

**North Yorkshire Council  
Richmond Area Committee**

**2 March 2026**

**Schools update**

**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 committee area.

**2.0 Local educational landscape**

2.1 As of 31 August 2025 there was a total of 72 schools and academies within the Richmond Committee area. The table below shows the number of schools and academies in both the county as a whole and the Richmond committee area by school type.

**Summary of schools' status – 31 August 2025**

	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Richmond AC	
Primary Maintained	158	53.6%	40	64.5%
Primary Academy & Free School	137	46.4%	22	35.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>		<b>62</b>	
Secondary Maintained	12	28.6%	3	42.9%
Secondary Academy	30	71.4%	4	57.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>		<b>7</b>	
Special Maintained	5	50%	1	50%
Special Academy	5	50%	1	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>2</b>	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	1	100%
PRU Academy	1	20%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>Total maintained</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>50.9%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>62.5%</b>
<b>Total Academy</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37.5%</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>352</b>		<b>72</b>	

**3.0 School standards**

**3.1 School Ofsted judgements**

From September 2024, inspections of state-funded schools no longer include a judgement on overall effectiveness. The judgements for the four areas inspected under the previous inspection framework, as at 31 August 2025, are shown in the tables below:

% Good or Outstanding

#### Quality of Education

	Primary	Secondary	Special
National	86%	73%	77%
North Yorkshire	90%	72%	83%
Richmond	95%	67%	NA

#### Behaviour and Attitudes

	Primary	Secondary	Special
National	96%	85%	89%
North Yorkshire	96%	72%	83%
Richmond	100%	83%	NA

#### Personal Development

	Primary	Secondary	Special
National	98%	89%	91%
North Yorkshire	98%	83%	100%
Richmond	100%	83%	NA

#### Effectiveness of Leaders

	Primary	Secondary	Special
National	91%	82%	84%
North Yorkshire	95%	80%	100%
Richmond	98%	71%	100%

Similarly, 100% (28 of 28) of the childcare establishments (childcare in non-domestic premises) which have had an Ofsted inspection in the committee area were 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. The rate in North Yorkshire was 97% at the same time.

### 3.3 Attainment overall

In primary schools, performance across North Yorkshire in the Early Years (Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) has continued to be above national benchmarks. Attainment of children at Key Stage 2 fell this year and is lower than North Yorkshire and national. In secondary schools the percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths (Basics) improved in 2025 but is still below national benchmarks.

### 3.4 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

In 2025, 71.2% of children in the committee area achieved a Good Level of Development. An in-year comparison of EYFSP outcomes with LA and national figures (see table below) shows a higher proportion of pupils gaining a GLD compared with National, but lower than the North Yorkshire's overall picture.

<b>Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – percentage achieving a good level of development</b>			
	<b>Richmond</b>	<b>North Yorks</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2022</b>	70.4%	68.3%	65.2%
<b>2023</b>	71.2%	70.3%	67.2%
<b>2024</b>	71.2%	71.2%	67.7%
<b>2025</b>	69.2%	70.6%	68.3%

### 3.5 Key Stage 2

In 2025, 57.3% of children in the committee area achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, which is higher than the North Yorkshire average but below the national comparable figure. An comparison of KS2 attainment with LA and national figures is shown in the table below.

<b>Key Stage 2 - percentage achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths combined.</b>			
	<b>Richmond</b>	<b>North Yorks</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2022</b>	52.2%	56.6%	58.9%
<b>2023</b>	53.1%	56.1%	60.0%
<b>2024</b>	58.6%	58.2%	61.3%
<b>2025</b>	57.3%	59.6%	62.1%

### 3.6 Key Stage 4

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, was 42.0 for 2025. This is below both the North Yorkshire and national comparable figures.

