and congestion

A parish councillor responded that residents are annoyed by parking, and particularly of parents while waiting in their cars to pick up their children.

Response

Unfortunately, there is no car park at Leeming and Londonderry and at Aiskew, Leeming Bar, the car park holds 4 vehicles. With the minibus parked in the car park, 3 staff vehicles is just possible. Between the two schools, there are on average 11 members of staff, so staff cars have to park on the roadside every day as there is no other option.

Both schools have made a significant impact on improving the situation with parking over the last 12 months. Since the wraparound care has been started, between 5-10 children in the morning have arrived early. After school, between 20-30 children have stayed to take part in an after-school club. This has lowered the number of cars and pedestrians picking up and dropping off children at the peak times.

The gate into Freeman's Way is not being used currently. This is due to safeguarding reasons. The school does not have enough staff to be able to monitor pupils arriving/leaving from two separate gates. However, if these proposals go ahead, there will be an increase in the number of staff working from September and it is expected that this gate will be re-opened.

5.30 SEND provision

A respondent said that while bigger classes might help improve social and academic opportunities, they may also reduce the individual attention that some children require.

Response

The proposal does not mean that the class sizes would become large. From the federation's modelling, they expect that class sizes would be between 20-25 pupils. This is well below the national average of 27 (Key Stage 1) and 29 (Key Stage 2). Currently, one class at Aiskew, Leeming Bar has 31 pupils.

There would be little change to SEN provision with these proposals.

6.0 PROPOSALS

6.1 The proposed full statutory proposals are set out in Appendix 8.

6.2 The proposed timetable would be:

12 January 2026	Publication of Statutory Proposals and Notices
6 February 2026	Closing date for representations (4 weeks as prescribed in regulations and cannot be shortened or lengthened)
17 March 2026	Final decision by the Council's Executive
31 March 2026	Proposed date when West Burton Church of England VC Primary School would close. The school building will revert to its owners, a charitable trust.
13 April 2026	Proposed date from which Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School would amalgamate
1 September 2026	Proposed date from which the proposals for the change of age ranges of the federated primary schools would begin to operate

7.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 By ensuring communities collaborate closely by working in federations, the proposals contribute to the 'Maximise the potential' ambition in the Council Plan. By supporting pupils' quality of life, they contribute to the 'Healthy and living well' ambition.

8.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The alternative proposals that have been appraised in depth by the federated governing boards are outlined in the report attached as Appendix 1.

8.2 Having undertaken their appraisals of alternative options, federated governing boards informed their parents and communities about their proposals for the future organisational arrangements of each school.

9.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS

9.1 The proposed closure of West Burton CE Primary School will result in the disposal of the school building to its owners, which is a charitable trust.

9.2 There are no further implications for other services or organisations.

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital Position

10.1 Capital investment is not included within the proposal.

Revenue Position

- 10.2 School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposal would not lead to an increase in revenue funding. The school organisation proposal of infant and junior schools provides the same level of funding across the federation as that currently received by the separate schools with the lump sum funding retained for each school. In an amalgamation of two schools, one school's lump sum would cease and whilst an amalgamated school across two sites may receive split site funding, this would be a reduced funding amount compared to the lump sum funding for the two schools. Under the BAWB proposal all funding for West Burton CE VC Primary School would cease.
- 10.3 Federated governing boards can request to amalgamate their individual school budgets; these arrangements could continue under the infant and junior school proposals.
- 10.4 Based on the proposal taking effect at the start of or during the start of 2026/27 financial year, and other things being equal, the governing boards have determined the optimum funding position, based on best estimates of revenue funding for each financial year for the individual schools within the federations. Irrespective of this school organisation proposal, the federation governing boards are continuously required to oversee financial management, and this includes considering efficiency actions where improvements are identified as being necessary in the school financial forecast.

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Legal advice has been provided to the federations by North Yorkshire Council that explains that the school that the child is admitted to, and is registered at, on their admission register, is required to educate the child, at that physical school. Whilst there are provisions that allow schools to educate a pupil offsite, the formal arrangements that the federations have been using go beyond the parliamentary intent. Furthermore, whilst the federation arrangements are in place for the governing board, the schools remain individual legal entities. Therefore, legally, statutory proposals would need to be agreed by the following bodies:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

- i) North Yorkshire Council would publish proposals to close West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.
- ii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School to change the age range of the school to 3 to 7 years.
- iii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School to change the age range of the school to 7 to 11 years.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

- i) North Yorkshire Council would publish proposals for Reeth Community Primary School to change the age range of the school to 3 to 7 years.
- ii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School to change the age range of the school to 7 to 11 years.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

- i) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School to change the age range of the school to 4 to 7 years.

ii) The federated governing board would publish proposals for Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School to change the age range of the school to 7 to 11 years.

iii) The federated governing board would publish their proposal to change the status of Spennithorne from a Voluntary Controlled to a Voluntary Aided school

11.2 In accordance with the regulations governing changes to school organisation, the governing boards of Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided schools are required to publish proposals in respect of changes to age range. Therefore, the governing boards of the following federations met on the dates indicated and have confirmed that (subject to the approval of the Council's Executive on 16 December) they will publish, jointly with the Council on 12 January 2026, the required statutory proposals and notices:

- BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation, 12 November 2025
- The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, 2 December 2025
- Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation, 4 December 2025

11.3 In order that the proposal by the Synergy Federation can be progressed the following statutory proposal would need to be agreed:

North Yorkshire Council would publish proposals to amalgamate Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School through the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and the expansion of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School onto an additional site (the Leeming and Londonderry school site).

11.4 These proposals will follow the DfE's statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers. (DfE, 'Opening and closing maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' and 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers')

12.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no Human Rights issues in relation to this decision.

13.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of these proposals and is attached (Appendix 6).

14.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of these proposals and is attached (Appendix 7).

15.0 NEXT STEPS

15.1 It is proposed to publish proposals and statutory notices on 12 January 2026. A copy of the proposed proposals and statutory notices are provided at Appendix 8. The proposals would be published on the Council's website and the statutory notice would be published in a local newspaper and displayed at the main entrance to the school. These would provide four weeks representations to be made to the Local Authority, by 6 February 2026.

15.2 The Executive agreed a model for decision-making on school organisation proposals on 25 September 2007. If approval is given to publish statutory proposals and notices, it is proposed that a final decision is taken by the Executive on 17 March 2026.

16.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

16.1 Separate staff consultation processes, including meetings for staff and their professional associations and unions, would run in parallel with these consultations.

17.0 CONCLUSIONS

17.1 The current school organisation arrangements that are being operated by the three federations identified above are not compliant with the regulations and action is required to implement revised, compliant and sustainable arrangements.

17.2 The proposals made by the Synergy Federation in respect of Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School have been made to provide a sustainable basis for the future of educational provision in the locality.

17.3 This report has described the responses arising from the consultation exercises undertaken in respect of each proposal. Although only a limited number of responses were received, nearly all have recognised the basis upon which each proposal has been made and have demonstrated support.

18.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

18.1 To ensure that the school organisation arrangements operated by the above federated governing boards

1. Are compliant with the legislation and guidance that govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration, and:
2. Provide a sustainable basis for the continued provision of high quality education within their local communities.

19.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

19.1 The Executive is recommended to:

Give approval to publish statutory proposals and notices on 12 January 2026, jointly with the respective federated governing boards, for the following federated schools:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

i) to close West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 31 March 2026.

ii) to change the age range of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School to 3 to 7 years from 1 September 2026

iii) to change the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School to 7 to 11 years from 1 September 2026.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation

iv) to change the age range of Reeth Community Primary School to 3 to 7 years from 1 September 2026.

v) to change the age range of Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School to 7 to 11 years from 1 September 2026.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

vi) to change the age range of Spennithorne Church of England Primary School to 4 to 7 years from 1 September 2026.

vii) to change the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided Primary School to 7 to 11 years from 1 September 2026.

viii) to change the category of Spennithorne Church of England School to Voluntary Aided from 1 September 2026.

The Synergy Schools Federation

ix) to discontinue Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School from 13 April 2026

x) to enlarge Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School onto an additional site using the Leeming and Londonderry school site from 13 April 2026.

19.2 That the Executive schedule taking a final decision on these proposals on 17 March 2026.

19.3 That subject to the final approval of the proposals in paragraph 19.1 above, the following home to school travel discretionary arrangements be approved:

- i) That the Council provides discretionary travel for children, already assessed as eligible for travel *and* on roll at schools on 1 September 2026, within the BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation, Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation and The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE schools for the duration of their education at the schools within the federation, subject to there being no change in their circumstances.
- ii) That the Council approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport to Reeth and Gunnerside schools, which would be conditional upon the Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.

