

North Yorkshire County Council
Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee
24 November 2021

Schools, educational achievement and finance

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Richmond constituency committee area.

2.0 Local educational landscape

- 2.1 There are now 18 primary academies and 4 secondary academies within the Richmond (Yorks) constituency area. The academy conversion rate for primary schools is similar within the constituency area when compared to the county as a whole (29% compared to 32.1% in North Yorkshire.) The academy conversion rate for secondary schools is lower (57.1% compared to 62.8% in North Yorkshire).

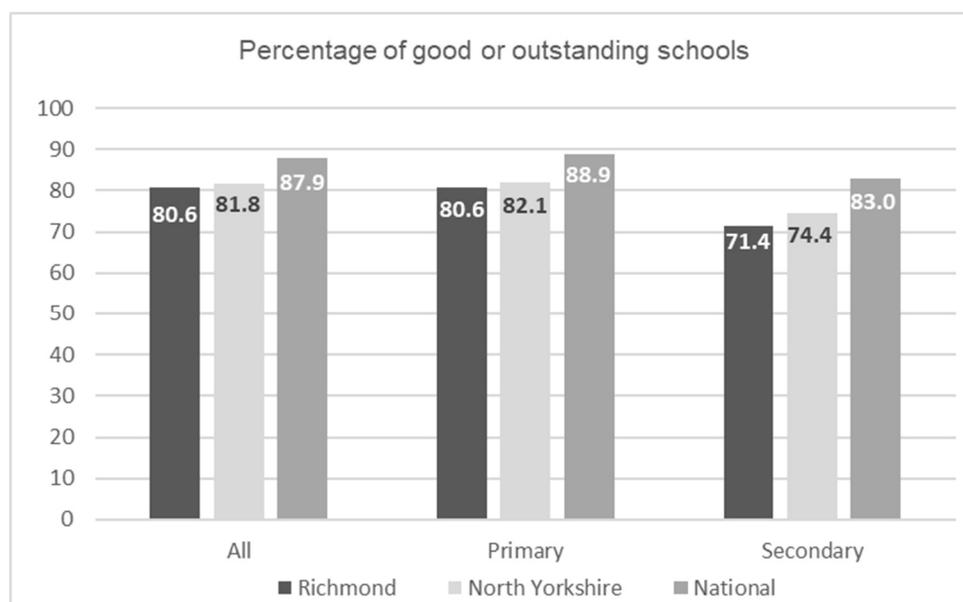
Summary of schools' status – September 2021

	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Richmond (Yorks) ACC area	
Primary Maintained	205	67.9%	44	71.0%
Primary Academy & Free School	97	32.1%	18	29.0%
Total	302		62	
Secondary Maintained	16	37.2%	3	42.9%
Secondary Academy	27	62.8%	4	57.1%
Total	43		7	
Special Maintained	7	70%	2	100%
Special Academy	3	30%	0	
Total	10		2	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	1	100%
PRU Academy	1	20%	0	
Total	5		1	
Total maintained	232	64.4%	50	69.4%
Total Academy	128	35.6%	22	30.6%
Overall Total	360		72	

3.0 School standards

3.1 School Ofsted judgements

In the constituency area 80.6 per cent of primary schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, which is below the North Yorkshire and national averages. In terms of secondary schools, 71.4 per cent are judged good or outstanding, which is also lower than the North Yorkshire and national averages. There are 26 schools currently judged requires improvement or inadequate in the constituency area.



3.2 Attainment overall

The Committee has previously (25 November 2020) considered a report which contained all of the key attainment data for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Over the last 2 years, exams and assessments in schools have not taken place because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In 2020, GCSEs, AS and A level exams, and those for some equivalent qualifications, faced widespread cancellation and were replaced with a grading process involving centre assessment followed by statistical standardisation. Ultimately, statistical standardisation was dropped in favour of teacher/ centre assessment, unless the adjusted grades were higher.

Summer 2021 assessments were awarded based on teacher or centre assessment and no statistical adjustment processes were used. Final results for many qualifications, including GCSEs and A Levels, were released to schools in August 2021. Review and appeal processes have been made available where students believe they received the wrong grades, but overall, final grades were significantly higher in both 2020 and 2021 than in 2019.