<b>Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 Score</b>			
	<b>Richmond</b>	<b>North Yorks</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2022</b>	48.2	50.3	48.8
<b>2023</b>	44.2	46.8	46.3
<b>2024</b>	43.4	46.8	45.9
<b>2025</b>	42.0	46.5	46.1

The percentage achieving a grade 5 or above (grading is 9-1) in English and Maths (Basics measure) was 35.7% for 2025. This is below both the national and the North Yorkshire comparable figures.

<b>Key Stage 4 - Percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths</b>			
	<b>Richmond</b>	<b>North Yorks</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2022</b>	48.1%	53.8%	49.8%
<b>2023</b>	39.5%	46.0%	45.3%
<b>2024</b>	38.2%	47.7%	45.9%
<b>2025</b>	35.7%	46.8%	45.4%

### 3.7 Not in education, employment or training

There were 942 young people recorded in Year 11 living in this committee area in May 2025 and of this cohort only 14 (1.5%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school. The figure compares favourably with the overall North Yorkshire figure of 1.6% for the same period.

### 4.0 Suspension Incidents and Permanent Exclusions

#### 4.1 Suspension Incidents

In the 2024/25 academic year, there have been a total of 9566 suspensions for a total of 2808 individual children in North Yorkshire, 550 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in the Richmond committee area.

Suspension Incidents								
Academic year	Pupils suspended			Total Suspensions			Reason for suspension	
	North Yorkshire	Richmond (mainstream)	Percentage of North Yorkshire total (pupils)	North Yorkshire	Richmond (mainstream)	Percentage of North Yorkshire total (incidents)	Most common reason (Richmond)	Most common reason (North Yorkshire)
2018/19	2149	314	15%	5970	824	13.80%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (53.4%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.7%)
2019/20	1578	250	16%	4365	674	15.44%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (43.0%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2020/21	1578	276	17%	3553	588	16.55%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (32.0%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40.0%)
2021/22	2046	363	18%	5197	897	17.26%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (45.5%)
2022/23	2753	532	19%	7639	1559	20%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (55.8%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2023/24	3114	605	19%	9960	2111	21%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (63.9%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (53.4%)

<b>2024/25</b>	2808	550	20%	9566	1939	20%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (64.7%)	Persistent disruptive behaviour (56.7%)
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In 2024/25, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire but had a 20% share of suspensions for the whole county.

#### 4.2 Permanent exclusions

In 2024/25, there were 123 permanent exclusions from all schools in the county, 33 of which were for children in Richmond mainstream schools.

Academic year	Richmond	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total
<b>2018/19</b>	15	87	17%
<b>2019/20</b>	15	51	29.41%
<b>2020/21</b>	3	26	11.54%
<b>2021/22</b>	13	55	23.64%
<b>2022/23</b>	23	96	24%
<b>2023/24</b>	29	121	24%
<b>2024/25</b>	33	123	27%

In 2024/25, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire but had a 27% share of permanent exclusions for the whole county.

#### 4.3 Responding to increasing exclusion from schools

It is important to note that the decision to suspend or permanently exclude from school can only be made by the school's headteacher as a last resort. Schools also have a responsibility to monitor attendance and exclusions of pupils.

A new Inclusive Mainstream Toolkit has been launched by NYC to support educational professionals in the planning for and meeting the needs of children and to prevent exclusion from the educational process.

The North Yorkshire response has also included outreach support for schools through SEND Locality Hub teams, offering outreach services for children at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion.

### 5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

#### 5.1 SEN Statistics for Committee Area

There are 1072 children in the constituency with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan (December 2025), this equates to 16.9% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Autism (46%)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 21%)
- Speech Language and Communication (SLCN, 12%)

There were 2013 children in the constituency with SEN Support in North Yorkshire schools, 2025 School Census (January), this equates to 18% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN, 19.7%) (19.5% in North Yorkshire)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 19.2%) (20.4% in North Yorkshire)
- Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. Dyslexia), 19% (21.5% in North Yorkshire)

## **5.2 Increasing demand for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans)**

Requests for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) remain at a high level.