Peter Thorpe
Interim Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

Report prepared by: Jon Holden, Head of Strategic Planning (CYPS), Mark Ashton, Strategic Planning Officer

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Report of the Corporate Director Children and Young People's Service to the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills – 11 September 2025
- Appendix 2: Published consultation documents
- Appendix 3: A list of the consultees for each consultation exercise
- Appendix 4: Notes of each of the public meetings
- Appendix 5: Consultation responses
- Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Appendix 8: Statutory Proposals and Statutory Notices

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APPENDIX 8

Statutory proposals

Proposals to restructure the federation into separate infant and junior schools with Bainbridge Church of England (VC) Primary and Nursery School becoming an infant school (with an age range of 3 to 7) and Askrigg (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School becoming a junior school (with an age range of 7 to 11), and to close West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

PART 1 - Change of age range of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School from 3-11 years to 3-7 years

AND

PART 2 - Change of age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School from 4-11 years to 7-11 years

School and local authority details

Proposals published by the Governing Board of BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Schools Federation to change the age range of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL from 1 September 2026

Proposals published by the Governing Board of BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Schools Federation to change the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Yorebridge, Askrigg, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3BJ from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed to change the age range of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School from 3-11 years to 3-7 years from 1 September 2026 and to change the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026.

The current admission number for both schools is 12 and the proposed admission number for both schools will be 15.

Objectives

During summer 2024, the Council received legal advice that the model that had been established by the federation was not compliant with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration. The advice, which was partly informed by information provided by the Department for Education (DfE), noted that pupils are required to receive their education at the school at which they are registered.

This advice means that the current organisational arrangements within the federation are not compliant with the regulations and that the Federated Governing Board needs to implement a change so that the arrangements become compliant.

The Council advised the federated governing board of possible solutions/ restructure options, set out below, which the federated governing board has carefully considered.

Following its consideration of the options the federated governing board has submitted proposals for the closure of West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School and for the establishment of separate infant and junior schools and believes that this option will enable to best meet the needs of the community and to continue to provide a high standard of education to pupils.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area.

There is not expected to be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions, other than those covered by these proposals.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

Capital position

Capital investment is not included within the proposal.

Revenue position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposal would not lead to an increase in revenue funding. The school organisation proposal of infant and junior schools provides the same level of funding across the federation as that currently received by the separate schools with the lump sum funding retained for each school. In an amalgamation of two schools (Option 3 above), one school's lump sum would cease and whilst an amalgamated school across two sites may receive split site funding, this would be a reduced funding amount compared to the lump sum funding for the two schools. Under the BAWB proposal all funding for West Burton CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School would cease.

Federated governing boards can request to amalgamate their individual school budgets; these arrangements could continue under the infant and junior school proposals.

Based on the proposal taking effect September 2026 and other things being equal, the federated governing board has determined the optimum funding position, based on best estimates of revenue funding for each financial year, for the individual schools within the

federation. Irrespective of this school organisation proposal, the federation governing boards are continuously required to oversee financial management and this includes considering efficiency actions where improvements are identified as being necessary in the school financial forecast.

Implementation plan

The proposals contained in Parts One, Two and Three are related.

Under the proposal, both the infant and junior schools would serve the catchment areas separately served by each of BAWB's three separate primary schools. For this reason, the catchment areas would be merged, with each extended to include the others. These arrangements would be implemented from September 2026 only in the event of the infant/junior restructure. The shared catchment area is shown on the map accompanying this document.

Statement explaining the procedure for responses: support; objections and comments.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

PART 3 – Discontinuance (Closure) of West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Contact details

Proposal published by North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, to discontinue West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, West Burton, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4JY from 31 March 2026.

Implementation

It is proposed to close the school from 31 March 2026.

The proposals contained in Parts One, Two and Three of this notice are related.

Reason for closure

In 2013 Askrigg and Bainbridge schools formed a collaboration and in 2014 West Burton joined the collaboration. In 2016 the BAWB Federation was created and "BAWB" refers to the first letter of each school name. Due to the organisation arrangements that were implemented by the federation, 22 pupils received their education at the school and the remaining pupils were transported to the other schools within the federation, where they

received their education alongside peers from other schools. West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2023 which judged the overall effectiveness of the school to be Good.

The BAWB federated governing board temporarily suspended teaching at the West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School site with effect from 1 September 2024, and transported pupils registered at the school to either the Bainbridge or Askrigg sites, according to their age. This decision was taken because of the low numbers on the school roll, and because of issues associated with the transport of pupils between the various school sites, this included a loss of learning time within the school day. The federated governing board considered that the decision was necessary to ensure the continued provision of high-quality education within the federation.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

As at October 2025, there are 14 pupils on roll at the school, of which 13 are of compulsory school age. Of the 14 pupils, 6 pupils are male, and 8 pupils are female.

	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	1	12
Year 1	2	12
Year 2	1	12
Year 3	1	12
Year 4	2	12
Year 5	3	7
Year 6	4	7
Totals	14	

The school's age range is 4-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. Information on special educational needs of pupils is not provided as this would contravene the Data Protection Act.

Displaced pupils

There are currently 3 neighbouring schools located within 10 miles of West Burton Primary School, including the two federation schools at Askrigg and Bainbridge. Across the three schools there is a combined net capacity of 163 places. There is currently a total of 65 surplus places.

As noted above, the federated governing board's proposal regarding the closure of West Burton Church of England (VC) Primary School forms part of a series of linked proposals which includes a proposal for the school's catchment area to be combined with those of Bainbridge and Askrigg.

The council will engage with the parents of all pupils who are registered on West Burton's roll to discuss the requirement for them to apply for an alternative school place should a closure be agreed, including if it is their intention to transfer to either of the proposed infant or junior schools in the federation.

Impact on the community

In some communities the school is the only meeting space. West Burton has a Village Hall with main hall, committee room, kitchen, toilets and baby changing facilities. Several groups meet there for bowls, yoga, parent and toddlers, badminton, art, dancing and monthly lunches.

The school building at West Burton would no longer be used by the federation if the proposed closure of the school was implemented. The West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School site is managed but not owned by the Council. The school site is wholly owned by a charitable trust and will revert to the trust if a decision is made for it to close.

Whilst the impact on the wider economic and social sustainability of the community is an important consideration, the key consideration is to determine whether the proposal is in the best interests of children's education.

Rural primary schools

West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is a rural school. The DfE's guidance (Opening and closing maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, October 2024) notes that decision makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, the guidance confirms that this does not mean that a rural school will never close but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

The school has a capacity for 51 pupils and there are currently 15 pupils on the school's roll.

In 2013 Askrigg and Bainbridge schools formed a collaboration and in 2014 West Burton joined the collaboration. In 2016 the BAWB Federation was created and "BAWB" refers to the first letter of each school name. Due to the organisation arrangements that were implemented by the federation, 22 pupils received their education at the school and the remaining pupils were transported to the other schools within the federation, where they received their education alongside peers from other schools. West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2023 which judged the overall effectiveness of the school to be Good.

The BAWB federation's governing board temporarily suspended teaching at the West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School site with effect from 1 September 2024 and transported pupils registered at the school to either the Bainbridge or Askrigg sites, according to their age. This decision was taken because of the low numbers on the school roll and because of issues associated with the transport of pupils between the various school sites, this included a loss of learning time within the school day. The federated governing board considered that the decision was necessary to ensure the continued provision of high quality education within the federation.

There are currently three neighbouring schools located within 10 miles of West Burton Primary School, including the two federation schools at Askrigg and Bainbridge. Across the three schools there is a combined net capacity of 163 places. There is currently a total of 65 surplus places.

The Council will engage with the parents of all pupils who are registered on West Burton's roll to discuss the requirement for them to apply for an alternative school place should a closure be agreed, including if it is their intention to transfer to either of the proposed infant or junior schools in the federation.

As noted above, the federated governing board's proposal regarding the closure of West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School forms part of a series of linked proposals which includes a proposal for the school's catchment area to be combined with those of Bainbridge and Askrigg.

Balance of denominational provision

The Church of England Diocese of Leeds has expressed no specific concerns about the impact on proportionality of places in this area.

Travel

There are currently three neighbouring schools located within 10 miles of West Burton Primary School, including the two federation schools at Askrigg and Bainbridge.

Eligibility for assistance with home to school travel would be determined in accordance with the Council's home to school travel policy, including any decision to provide discretionary eligibility linked to the federated governing board's proposals.