The Government intends for GCSEs, AS, A Level and equivalent assessments and exams to go ahead in England in summer 2022 and has consulted on assessment arrangements. It is proposing some changes to general, and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). Additionally, current plans would see school-level performance (league) tables reintroduced for the end of the GCSE phase (key stage 4) in 2022; school-level information is not being published during either 2020 or 2021. Further detail is expected about how the assessments will be graded in 2022 and beyond. Some concerns remain about whether these measures will go far enough to address inequalities, and whether schools, colleges, and students will have enough notice of the final arrangements.

In primary schools, national curriculum assessments due to be held in summer 2020 and summer 2021, including tests, teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, were also cancelled too. These statutory assessments are expected to resume in 2022 and we will also see the wider introduction of the Reception Baseline Assessment.

Due to the changes in exams and assessments, the DfE has not collected and released school data for comparative purposes and so there is nothing to report to this Committee until Autumn 2022 when the results of the summer 2022 cycle will have been published.

3.3 Not in education, employment or training

There were 946 young people recorded in Year 11 living in this constituency in May 2020 and of this cohort only 21 (2.22%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school as of August 2021.

4.0 Fixed-term and Permanent Exclusions

4.1 Fixed-term exclusion incidents

In the 2020/21 academic year, there have been a total of 3257 fixed term exclusions for a total of 1462 individual children in North Yorkshire. 275 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in Richmond constituency.

In the same period last year, there were 4189 fixed-term exclusions for a total of 1491 individual children, 251 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in Richmond constituency.

Fixed term exclusions				
Academic year	Richmond	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total	Most common reason
2020/21	491	3257	15.1%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (32.0%)
2019/20	702	4366	16.1%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (43.0%)
2018/19	867	5962	14.5%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (53.4%)
2017/18	1020	6,005	17.0%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (45.2%)
2016/17	918	4,583	20.0%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (46.5%)

In 2019/20 schools in the constituency area had a 16% share of the total schools population in North Yorkshire and a 16% share of fixed term exclusions for the whole county, this decreased to 15% in the 2020/21 academic year.

4.2 Permanent exclusions

In 2020/21, there were 26 permanent exclusions from schools in the county, three of which were for children in Richmond area schools. In the same period of 2019/20, there were 52 permanent exclusions, 15 of which were from Richmond.

Permanent exclusions				
Academic year	Richmond	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total	Most common reason
2020/21	3	26	11.5%	
2019/20	15	52	28.8%	Drug and alcohol related (6 exclusions)
2018/19	16	87	18.4%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (61.5%)
2017/18	17	103	16.5%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (35.3%)
2016/17	13	86	15.1%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (46.2%)

4.3 From September 2020 the transition of the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) to provide preventative places to reduce the need for secondary exclusions has been introduced. Schools are able to request placements at the PRS as part of a joint education programme for children that are disengaging from mainstream school. The partnership approach between the PRS and school will ensure that children receive the necessary support without a permanent exclusion. Post implementation review of this practice was due to be carried out this year but has been delayed due to Covid 19 and will take place next year.

5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

5.1 Targeted Mainstream Provision- Reshaping of SEN Provision in Richmond area over the 2020/21 Academic Year

The development of the new model of provision, Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) is intended to help the LA meet demand for full time education provision for children with SEND and who have an Education, Health and Care Plan. This model delivers provision for children and young people who are able to access mainstream education but with additional support for their special educational needs.

Over the 2020/21 academic year both secondary and primary Communication and Interaction targeted provision to support children and young people in this area are being developed. Wensleydale School and Alverton Primary School have been approved to provide TMPs for Communication and Interaction needs. A partnership between Thirsk School and Hambleton and Richmondshire PRS has also been approved to deliver a TMP for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs for Secondary age pupils and Stokesley Academy will deliver SEMH provision for primary aged pupils. Comprehensive plans for capital works are currently being developed to ensure that high quality provision can be delivered on these sites.

Work is continuing through 2021/22 to increase the amount of TMPs in areas which do not yet have host schools identified, to ensure that the LA has capacity to meet demand for this provision.

The 'outreach' offer for children and young people with SEND continues to be met by the SEND multi-disciplinary hubs made up of specialist staff employed directly by the Local Authority including specialist teachers, practitioners, educational psychologists and therapists.

5.2 SEN Statistics for Constituency Area

As of January 2021 there were 574 children living in the constituency with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, 16.2% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan living in the area are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at 40.1 % and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 16.9%, and Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) at 16.0%.

As of January 2021 school census there were 1789 children recorded as SEN Support from schools in this constituency, 19.2% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children receiving SEN support in the area are Speech, Language and Communication at 22.0% and Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. Dyslexia) at 20.3%.