The 2024/25 academic year saw 1220 requests for assessment for an EHC plan received, which was very similar to the number received in 2023/24 (1196). 206 (20%) were for children or young people living in the committee area in 2024/25, a similar number to the 219 in 2023/24.

Significant work has been undertaken to improve and maintain the timeliness of conducting statutory assessment of children and young people's special educational needs.

## **5.3 SEND provision**

The Council's ambition for children and young people with SEND is set out in the Local Area SEND Strategy 2023-2026. Key to the strategy is making sure that children have the opportunity to achieve good outcomes, attend a school close to home where they can make friends and connections in their local community and be prepared for a fulfilling adult life.

Whilst the SEND system nationally and locally remains challenging, the council continues to work proactively to support children and families to have their needs identified and met. The number of children identified as having SEND, is continuing to rise rapidly.

The council has a duty to keep its SEN provision under review and build capacity so that children with SEN can access suitable provision. Recently the council have worked with partners and schools to develop the Inclusive Mainstream Toolkit to support practitioners in meeting needs of children in mainstream settings. The council also has a well-developed £20.5m capital programme that is in the process of being reviewed and updated. Current commitments include strengthening the offer in mainstream schools through rolling out Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) as well as creating more special school places across the county and improving existing facilities for children.

The council successfully bid for a new special school in Northallerton that will serve surrounding areas including the Richmondshire committee area. Following a national review by the DfE, the council have been offered the opportunity to accept a capital grant instead of proceeding with the planned special school. Having considered the offer, the Executive have determined to decline the grant and request that the DfE proceed as planned and build the special school. The DfE will clarify the new delivery plan and timeline. Additionally, The Dales School have received capital investment of c.£250k to provide a small increase in capacity and to further enhance the facilities available to children attending the school. Dialogue continues between schools and the council to explore the possibility of further increasing the number of TMP places in line with future demand forecasts. A new wave of applications is being requested from schools before the end of April 2026.

## 6.0 Elective Home Education

### Total EHE

As of the beginning of the 2025/26 academic year there were 1257 children recorded as Electively Home Educated (EHE) in North Yorkshire, 154 (12.3%) of which were formerly from a mainstream school in Richmond AC. At the same point last year, there were 1125 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 150 (13.3%) formerly from a mainstream school in Richmond AC.

	<b>Richmond EHE at 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Richmond Percentage of all North Yorkshire EHE</b>	<b>Total North Yorkshire EHE</b>
<b>2024/25</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>1125</b>
<b>2025/26</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>1257</b>

In 2025/26, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 12.3% share of electively home educated children and young people for the whole county.

### Becoming EHE

In the 2024/25 academic year, 888 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 121 of which were formerly educated in a mainstream school in the Richmond AC. This figure in the previous academic year (2023/24) was 116 from Richmond AC out of 821 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire.

Parents have the offer of a pre-decision meeting to ensure parents fully understand their legal obligations. Furthermore, school staff and governing boards have the opportunity to access training to support children who are not engaging in education.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill has raised plans for increased responsibilities and powers for LAs regarding the EHE process, as part of multi-agency involvement in the safeguarding of children.

## 7.0 School Finance

### 7.1 2024/2025 School Revenue Balances

Local Authority maintained school revenue balances as at 31 March 2025 are summarised below, together with a comparison with 2024. The balances are also expressed as a percentage of school delegated budgets.