It is proposed that special considerations or discretion be given to pupils already on roll at the point that consultation was requested in September 2025. It is proposed that the Council provide discretionary travel for children, already assessed as eligible for travel and on roll at schools on 1 September 2026, within the federation schools for the duration of their education at the schools within the same federation, subject to there being no change in their circumstances. This will enable the schools to move to compliant arrangements and would be a time limited discretionary provision so that children already on roll could maintain continuity of education within the federations that they are already registered, in the event that the school organisation proposals result in them having to move to a different school within the federation due to the age range changes. An example would be a current Year 1 child who attends a primary school but who is required to move to an infant school for Year 2 before returning the nearest suitable school at the time of the transfer. This acknowledges the Council's commitment to continue eligibility under the 2019 policy for children in schools before September 2024.

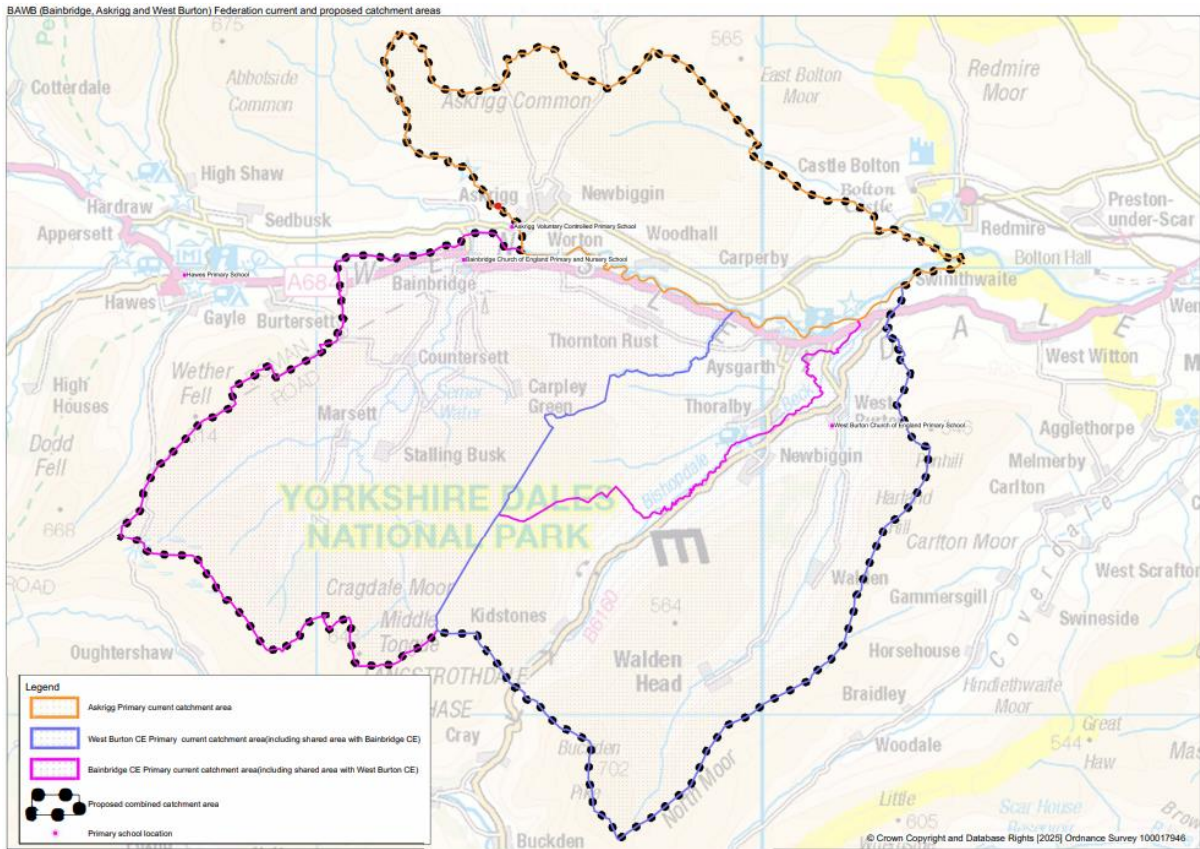
Any new applications for assistance with home to school travel to either school received after 1 September 2026 would only be considered under the current home to school travel policy, unless part of a linked proposal that is decided by the Council.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

Map showing existing and proposed catchment areas



Statutory proposals

Proposals to restructure the federation into separate infant and junior schools – with Reeth Community Primary School becoming an infant school (with an age range of 3 to 7) and Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School becoming a junior school (with an age range of 7 to 11)

PART 1 - Change of age range of Reeth Community Primary School from 3-11 years to 3-7 years

AND

PART 2 - Change of age range of Gunnerside Methodist Primary School from 4-11 years to 7-11

School and local authority details

Proposals published by North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE to change the age range of Reeth Community Primary School, Healaugh Road, Reeth, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6SP from 3-11 years to 3-7 years from 1 September 2026.

Proposals published by the Governing Board of Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation to change the age range of Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Gunnerside, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6LE from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed to change the age range of Reeth Community Primary School from 3-11 years to 3-7 years from 1 September 2026 and to change the age range of Gunnerside Methodist Primary School from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026.

The current admission number for Reeth Community Primary School is 8 and the proposed admission number will be 15. The current admission number for Gunnerside Methodist Primary School is 7 and the proposed admission number will be 15.

Objectives

During summer 2024, the Council received legal advice that the model that had been established by the federation was not compliant with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration. The advice, which was partly informed by information provided by the Department for Education (DfE), noted that pupils are required to receive their education at the school at which they are registered.

This advice means that the current organisational arrangements within the federation are not compliant with the regulations and that the federated governing board needs to implement a change so that the arrangements become compliant.

The Council advised the federated governing board of possible solutions / restructure options, set out below, which the federated governing board has carefully considered.

Following its consideration of the options, the federated governing board has submitted proposals for the establishment of separate infant and junior schools and believes that this option will enable them to best meet the needs of the community and to continue to provide a high standard of education to pupils.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area.

There is not expected to be any effect on other educational institutions, apart from those covered by these proposals.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

Capital Position

Capital investment is not included within the proposal.

Revenue Position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposal would not lead to an increase in revenue funding. The school organisation proposal of infant and junior schools provides the same level of funding across the federation as that currently received by the separate schools with the lump sum funding retained for each school. In an amalgamation of two schools, one school's lump sum would cease and whilst an amalgamated school across two sites may receive split site funding, this would be a reduced funding amount compared to the lump sum funding for the two schools.

Federated governing boards can request to amalgamate their individual school budgets; these arrangements could continue under the infant and junior school proposals.

Based on the proposal taking effect from September 2026, and other things being equal, the federated governing board has determined the optimum funding position, based on best estimates of revenue funding for each financial year for the individual schools within the federation. Irrespective of this school organisation proposal, the federation governing boards are continuously required to oversee financial management, and this includes considering efficiency actions where improvements are identified as being necessary in the school financial forecast.

Implementation plan

The proposals contained in Parts One and Two are related.

Under the proposal, both the infant and junior schools would serve the catchment areas which are currently separately served by each primary school. For this reason, the catchment areas would be merged, with each extended to include the other. The shared catchment areas are shown on the map accompanying this document. These arrangements would be implemented from September 2026 only in the event of the infant / junior restructure.

Consultation to date

The decision to consult on the proposal was taken by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the 11 September 2025. The consultation period ran from 22 September 2025 to 7 November 2025. A copy of the Consultation Paper, a note of the public meeting, and consultation responses are included within the report to the Executive of 16 December 2025.

Statement explaining the procedure for responses

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

Statutory proposals

Proposals to restructure the federation into separate infant and junior schools – with Spennithorne Church of England (VC) Primary School becoming an infant school (with an age range of 4 to 7) and Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School becoming a junior school (with an age range of 7 to 11) and to change the category of Spennithorne Church of England School to Voluntary Aided

PART 1 – Change of age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 4-11 years to 4-7 years

AND

PART 2 - Change of age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided School from 4-11 years to 7-11 years

AND

PART 3 – Change of category of Spennithorne Church of England Primary School from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided

School and local authority details

Proposals published by the Governing Board of the Federation of Middleham (Voluntary Aided) and Spennithorne (Voluntary Controlled) Church of England Primary Schools to change the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Spennithorne, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5PR from 4-11 years to 4-7 years from 1 September 2026.

Proposals published by the Governing Board of the Federation of Middleham (Voluntary Aided) and Spennithorne (Voluntary Controlled) Church of England Primary Schools to change the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided School, Park Lane, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4QX from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed to change the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 4-11 years to 4-7 years from 1 September 2026 and to change the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided School from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026.