6.0 Elective Home Education

As of 31st August 2021 there were 904 children recorded as Electively Home Educated in North Yorkshire, 118 of which were formerly from a mainstream school in Richmond ACC. At the same point last year, there were 688 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 101 formerly from a mainstream school in Richmond ACC. This represents a 31% increase in North Yorkshire and a 17% increase in Richmond ACC.

Between 1st Sept 2020 to 31st August 2021, 483 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 69 of which were formerly educated in a mainstream school in Richmond ACC. This figure was 43 from Richmond of 294 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire, in the same period last year.

7.0 School Finance

7.1 Schools in Financial Difficulty – the countywide position

As of March 2021 the overall position for North Yorkshire Schools was:

- 22 schools with accumulated deficits totalling £7.5M
- This was an increase of £0.4M from 2019/20 (after adjusting for school closures, amalgamations and academy conversions in 2020/21)
- Deficits range from £1k (special school) up to £1.6M (special school)
- The average primary school deficit is £57k
- The average secondary school deficit is £596k
- 3 schools out of the 22 have since converted to Academy status or closed since 31st March 2021
- Of the 19 schools remaining, 9 schools are predicting that their position will deteriorate, 8 are projected to improve their financial position and 2 are projected to return to a surplus position as at 31st March 2022

7.2 School Projections - Based on May 2021/22 Start budgets

- 143 LA maintained schools (67%) are projecting an in-year deficit in 2021/22
- 6 schools are projected to move from a surplus balance to a deficit balance by March 2022
- 12% (26 schools) are forecast to be in deficit at 31st March 2022, this is projected to rise to just under one in five by March 23 and just under two out of five by March 24.

	2018/19 (Actual)	2019/20 (Actual)	2020/21 (Actual)	2021/22 (Forecast)	2022/23 (Forecast)	2023/24 (Forecast)
Number of Schools in Deficit	47	37	22	26	40	79
Value of Deficit	£6.0M	£7.2M	£7.5M	£8.5M	£9.4M	12.8M
Proportion of schools in deficit	18%	15%	10%	12%	19%	37%

7.3 Funding

- Concern around overall quantum of funding given cost pressures (e.g. future pay awards, the longer term impact of the Covid pandemic in terms of additional expenditure requirements and potential income losses).
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 138 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £5,570 per pupil in 2021-22 compared to a national average of £5,935. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.5m.
- North Yorkshire primary schools are placed 35 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £4,715 per pupil compared to a national average of £4,611.
- Concern over the impact of continued high needs financial pressures on school budgets.
- North Yorkshire has a number of schools that, geographically, are vital in serving their local communities. Inadequate sparsity funding and general financial pressures for smaller, rural secondary schools, continues to be a significant concern. DfE proposed changes to increase sparsity funding will come into effect for 2022/23 school funding, however the maximum sparsity funding increase for a small secondary school is £10k. NYCC continues to lobby the DfE and local MPs for higher levels of funding for the small, rural secondary schools within the LA.

7.4 Schools in Financial Difficulty – Richmond

2021/22	2023/24
3 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2022; 7% of schools in Richmond.	10 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2024; 24% of schools in Richmond.
2 secondaries; 1 special.	7 primaries; 2 secondaries, 1 special.
Total projected value of deficits = £2.1M	Total projected value of deficits = £2.1M
Projected average secondary deficit = £658k Projected average special deficit = £831k	Projected average primary deficit = £63k Projected average secondary deficit = £686k Projected average special deficit = £300k

8.0 Planning school places

8.1 School sustainability

The sustainability of schools is largely influenced by three key factors which are usually related to each other:

- Falling pupil rolls
- School standards
- Financial difficulty

Where school closures have regrettably occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. There have been six closures in the county over the last three years with one of these occurring in the constituency area.

8.2 Collaborative working

Collaborative working is two or more schools working together to the mutual benefit of their pupils with the overall aim of improving outcomes for all. This has the potential to broaden opportunities and contribute to efficiencies. There are now nine federations in the Richmond area. All of these federations are maintained schools with a single governing body and headteacher. 'Synergy', based at Brompton on Swale primary school, involves four primary schools collaborating under one executive headteacher.

8.3 Pupil rolls – current and future

The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child under the Education Act 1996. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas together with:

- Capacity in the planning area

- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The County Council is carefully monitoring pupil numbers across the Richmond constituency area. A large proportion of the constituency is rural and served by small schools located within villages. A falling birth rate combined with changing demographics means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. Across the constituency the schools have worked innovatively to mitigate these challenges including forming local federations. The fluctuation of pupil numbers exacerbates the already challenging nature of school funding, particularly for smaller schools.