	<b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b> 143 schools	<b>Secondary</b> 12 schools	<b>Special</b> 5 schools	<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b> 4 schools	<b>Total</b> 164 schools
Total School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2025	£13,863k	£158k	-£1,549k	£907k	<b>£13,379k</b>
% of Revenue Budget	12.0%	0.3%	-14.4%	35.7%	<b>7.3%</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2025	121	8	4	4	<b>137</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	22	4	1	0	<b>27</b>
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance (net) as at 31 March 2024</i>	<b>+£152k</b>	<b>+£902k</b>	<b>+£119k</b>	<b>+£97k</b>	<b>+£728k</b>

(The number of school budgets submitted to the local authority for 2024/25 is lower than the total number of local authority maintained schools operating within North Yorkshire due to a number of school federations operating a single, amalgamated budget covering all of the schools within the federation)

27 schools (16% of LA Maintained schools) had an accumulated revenue budget deficit totalling £5.6M as at 31 March 2025. An analysis of the budget deficits by school phase is detailed in the table below:

	<b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	22	4	1	0	<b>27</b>
Total School Revenue Deficit Balances as at 31 March 2025	-£1,360k	-£2,290k	-£1,956k	N/A	<b>-£5,606k</b>
Average Value of Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	-£62k	-£573k	-£1,956k	N/A	<b>-£208k</b>
Highest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	-£237k	-£969k	-£1,956k	N/A	<b>-£1,956k</b>
Lowest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	-£1.3k	-£229k	-£1,956k	N/A	<b>-£1.3k</b>

## 7.2 School Budget Projections - Based on 2025/26 Start budgets

The 2025/26 Start Budgets submitted to the local authority by schools in May 2025 are summarised below:

	<b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>142 schools</b>	<b>12 schools</b>	<b>5 schools</b>	<b>4 schools</b>	<b>163 schools</b>
Total Forecast School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2026	£9,728k	-£1,456k	-£1,871k	£670k	<b>£7,071k</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2026	122	5	3	3	<b>133</b>
Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2026	£94k	£263k	£86k	£233k	<b>£103k</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2026	20	7	2	1	<b>30</b>
Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2026	-£87k	-£396k	-£1,064k	-£31k	<b>-£222k</b>
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</i>	<i>-£4,135k</i>	<i>-£1,614k</i>	<i>-£322k</i>	<i>-£237k</i>	<b><i>-£6,308k</i></b>

(The overall number of individual school budgets have reduced from 164 to 163 between the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years due to 14 schools converting to academy status and 2 schools closing).

## 7.3 School Finance and Funding Issues

- The Department for Education (DfE) usually publishes the National Funding Formula (NFF) allocation in July to help schools with their planning as early as possible, however the DfE stated that this was not possible due to the timing of the multi-year Spending Review concluding in June 2025. Outline 2026-27 NFF funding information was provided in mid-November 2025 with indicative allocations expected later in Autumn 2025.
- The DfE have confirmed that there are no structural changes to the schools NFF for 2026-27, with no changes to the NFF factors and how they operate compared to 2025-26. The NFF factor values will broadly increase by c2% for the 2026-27 financial year. The DfE have prescribed that local authorities are required to set the minimum funding guarantee funding (MFG) protection between minus 0.5% and 0% for the 2026-27 financial year. The overall funding requirement for 2026-27 school budgets, and the associated affordability

within the 2026-27 schools block DSG funding provision, cannot be finalised until the actual 2026-27 schools block DSG allocation is received in December 2025

- School budgets have experienced significant cost pressures in the 2025/26 financial year, this position is expected to continue for the 2026/27 financial year. Cost pressures include:
  - Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years
  - Cost pressures associated with supporting an increasing number of pupils with additional SEND support needs.
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 142 out of 151 local authorities in terms of funding level per pupil. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £6,849 per pupil in 2025-26 compared to a national average of £7,450. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.9m. The funding for North Yorkshire primary schools is more favourable with a position 35 out of 151 local authorities in terms of the funding level per pupil. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £5,812 per pupil compared to a national average of £5,704. The average funding position in relation to primary schools in North Yorkshire is influenced by the levels of the lump sum and sparsity funding received through the DfE National Funding Formula by the relatively high number of small, rural primary schools within the local authority area.
- 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 continue to be a significant concern. NYC utilises the provision in the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) to locally provide additional lump sum funding of £50k for the smallest (less than 350 pupils), most rural secondary schools. NYC continues to lobby the DfE and local MPs for higher levels of funding for the small, rural secondary schools within the LA.