It is proposed to change the category of Spennithorne Church of England Primary School from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided from 1 September 2026.

The current admission number for Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is 13 and the proposed admission number will be 20. The current admission number for Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided School is 15 and the proposed admission number will be 20.

Objectives

During summer 2024, the Council received legal advice that the model that had been established by the federation was not compliant with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which govern the arrangements for school admissions and registration. The advice, which was partly informed by information provided by the Department for Education (DfE), noted that pupils are required to receive their education at the school at which they are registered.

This advice means that the current organisational arrangements within the federation are not compliant with the regulations and that the federated governing board needs to implement a change so that the arrangements become compliant.

The Council advised the federated governing board of possible solutions / restructure options, set out below, which the federated governing board has carefully considered.

Following its consideration of the options, the federated governing board has submitted proposals for the establishment of separate infant and junior schools and believes that this option will enable them to best meet the needs of the community and to continue to provide a high standard of education to pupils.

The federated governing board has also requested that the category of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided as part of these school organisation proposals.

Joint working with Middleham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School could be enhanced should Spennithorne become a Voluntary Aided School due to greater alignment between the two schools. For example:

- the schools would have the same Religious Education syllabus enabling greater shared provision
- the federated Governing Body would be the single employer of staff, making shared staffing arrangements in appropriate cases easier
- the inspection processes under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework would be more aligned

The effect on other educational institutions within the area.

There is not expected to be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions, other than those covered by these proposals.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

Capital Position

Capital investment is not included within the proposal.

The local authority receives school condition allocation to invest in priorities across the schools for which they are responsible, including Voluntary Controlled Schools. As a Voluntary Aided school, Spennithorne would not look to the local authority for this funding: instead, the Diocese receives school condition allocation to distribute based on an assessment of priorities across the Voluntary Aided schools in the Diocese. As a Voluntary Aided school, Spennithorne would be responsible for making a 10% statutory contribution to all capital works funded from school condition allocation funding or Devolved Formula Capital.

Revenue Position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposal would not lead to an increase in revenue funding. The school organisation proposal of infant and junior schools provides the same level of funding across the federation as that currently received by the separate schools with the lump sum funding retained for each school. In an amalgamation of two schools, one school's lump sum would cease and whilst an amalgamated school across two sites may receive split site funding, this would be a reduced funding amount compared to the lump sum funding for the two schools.

Federated governing boards can request to amalgamate their individual school budgets; these arrangements could continue under the infant and junior school proposals.

Based on the proposal taking effect from September 2026, and other things being equal, the federated governing board has determined the optimum funding position, based on best estimates of revenue funding for each financial year for the individual schools within the federation. Irrespective of this school organisation proposal, the federation governing boards are continuously required to oversee financial management, and this includes considering efficiency actions where improvements are identified as being necessary in the school financial forecast.

Implementation plan

The proposals contained in Parts One, Two and Three are related.

Under the proposal, both the infant and junior schools would serve the catchment areas which are currently separately served by each primary school. For this reason, the catchment areas would be merged, with each extended to include the other. The shared catchment areas are shown on the map accompanying this document. These arrangements would be implemented from September 2026 only in the event of the infant / junior restructure.

Consultation to date

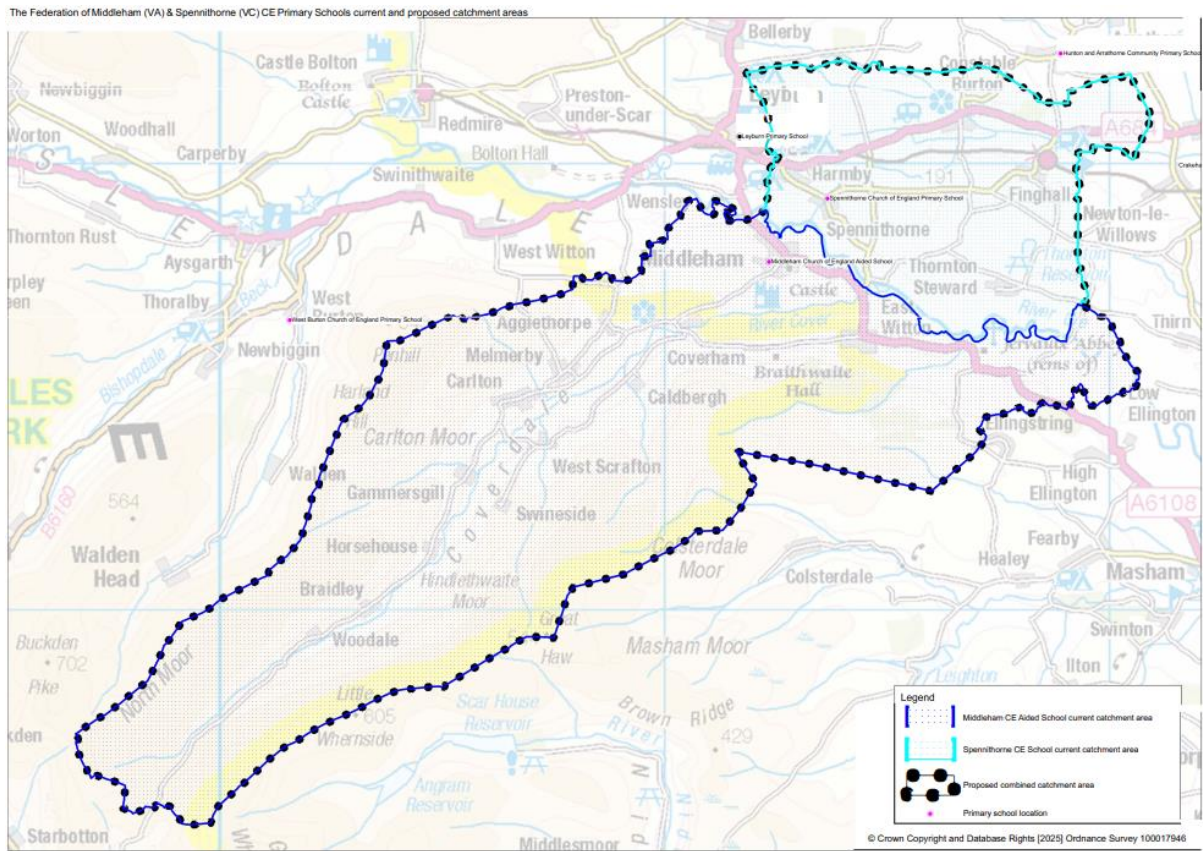
The decision to consult on the proposal was taken by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the 11 September 2025. The consultation period ran from 22 September 2025 to 7 November 2025. A copy of the Consultation Paper, a note of the public meeting, and consultation responses are included within the report to the Executive of 16 December 2025.

Statement explaining the procedure for responses

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

Map showing existing and proposed catchment areas



Statutory proposals

Proposals to amalgamate Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

This would result in the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School as a separate entity, and the creation of a single 4-11 primary school on both school sites through the enlargement of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

PART 1 – Discontinuance (closure) of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School

Contact details

Proposal published by North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, to discontinue Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School, 2 Leeming Lane, Leeming Bar, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9AU from 13 April 2026.

Implementation

It is proposed to close the school from 13 April 2026.

The proposals contained in Parts One and Two are related.

Reason for closure

Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools are part of the Synergy Schools Federation, which is a federation of six primary schools within North Yorkshire. The federation is governed by a single federated governing board and leadership is provided by an executive headteacher. The schools, which have adjacent catchment areas serving the Leeming area, south of Bedale, joined the federation in 2024 and 2021 respectively. Both schools have low numbers of pupils on roll. Aiskew, Leeming Bar has a net capacity of 103 places, with 47 pupils on roll in the May 2025 census, while Leeming and Londonderry has a net capacity of 56 places, with 24 pupils on roll in the May 2025 pupil census. Both operate similar two class structures that involve Reception and Key Stage 1 cohorts being educated in one class and Key Stage 2 children in other classes.

Following the incorporation of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School into the Synergy Federation work has been undertaken to improve the quality of the education provision within both schools and the federated governing board have undertaken consideration of alternative models for the organisation of the schools to allow for further improvement in learning.

The federated governing board’s proposal regarding the closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School forms part of a series of linked proposals which includes retaining the site for an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and a proposal for the school’s catchment area to be combined with the catchment area of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School. This decision was taken because of the low numbers on the school roll, a desire to provide sustainable classes of similar aged children and because of issues associated with the transportation of pupils between the respective school sites. The federated governing board considered that the decision was necessary to ensure the continued provision of high-quality education within the federation.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

As at October 2025, there are 25 pupils on roll at the school, of which 22 are of compulsory school age. Of the 25 pupils, 12 pupils are male, and 13 pupils are female.