The general picture across the whole of the County shows projected growth in the urban areas contrasting with declining numbers in rural locations. There are several social and economic reasons for this including the availability and price of housing and employment factors.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from sites proposed in the Richmondshire or Hambleton Local Plans which do not yet have planning approval. Catterick Garrison and Northallerton are the urban centres within Richmondshire and Hambleton which will accommodate most of the growth over the Local Plan period. Catterick Garrison is made up of the three adjoining parishes of Hipswell, Colburn and Scotton and most of Richmondshire Local Plan's projected housing has been allocated within these parishes. As part of the usual Local Plan process Richmondshire District Council are preparing to review their plan and consider their options going forward. LA Officers will work with colleagues at RDC to consider Educational impact of any further plans. Most of the Hambleton Local Plan's projected housing in Northallerton has been allocated to the North Northallerton Development Area.

The key points to note within LA planning areas across the constituency area are:

- 8.4** *Catterick Area* – An announcement is expected shortly from the Ministry of Defence regarding the number of service personnel and families expected to be located at Catterick Garrison in future, following the Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. Although the details are currently unknown there are likely to be a significant number of personnel and unit moves in and out.

Catterick Garrison is the main area of projected housing growth in the Richmondshire Local Plan. Over 300 service family houses have received planning approval and the Richmondshire Local Plan proposes significant open market housing, making the provision of school places a key issue for the County Council. There is still some uncertainty about the proposed service family and open market housing and, therefore, about the timing of the future

demand for school places. However, a new academy, known as Cambrai, has opened under phased and gradual growth to avoid destabilising existing local primary schools. Cambrai is currently a one form entry (1FE) school, but has the potential to increase to 2FE.

- 8.5** *Northallerton Area* – The six primary schools in Northallerton serve the existing housing, which is concentrated to the south of the town. However, the northern edge of the town is identified in the Local Plan as the preferred site for growth. North Northallerton is the strategic site for development and the proposed 1,380 dwellings will place demands on its educational infrastructure. Consequently, land has been safeguarded within the North Northallerton development for a new one form entry, 210 place primary school. Following public consultation the County Council secured planning permission and DfE approval and intended to deliver the School by September 2023. However, delays to the land transfer process, due to circumstances beyond our control, have recently seen a decision taken to delay the target opening date to September 2024. The latest pupil data indicates that growth has not been at the expected rate and we expect to be able to manage school place sufficiency in the interim period prior to 2024.

Northallerton School and Sixth Form has recently been transferred to the site of the former Allertonshire School. The Arete Academy Trust relocated the secondary school to the Allertonshire site, which is a larger site in Northallerton, in September 2021. The school has sufficient capacity to accommodate local plan housing and officers are currently considering options for future use of the vacated school site in Northallerton.

- 8.6** *Swaledale Area* – The already very small schools within Swaledale’s outer areas face demographic pressures. The demographic trend in Swaledale’s outer, rural areas led to the closure of Arkengarthdale Primary School. A falling birth rate, the availability and affordability of housing and employment factors create falling numbers in many schools. In contrast, schools in Swaledale’s inner areas are projecting growth. Schools such as Brompton-on-Swale and Middleton Tyas have relatively high numbers on roll, and proposed housing in Richmondshire’s Local Plan, such as the Gatherley Road development, will provide additional pupils within Brompton-on-Swale’s catchment area.
- 8.7** *Stokesley Area* – Stokesley follows a similar pattern, with sparser populations in its outer areas. The closure of two schools along the Stokesley corridor has reduced some of the surplus spaces in the outer, more rural, areas. However, despite the consequent enlargement of catchment areas, there are still generally high surplus places in those remaining primary schools sitting along the corridor running from the centre of Stokesley out towards Northallerton.

The appended figures illustrate how both the primary and the secondary schools in Stokesley have surplus spaces. The developments proposed in

Stokesley by the Hambleton Local Plan are not forecast to generate a shortfall of spaces in either school.

8.8 *Wensleydale Area* - Wensleydale does not echo the general picture across the constituency area of projected growth in the urban areas. Even in Leyburn, schools such as the Wensleydale School and Sixth Form have high surplus places. There are surplus places across the whole school system in Wensleydale and there is projected to be an increasing and significant surplus of secondary and primary spaces going forward. The rural areas of the constituency are characterised by small primary schools serving sparsely populated villages and even extensive super-sparse areas. Wensleydale's geography, combined with its low pupil numbers, has led to financial and organisational challenges for some schools.