	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	4	8
Year 1	5	8
Year 2	2	8
Year 3	3	8
Year 4	3	8
Year 5	4	8
Year 6	4	8
Totals	25	

The school’s age range is 4-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. Information on special educational needs of pupils is not provided as this would contravene the Data Protection Act.

Displaced pupils

There are 8 other primary schools within the Outer Bedale school place planning area. The table below shows that there is a general surplus of places across the locality.

DfE No.	Outer Bedale Primary School	Net Capacity	NOR 2025 - May	Position 2026/27	-/+ capacity (May 2025)
3001	Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE	103	47	49	56
3337	Burneston CE VA	133	117	137	16
3020	Crakehall CE	106	113	118	-7
2063	Hunton and Arrathorne CP	70	86	90	-16
2040	Leeming and Londonderry CP	56	24	26	32
2166	Leeming RAF CP	280	156	143	124

2133	Snape CP	52	30	25	22
3124	St Nicholas CE, West Tanfield	70	44	47	26
3119	Thornton Watlass CE	51	21	12	30
		921	638	647	283

The council will engage with the parents of all pupils who are registered on Leeming and Londonderry's roll and there is no intention to cease to use the school site under this amalgamation proposal.

Under the proposed new structure, all children would be registered at Leeming Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, but the governor led nursery and Reception children would initially be taught in the Early Years Foundation Stage classes at the current Leeming and Londonderry site. Another three classes, consisting of Year 1 and 2 children in one class, Years 3 and 4 in another and Year 5 and Year 6 children in another, would be taught at the current Aiskew Leeming Bar site. The single primary school would continue to be funded and supported by the local authority with staff employed by the local authority.

Pupils who transfer between the two sites will be supported through a managed transition process.

Impact on the community

There is no intention to cease to use the Leeming and Londonderry school site under this amalgamation proposal. The impact on the community is therefore likely to be minimal.

Rural primary schools

Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School is a rural school. The DfE's guidance (Opening and closing maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, October 2024) notes that decision makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, the guidance confirms that this does not mean that a rural school will never close but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

As noted above, the federated governing board's proposal regarding the closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School forms part of a series of linked proposals which includes retaining the site for an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and a proposal for the school's catchment area to be combined with the catchment area of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

It is not considered that there would be significant additional car use given that there is no intention to cease to use the Leeming and Londonderry school site under this amalgamation proposal.

Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable as Leeming and Londonderry School does not have a religious character.

Travel

The Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School sites are approximately 0.6 miles apart.

It is not considered that there would be significant additional car use given that there is no intention to cease to use the Leeming and Londonderry school site under this amalgamation proposal.

Eligibility for assistance with home to school travel will be determined in accordance with North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

All existing pupils who have eligibility for assistance will retain their eligibility subject to there being no change in their individual circumstances.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

PART 2 – Enlargement of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School onto an additional site using the Leeming and Londonderry school site

School and local authority details

Proposal published by North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE to enlarge Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School, 2 Leeming Lane, Leeming Bar, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9AU onto an additional site using the Leeming and Londonderry school site at Roman Road, Leeming, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9SG from 13 April 2026.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed to enlarge Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School onto an additional site using the Leeming and Londonderry school site at Roman Road, Leeming, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9SG from 13 April 2026.

The current admission number for Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School is 14 and the current admission number for Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School is 8. The proposed admission number for the amalgamated school will be 15.

Objectives

Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools are part of the Synergy Schools Federation, which is a federation of six primary schools within North Yorkshire. The federation is governed by a single federated governing board and leadership is provided by an executive headteacher. The schools, which have adjacent catchment areas serving the Leeming area, south of Bedale, joined the federation in 2024 and 2021 respectively. Both schools have low numbers of pupils on roll. Aiskew, Leeming Bar has a net capacity of 103 places, with 47 pupils on roll in the May 2025 census, while Leeming and Londonderry has a net capacity of 56 places, with 24 pupils on roll in the May 2025 pupil census. Both operate similar two class structures that involve Reception and Key Stage 1 cohorts being educated in one class and Key Stage 2 children in other classes.

Following the incorporation of Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School into the Synergy Federation work has been undertaken to improve the quality of the education provision within both schools and the federated governing board have undertaken consideration of alternative models for the organisation of the schools to allow for further improvement in learning.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area.

There is not expected to be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions, other than those covered by these proposals.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

Capital Position

Capital investment is not included within the proposal.

Revenue Position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so amalgamating the schools would not lead to an increase in revenue funding. The combined revenue funding would be smaller because the lump-sum would cease for Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School following amalgamation, although transitional funding will be provided during the initial period of the amalgamation. Transitional funding protection arrangements allow for both lump-sums to be retained from the point of amalgamation for the remainder of the financial year that amalgamation takes place and provide 85% of the two lump-sums received in the next financial year.

Based on the amalgamation taking effect on 13 April 2026 (for instance, the start of 2026 to 2027 financial year) and other things being equal, the Governing Board has determined the optimum funding position, based on best estimates of pupil revenue funding for each financial year, the retention of lump sums for that financial year, the amalgamated school retaining 85% of their lump sums for the financial year 2027 to 2028 and split site funding being subsequently available.

Implementation plan

The proposals contained in Parts One and Two are related.

Under the proposal, the single primary school would serve the two catchment areas currently separately served by each primary school. For this reason, the catchment areas would be merged, with each extended to include the other. These arrangements would be implemented from April 2026 only in the event of the amalgamation restructure and we are consulting on this aspect of the proposal.

Consultation to date

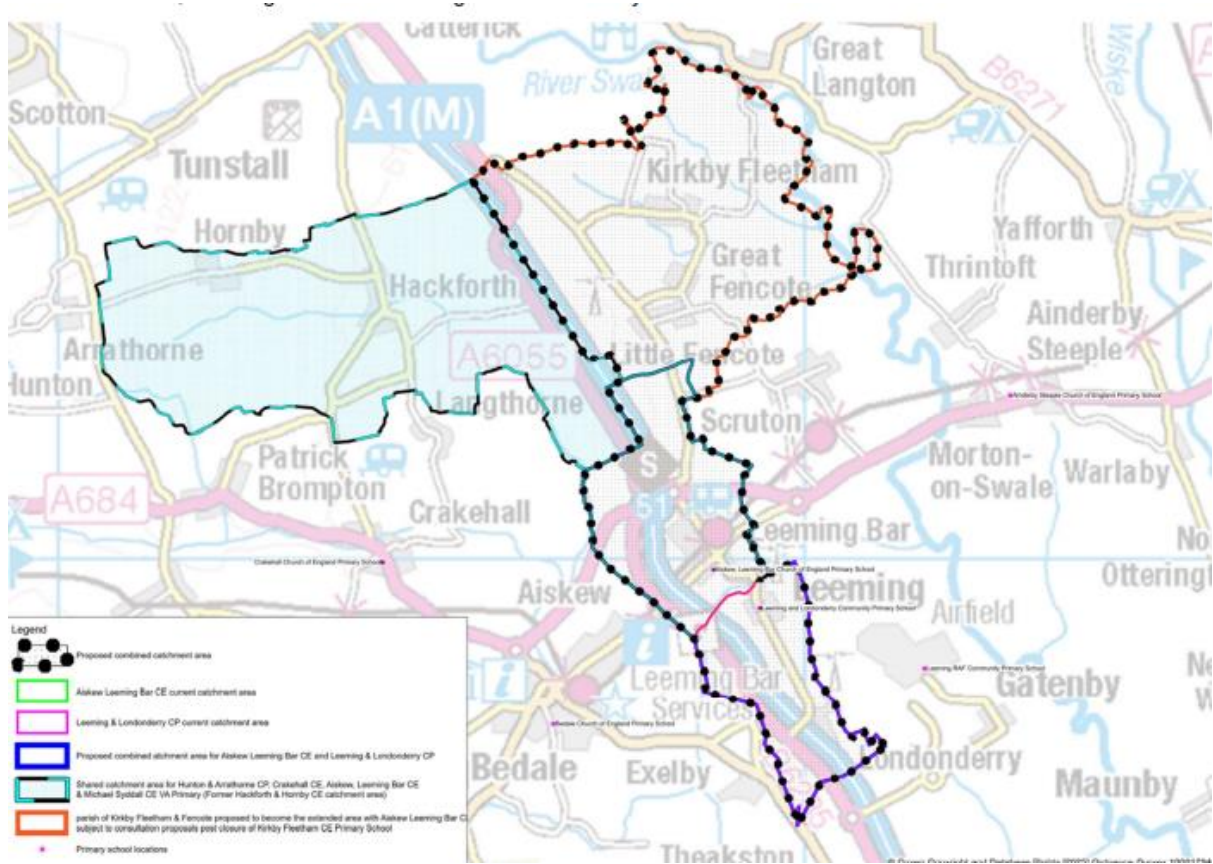
The decision to consult on the proposal was taken by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the 11 September 2025. The consultation period ran from 22 September 2025 to 7 November 2025. A copy of the Consultation Paper, a note of the public meeting, and consultation responses are included within the report to the Executive of 16 December 2025.

Statement explaining the procedure for responses

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

Map showing existing and proposed catchment areas



**Governing Board of BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Schools Federation
and North Yorkshire Council**

Proposals to restructure the federation into separate infant and junior schools with Bainbridge Church of England (VC) Primary and Nursery School becoming an infant school (with an age range of 3 to 7) and Askrigg (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School becoming a junior school (with an age range of 7 to 11), and to close West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

PART 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing board intends to change the age range of Bainbridge Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL from 3-11 years to 3-7 years from 1 September 2026. The current admission number for the school is 12 and the proposed admission number will be 15.

PART 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing board intends to change the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Yorebridge, Askrigg, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3BJ from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026. The current admission number for the school is 12 and the proposed admission number will be 15.

PART 3

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, intends to discontinue West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, West Burton, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4JY from 31 March 2026.

The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Signed: Chair of Governors, BAWB Federation and B. Khan, Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services), North Yorkshire Council

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

The proposals contained in Parts One, Two and Three of this notice are related.

**Governing Board of Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation
and North Yorkshire Council**

Proposals to restructure the federation into separate infant and junior schools – with Reeth Community Primary School becoming an infant school (with an age range of 3 to 7) and Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School becoming a junior school (with an age range of 7 to 11)

PART 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire Council intends to change the age range of Reeth Community Primary School, Healaugh Road, Reeth, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6SP from 3-11 years to 3-7 years from 1 September 2026. The current admission number for the school is 8 and the proposed admission number will be 15.

PART 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing board intends to change the age range of Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, Gunnerside, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6LE from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026. The current admission number for the school is 7 and the proposed admission number will be 15.

The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Signed: Chair of Governors, Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation and B.Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), North Yorkshire Council.

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

The proposals contained in Parts One and Two of this notice are related.

**Governing Board of the Federation of Middleham (Voluntary Aided) and Spennithorne
(Voluntary Controlled) Church of England Primary Schools
and North Yorkshire Council**

Proposals to restructure the federation into separate infant and junior schools – with Spennithorne Church of England (VC) Primary School becoming an infant school (with an age range of 4 to 7) and Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School becoming a junior school (with an age range of 7 to 11) and to change the category of Spennithorne Church of England School to Voluntary Aided

PART 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing board intends to change the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Spennithorne, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5PR from 4-11 years to 4-7 years from 1 September 2026. The current admission number for the school is 13 and the proposed admission number will be 20.

PART 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing board intends to change the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary) Aided School, Park Lane, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4QX from 4-11 years to 7-11 years from 1 September 2026. The current admission number for the school is 15 and the proposed admission number will be 20.

PART 3

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing board intends to change the category of Spennithorne Church of England Primary School, Spennithorne, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5PR from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided from 1 September 2026.

The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Signed: Chair of Governors, Federation of Middleham (Voluntary Aided) and Spennithorne (Voluntary Controlled) Church of England Primary Schools

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

The proposals contained in Parts One, Two and Three of this notice are related.

**Governing Board of the Synergy Schools Federation
and North Yorkshire Council**

Proposals to amalgamate Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

This would result in the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School as a separate entity, and the creation of a single 4-11 primary school on both school sites through the enlargement of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

PART 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE intends to discontinue Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School, Roman Road, Leeming, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9SG from 13 April 2026.

PART 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE intends to enlarge Aiskew, Leeming Bar Church of England Primary School, 2 Leeming Lane, Leeming Bar, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9AU onto an additional site using the Leeming and Londonderry school site at Roman Road, Leeming, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9SG from 13 April 2026. The current admission number for the school is 14 and the proposed admission number will be 15.

The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 6 February 2026.

Signed: Chair of Governors, Synergy Schools Federation and B.Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), North Yorkshire Council

Publication Date: 12 January 2026

The proposals contained in Parts One and Two of this notice are related.

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Appendix 4: Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Version 2: amended 11 August 2021

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission
Environmental Impact Assessment
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	School Organisation
Brief description of proposal	Proposals for revised school organisation arrangements requested by federated governing boards of primary schools in North Yorkshire
Directorate	Children and Young Peoples' Service
Service area	Strategic Planning
Lead officer	Jon Holden, Strategic Planning Manager
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Mark Ashton, Strategic Planning Officer
Date impact assessment started	20/8/2025

Options appraisal Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

A number of small schools and federations have secured their financial viability through the establishment of class and key stage structures such that children in year group or key stages from across their federations were educated at single sites irrespective of the schools at which individual pupils were registered. In some instances, has required that schools transport some pupils between sites within the school day and has thus had an impact upon curriculum delivery time. A number of federated schools have maintained these bespoke teaching arrangements over several years and they have locally arranged transport to 'move' children from school to school each day.

However, conversations have commenced with some schools undertaking this way of working about the temporary nature of the school organisation element of their arrangements and the requirement for formal longer-term solutions. Officers have supported the federated governing boards through the identification of a number of organisational models, each with different financial implications and which require to be considered in detail by the governing boards prior to the formal development of proposals that are compliant with legislation on the registration of pupils. These options include, but are not limited to, reverting to the provision of teaching at all school sites, to amalgamating as a single school and to utilising a single site.

A variety of alternative options to the proposals have been considered. The table in Section 4 of the Executive Member report of 9 September 2025, sets out what these options were. The table in the report gives reasons why certain options would not both address the issue and at the same time be sustainable or financially viable or because of its negative impact on performance which, under the current Ofsted framework, is a critical factor.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

The implications for capital and revenue are set out in the report to Executive Members.

Capital Position

No capital works are needed for this proposal.

Revenue Position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposals would not lead to an increase in revenue funding.

If an amalgamation is proposed, one school's lump sum would cease. If re-organising into infant and junior schools is proposed by a Federated Governing Board, both lump sums are retained. If a school closure forms part of a proposal, any savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the closure would remain within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant as part of the funding for all schools.

Federated Governing Boards can combine their school funds. Since the Federations would continue, combined revenue funding would continue to be an option under the proposals.

Based on the proposal taking effect on after the next financial year, and other things being equal, the Governing Boards of the Federations have established the most secure position, based on best estimates of revenue for each financial year beyond 2026/27.

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The proposals will take place across the existing school buildings. However, travel for pupils will not in all instances follow similar/ same patterns to the existing pattern. Some pupils will no longer be transported between schools, which will reduce travel distances and increase time in school. However, some pupils may be transported to different schools than currently.</p> <p>There has been a reduction in pupils in recent years and there is forecast to be a further reduction in pupils, so this might effect minor savings on greenhouse gas emissions from travel since there will be slightly less pupils travelling to schools in the proposal.</p> <p>The issue of school transport is difficult to analyse as parental preference, and parental behaviour plays a large role in the level of</p>	<p>Where possible Integrated Passenger transport will choose vehicles and routes to minimise traffic. The amalgamated school will be encouraged and supported to develop a sustainable travel plan.</p>	<p>Schools will continue to encourage sustainable methods of transport where they are safe and possible. For example, by encouraging lift sharing, walking to school as part of developing their travel plans.</p>

	<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Page 95</p>					<p>emissions from travel. For example, even schools with a very small catchment area would have a high carbon footprint if the majority of parents chose to drive their children to school either at their catchment school or by preference to another school further afield. Many schools operate travel plans which encourage low carbon transport options such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>Under the proposals catchment areas would be combined. Pupils living within the combined catchment may be living in houses within the statutory 2 mile walking distance for children under 8 years of age or the statutory 3 miles walking distance for children aged 8 years and over. This may not be the same as the status quo where some pupils living within the combined catchment would be within the</p>		