8.9 *Bedale Area* – Bedale High School currently has significant surplus spaces and therefore can absorb the anticipated pupil yield from the Local Plan. However, forecasts predict the housing growth could create a shortfall of places at Bedale Primary School. Consequently, three additional primary classrooms have been constructed through a combination of basic need funding and Section 106 developer contributions.

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 That Members note the report on educational factors in the Richmond constituency area.

Authors: Amanda Newbold (Assistant Director – Education and Skills), Howard Emmett (Assistant Director – Strategic Resources), Jane Le-Sage (Assistant Director – Inclusion), Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager)

Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

APPENDIX 1

Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places

School planning area	Places available as at 2020/2021	Number on Roll 2016/2017	Number on roll 2020/2021	Surplus Capacity 2020/2021	Forecast pupils as at 2025/2026	Pupils from current housing permissions until 2025/2026	Surplus capacity 2025/26
PRIMARY							
Bedale Bedale CE	420	324	347	73	300	52	68
Bedale Outer Area Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE Burneston CE (VA) Crakehall CE Primary Hackforth and Hornby CE Hunton and Arrathorne CP Leeming and Londonderry CP Leeming RAF CP Snape CP St. Nicholas CE Primary, West Tanfield Thornton Watlass CE	963	662	609	354	609	41	313
Total	1383	986	956	427	907	93	381
Catterick Garrison Carnagill CP Le Cateau CP Wavell Community Infant Wavell Community Junior Cambrai Primary Academy	1401	1003	1020	381	875	78	448
Catterick Outer Area Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's CE Colburn CP Hipswell CE Primary Michael Syddall CE (Aided)	818	611	717	101	672	65	81
Total	2219	1614	1737	482	1547	143	529
Northallerton Alverton CP Applegarth Primary Broomfield School Mill Hill CP Romanby Primary Sacred Heart RC	1225	1187	1218	7	1187	134	-96
Northallerton Outer Area Ainderby Steeple CE Appleton Wiske CP Brompton CP East Cowton CE Great Smeaton Academy Kirkby Fleetham CE Osmotherley Primary (Inc South Otterington CE –other constituency)	813	544	581	232	537	37	239
Total	2038	1731	1799	239	1724	171	143

Stokesley Primary Area Stokesley Primary	399	289	204	195	160	55	184
Stokesley Primary Outer Area Bilsdale Midcable Chop Gate CE Carlton & Faceby CE VA Hutton Rudby Ingleby Greenhow CE VA Kirkby & Great Broughton CE VA Marwood CE VC Infant Roseberry Academy	835	694	711	124	631	23	181
Total	1234	983	915	319	791	78	365

Swaledale Primary Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary Middleton Tyas CE Richmond Methodist St Mary's RC Primary Trinity Academy Richmond	1229	1081	951	278	803	31	395
Swaledale Primary Outer Area Barton CE Primary Croft CE Primary Eppleby Forcett CE Gunnarside Methodist Melsonby Methodist North & South Cowton CP Ravensworth CE Primary Reeth CP	630	372	347	283	363	48	219
Total	1859	1453	1298	561	1166	79	614

Thirsk Outer Area Pickhill CE Primary and 8 schools outside the constituency area	968	754	851	117	739	61	168
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Wensleydale Primary Leyburn Primary	210	174	187	23	175	9	26
Wensleydale Primary Outer Area Askrigg VC Primary Bainbridge CE Primary & Nursery Hawes Primary Middleham CE Primary Spennithorne CE Primary West Burton CE	375	263	253	122	181	28	166
Total	585	437	440	145	356	37	192

SECONDARY							
Bedale Bedale High School	935	593	488	447	582	51	302

Catterick Risedale Sports and Community College	925	430	576	349	644	101	180
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Northallerton Northallerton School & Sixth Form	1304	1138	1039	265	996	89	219
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Stokesley Stokesley School	1269	1174	1142	127	1092	41	136
Swaledale Richmond School St Francis Xavier School	2210	1899	1891	319	1940	40	230
Wensleydale The Wensleydale School & 6 th Form	492	426	310	182	342	25	125

Note

- Figures above take into account outstanding housing permissions, but not undetermined planning applications or draft Local Plan proposals.