	<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Page 96</p>					<p>statutory walking distance for the nearest appropriate school.</p> <p>For pupils living beyond 3 miles home to school transport would be provided where appropriate in line with legislation.</p> <p>In the particular case of the proposed closure of West Burton CE VC School there will be a small number of pupils living in the West Burton area who are currently within a walking distance of the current school who will be eligible for transport to the next nearest school. Others who have previously walked may choose to drive to schools further afield. This would lead to an increase in vehicular travel.</p>		
	Emissions from construction		X		<p>N/A</p> <p>No capital works are needed for proposals. The existing school buildings are being used.</p>	N/A	N/A

	<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Page 97</p>							
	<p>Emissions from running of buildings</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>The proposals will take place across the existing school buildings. Even though there has been a reduction in pupils in recent years and there is forecast to be a further reduction in pupils, this will not effect savings on greenhouse gas emissions savings on the school buildings, since they will operate in a similar/ same way. The Council would cease to operate the West Burton CE VC School Premises, and the pupils would be accommodated at existing local establishments with no additional running costs.</p>		
	<p>Emissions from data storage</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>The proposals will take place across existing federated schools, which already share data storage across the federations in most cases. The data storage for these federated schools will be similar under the proposals going forward.</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
Other						
<p>Minimise waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>		X		<p>While recycling is already encouraged within schools and the reduction of waste is promoted and taught to pupils, the schools' consumption of resources will not cease. There will not be a general reduction in the use of resources in schools under the proposals.</p>		
<p>Reduce water consumption</p>		X		<p>The water consumption required to operate most schools would be similar and therefore would not be removed from the NYC carbon footprint. The water consumption required to operate West Burton CE VC Primary School as an establishment would no longer be required and is therefore removed from the NYC carbon footprint.</p>		
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		X		<p>N/A</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		X		N/A		
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>		X		N/A		
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape</p>		X		N/A		
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

N/A

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker:

This proposal has neither positive nor negative environmental impacts. The proposals are a strategic change across existing school buildings which will be used in a similar way to the way they are operated currently. The impacts in energy usage associated with two school establishments ceasing to be used to teach children of similar ages together and to become two separate schools would be negligible. Because it is a strategic rather than a building change, the proposal would not achieve significant reductions in heating, lighting and water usage. Equally, there is likely to be a neutral impact associated with use of vehicles to transport the pupils to and from school. Ultimately there is an overriding consideration in this proposal to provide the best legally compliant outcome for the education of children in the local area and the other options identified are not both educationally sustainable and legally compliant.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by: Mark Ashton

Name	Mark Ashton
Job title	Strategic Planning Officer
Service area	Strategic Planning
Directorate	CYPS
Signature	Mark Ashton
Completion date	22/8/2025

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director: Amanda Fielding

Date: 23/08/2025

Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

(Form updated October 2023)

Proposals for revised School Organisation Arrangements requested by three Federated Governing Boards of Primary Schools

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email communications@northyorks.gov.uk.



যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.

Name of Directorate and Service Area	CYPS, Strategic Planning
Lead Officer and contact details	Jon Holden, Strategic Planning Manager, Jon.Holden@northyorks.gov.uk
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Mark Ashton, Strategic Planning Officer
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	LA Officers and Federated Governing Boards
When did the due regard process start?	An initial EIA Screening Form was completed on 29th August 2024 - for a briefing paper to the CYPS Leadership Team on school organisation regulations

Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about. (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

The proposals are:

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation

- That the age range of Bainbridge Church of England Primary should be changed from 3-11 to 3-7 such that it should become Bainbridge Church of England Infant and Nursery School
- That the age range of Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School should be changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that it should become Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Junior School
- That West Burton Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School should be closed; and
- That the two remaining schools should have a shared catchment area that comprises an amalgamation of the current catchment areas of the three schools.
- The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the pupil forecast.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation:

- That the age range of Reeth Community Primary School is changed from 3-11 to 3-7, such that the school becomes Reeth Community Infant School
- That the age range Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is changed from 4-11 to 7-11, such that the school becomes Gunnerside Methodist (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The Local Authority approves through its discretion a 'nearest gate in the federation' policy for home school transport, which would be conditional upon the federation continuing to provide support with inter-school transport where that is required.
- The PAN will be 15 at each school, to reflect the combined pupil forecast

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools:

- That the age range of Spennithorne Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 4-7 such that the school becomes Spennithorne Church of England Infant School
- That the age range of Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School be changed from 4-11 to 7-11 such that the school becomes Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School
- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The PAN will be increased to 20 places at each school
- That the status of Spennithorne Church of England School is changed from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided

The Synergy Federation:

- That Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School amalgamate with effect from 13 April 2026
- That this would be achieved through the technical closure of Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School and the expansion of Aiskew Leeming Bar Church of

England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School onto an additional site (the Leeming and Londonderry school site)

- That the schools would have a shared catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing schools' current catchment areas
- The PAN for the school will be 15

Home to school travel discretionary arrangements

- That the Council provides discretionary travel for children, already assessed as eligible for travel *and* on roll at schools on 1 September 2026, within the BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation, Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation and The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE schools for the duration of their education at the schools within the federation, subject to there being no change in their circumstances.

Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it? (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

Over the last few years, a number of small schools and federations have successfully secured their financial viability through the establishment of class and key stage structures and other local organisational arrangements such that children in year group or key stages from across their federations were educated at single sites irrespective of the schools at which individual pupils were registered. This has been beneficial to school leaders and governors as it has allowed their efficient use of teaching resources in curriculum delivery, but, in some instances, has required that schools transport some pupils between sites within the school day and has thus had an impact upon curriculum delivery time. A number of federated schools have maintained these bespoke teaching arrangements over several years and they have locally arranged transport to 'move' children from school to school each day.

However, conversations have commenced with some schools undertaking this way of working about the temporary nature of the school organisation element of their arrangements and the requirement for formal longer-term solutions. Officers have supported the federated governing boards through the identification of a number of organisational models, each with different financial implications and which require to be considered in detail by the governing boards prior to the formal development of proposals that are compliant with legislation on the registration of pupils. These options include, but are not limited to, reverting to the provision of teaching at all school sites, to amalgamating as a single school and to utilising a single site.

Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?

It is proposed that pupils will be taught in the school at which they are registered. Federations between schools will continue but parents with children attending an infant school will have to apply for a place in the junior school; schools' separate catchment areas will be merged to create a single combined catchment area and PANs (Planned Admission Numbers) will increase. It is also proposed that West Burton CE Primary School will close.

Section 4. Involvement and consultation (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

A six-week consultation period will run from September to November 2025. Consultation documents will be distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, and public meetings will be held. The consultation documents and responses to the consultation will be included in the subsequent report to the Council’s Executive Committee in December 2025 seeking permission to publish Statutory Notices in January 2026, for a further 4-week period of consultation.

Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

The implications for capital and revenue are set out in the report to Executive Members.

Capital Position

No capital works are needed for these proposals.

Revenue Position

School budgets are funded largely by pupil numbers so the proposals would not lead to an increase in revenue funding.

Federated Governing Boards can combine their school funds. Since the Federations would continue, combined revenue funding would continue under the proposals.

If an amalgamation is proposed, one school’s lump sum would cease. If re-organising into infant and junior schools is proposed by a Federated Governing Board, both lump sums are retained. With regard to the proposed closure of West Burton Primary School, any savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the closure would remain within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant as part of the funding for all schools.

Based on the proposal taking effect on the start of April 2026 and other things being equal, the Governing Boards of the Federations have established the most secure position, based on best estimates of revenue for each financial year beyond 2026/27.

Home to school travel assistance would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the Council’s home to school transport policy. Costs will depend on the individual choices of schools by parents and may also depend on the circumstances of individual pupils.

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation:

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
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protected characteristics?				
Age		X	X	<p>Current arrangements of combining pupils of similar age on one site, irrespective of the school in which they are registered, helps limit mixed year groups. The proposals will help minimize mixed year groups and in some cases will increase the pupils' access to children of the same age group.</p> <p>If the decision is taken to close West Burton School this adversely affects those seeking provision at the school; however, teaching at the school has been suspended since September 2024.</p>
Disability	X			<p>The schools are mainstream, offering universal provision and will offer appropriate educational provision for all learners for whom a mainstream placement is considered appropriate. They will promote inclusive opportunities and early intervention, as well as high quality teaching and learning.</p> <p>Expertise will be utilised from the Council to provide appropriate SEN support.</p> <p>NYC will continue to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which obligates us to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled individuals. In accordance with equalities legislation, school buildings are generally accessible for pupils, and, in addition, the School Admissions Code makes it unlawful to discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.</p>
Sex	x			No impact is anticipated.
Race	x			No impact is anticipated.
Gender reassignment	x			No impact is anticipated.
Sexual orientation	x			No impact is anticipated.
Religion or belief			x	If the decision is taken to close West Burton CE Primary School, this will adversely impact upon

				those pupils who wish to be educated in a Church of England School. Parents can apply to another CE school and the Council will do its best to comply with their preference through the co-ordinated preference exercise.
Pregnancy or maternity	x			No impact is anticipated.
Marriage or civil partnership	x			No impact is anticipated.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation:

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
Age	X			Current arrangements of combining pupils of similar age on one site, irrespective of the school in which they are registered, helps limit mixed year groups. The proposals will help minimise mixed year groups and in some cases will increase pupils' access to children of the same age group.
Disability	X			<p>The schools are mainstream, offering universal provision and will offer appropriate educational provision for all learners for whom a mainstream placement is considered appropriate. They will promote inclusive opportunities and early intervention, as well as high quality teaching and learning.</p> <p>Expertise will be utilised from the Council to provide appropriate SEN support.</p> <p>NYC will continue to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which obligates us to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled individuals. In accordance with equalities legislation, school buildings are generally accessible for pupils, and, in addition, the School Admissions Code makes it unlawful to discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.</p>
Sex	x			No impact is anticipated.

Race	x			No impact is anticipated.
Gender reassignment	x			No impact is anticipated.
Sexual orientation	x			No impact is anticipated.
Religion or belief	x			No impact is anticipated. Schools with a religious designation will retain their designation and continue to work with their relevant diocese.
Pregnancy or maternity	x			No impact is anticipated.
Marriage or civil partnership	x			No impact is anticipated.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
Age	X			Current arrangements of combining pupils of similar age on one site, irrespective of the school in which they are registered, helps limit mixed year groups. The proposals will help minimise mixed year groups and in some cases will increase pupils' access to children of the same age group.
Disability	X			The schools are mainstream, offering universal provision and will offer appropriate educational provision for all learners for whom a mainstream placement is considered appropriate. They will promote inclusive opportunities and early intervention, as well as high quality teaching and learning. Expertise will be utilised from the Council to provide appropriate SEN support.

				NYC will continue to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which obligates us to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled individuals. In accordance with equalities legislation, school buildings are generally accessible for pupils, and, in addition, the School Admissions Code makes it unlawful to discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.
Sex	x			No impact is anticipated.
Race	x			No impact is anticipated.
Gender reassignment	x			No impact is anticipated.
Sexual orientation	x			No impact is anticipated.
Religion or belief	x			No impact is anticipated. Schools with a religious designation will retain their designation and continue to work with their relevant diocese.
Pregnancy or maternity	x			No impact is anticipated.
Marriage or civil partnership	x			No impact is anticipated.

Section 7

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation:

Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
..live in a rural area?			x	The schools within this proposal are classified by the DfE as serving rural villages in a sparse setting and rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting. This does not mean rural schools should not change. It means that the case should be strong, and the proposals must be clearly in the best interests of educational

				<p>provision in the area. Careful consideration has been had to alternatives, transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community. It is concluded that the case for the proposals is strong, in making the provision legally compliant, and in the best interests of educational provision in the areas.</p> <p>The proposed closure of West Burton School would have an adverse impact for those living within its catchment that attend the school as they would have to travel to alternative schools. However, teaching at West Burton School has been temporarily suspended since September 2024. If the decision is made to proceed with the statutory notices and proposed closure, Council Officers will work with parents and families to identify places for their children at alternative schools.</p>
...have a low income?			x	There may be adverse impact on those families with low incomes if they have to travel to a different school. However, this would be mitigated by the Council for those children from low-income families who are eligible for transport assistance, in line with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?	x			No impact is anticipated.
..... are from the Armed Forces Community	x			No impact is anticipated.

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation:

Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
..live in a rural area?	x			The schools within this proposal are classified by the DfE as serving rural villages in a sparse setting and rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting. This does not mean rural schools should not change. It means that the case should be strong, and the proposals must

				be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. Careful consideration has been had to alternatives, transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community. It is concluded that the case for the proposals is strong, in making the provision legally compliant, and in the best interests of educational provision in the areas.
...have a low income?			x	There may be adverse impact on those families with low incomes if they have to travel to a different school. However, this would be mitigated by the Council for those children from low-income families who are eligible for transport assistance, in line with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?	x			No impact is anticipated.
..... are from the Armed Forces Community	x			No impact is anticipated.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
..live in a rural area?	x			The schools within this proposal are classified by the DfE as serving rural villages in a sparse setting and rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting. This does not mean rural schools should not change. It means that the case should be strong, and the proposals must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. Careful consideration has been had to alternatives, transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community. It is concluded that the case for the proposals is strong, in making the provision legally compliant, and in the best interests of educational provision in the areas.
...have a low income?			x	There may be adverse impact on those families with low incomes if they must travel to a different school. However, this would be mitigated by the Council for those children from low-income families who are eligible for transport assistance,

				in line with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?	x			No impact is anticipated.
..... are from the Armed Forces Community	x			No impact is anticipated.

The Synergy Federation

Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
..live in a rural area?	x			The schools within this proposal are classified by the DfE as serving a rural village. This does not mean rural schools should not change. It means that the case should be strong, and the proposals must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. Careful consideration has been had to alternatives, transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community. It is concluded that the case for the proposals is strong, in making the provision legally compliant, and in the best interests of educational provision in the areas.
...have a low income?			x	<p>There may be adverse impact on those families with low incomes if they must travel to a different school. However, this would be mitigated by the Council for those children from low-income families who are eligible for transport assistance, in line with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.</p> <p>Another mitigating factor is that the Leeming Federation offers free places to FSM eligible children at the wraparound care on Aiskew's site. In attending these sessions, any child who needs taking from or to the Leeming site would get a free lift in the school's minibus, therefore negating the need for additional expense. Additionally, the two school sites are only 0.4 miles apart, and so walkable.</p>
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?	x			No impact is anticipated.

..... are from the Armed Forces Community	x			No impact is anticipated.
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Section 8. Geographic impact – Please detail where the impact will be (please tick all that apply)

North Yorkshire wide	
Craven	
Hambleton	x
Harrogate	
Richmondshire	x
Ryedale	
Scarborough	
Selby	

If you have ticked one or more areas, will specific town(s)/village(s) be particularly impacted? If so, please specify below.

BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) Federation: West Burton, Askrigg, Bainbridge

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools Federation: Reeth, Gunnerside

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools: Middleham and Spennithorne

Synergy Federation: Aiskew, Leeming Bar and Londonderry

Section 9. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.

All pupils and staff at the schools would experience changes under these proposals that staff and governors would need to manage sensitively.

Section 10. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)	Tick option chosen
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1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal. There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	
2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.	
3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons for continuing with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)	x
4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<p>Explanation of why option has been chosen. (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)</p> <p>The Council's Officers, guided by legal opinion and DfE advice, feel that the proposals to establish school organisational structures which are legally compliant are necessary and in the best interests of children and families served by the proposals. On the basis of the proposals, pupils will be taught in the schools in which they are registered.</p> <p>The Local Authority's admission team will continue to work with families to try to meet their individual preferences for primary schools.</p> <p>Home to school transport will be assessed in line with the Council's policy.</p> <p>West Burton CE VC Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School are designated as rural schools under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order. The School Organisation regulations and guidance contain a presumption against closure of rural schools, and it is a requirement that proposers must consider the effect of the discontinuance of any rural primary school on the local community. The statutory guidance specifically states that 'This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.' Careful consideration to alternatives to closure of the school, including transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community will be considered in the Statutory Proposals (if published) and the accompanying report to the Executive.</p>	

Section 11. If the proposal is to be implemented, how will you find out how it is really affecting people? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)

Monitoring will be carried out through children and young people's services and through Ofsted inspections.

Section 12. Action plan. List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
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Not Applicable				

Section 13. Summary Summarise the findings of your EIA, including impacts, recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

The purpose of the consultation on these proposals and proposed decision is to ensure that children are educated in the school in which they are registered, that education is provided in the area in a sustainable manner and to establish school organisational structures which are legally compliant. Whilst it is recognised that there may be some adverse impact upon those with protected characteristics of age and religion/belief, there are more positive impacts that will result if these proposals are implemented. As these proposals develop any adverse impacts will be carefully monitored, and all reasonable mitigations will be taken.

Section 14. Sign off section

This full EIA was completed by:

Name: Mark Ashton

Job title: Strategic Planning Officer

Directorate: CYPS

Signature: Mark Ashton

Completion date: 21 August 2025

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Amanda Fielding

Date: 23 August 2025