#### **7.4 Local Authority Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty**

- The Local Authority adopts a number of measures to support schools facing financial difficulty:
  - the use of a financial risk rating framework to determine the level of support, challenge and intervention undertaken at individual school level,
  - meetings are held with the headteacher and Chair of Governors of schools forecasting an accumulated budget deficit in either the current or the next financial year, where no financial recovery is forecast to discuss the actions planned by the school to address the forecast budget deficit
  - the escalation path for financial intervention including the use of Notices of Financial Concern, where deemed appropriate. Currently, eight schools are subject to a Notice of Financial Concern.
  - the undertaking of School Resource Management reviews in individual schools where this has been identified as an appropriate intervention through the risk rating process. The reviews are either commissioned from the DfE or undertaken by LA staff with the SRMA accreditation and based on the DfE School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) model.

- continuing to undertake research into small school financial effectiveness to identify and share best practice
- review of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and Resource Management dashboard in financially challenged schools
- continuing the promotion of school collaboration and the sharing of best practice in terms of effective resource management between schools
- the provision of Headteacher and Governor finance briefings and training
- continuing to lobby DfE for fairer funding for North Yorkshire schools, especially in relation to small, rural secondary schools.

## 7.5 Schools Financial Position – Richmond

<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
<p>30 schools in budget surplus as at 31 March 2025            3 schools in deficit by March 2025; 9% of schools in Richmond            (1 primary, 2 secondary)</p> <p>Average primary surplus = £148k            Average secondary surplus = £316k            Average special surplus = £107k            Average PRU surplus = £183k</p> <p>Average primary deficit = -£72k            Average secondary deficit = -£599k            Average special deficit = N/A            Average PRU deficit = N/A</p> <p>(Data Source – 2024/25 Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR))</p>	<p>28 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2026            5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2026; 15% of schools in Richmond            (2 primary, 3 secondary)</p> <p>Projected average primary surplus = £106k            Projected average secondary surplus = N/A            Projected average special surplus = £78k            Projected average PRU surplus = £4k</p> <p>Projected average primary deficit = -£23k            Projected average secondary deficit = -£471k            Projected average special deficit = N/A            Projected average PRU deficit = N/A</p> <p>(Data Source – 2025/26 Start Budgets)</p>

## 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 occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. During the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025 there have been eleven school closures within the county. The following three of which have occurred in the committee area:

- Wavell Community Junior School, closed with effect from 7 April 2024
- Hackforth and Hornby CE VC Primary School, closed with effect from 31 August 2025 and
- Kirkby Fleetham CE Primary (an academy), closed with effect from 31 August 2025

The closure of Wavell Community Junior School was a technical closure that was undertaken to enable its amalgamation with Wavell Community Infant School to form Wavell Community Primary School. However, the closures of Hackforth and Hornby CofE VC Primary and Kirkby Fleetham CE Primary Schools arose as a result of the very low numbers of pupils attending each school.

On 30 June 2025, the Governing Board of the federation of Bainbridge CofE VC Primary, Askrigg CofE VC Primary and West Burton CofE VC Primary Schools (BAWB) requested that the council undertake a consultation in respect of the closure of West Burton CofE VC Primary School as part of a series of school organisation changes to ensure that the federation is compliant with the School Admissions and Registration Regulations (see below). A statutory process has been undertaken by the council and on 17 March the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from that process and will determine whether to proceed with the closure with effect from 31 March 2026.

## **8.2 Pupil rolls – current and future**

In accordance with the Education Act, 1996 the Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child.

In accordance with guidance issued by the DfE the strategic planning of school places is undertaken on the basis of ‘planning areas,’ which represent groups of associated schools which are aligned in terms of issues such as geography, transport links and patterns of parental preference. The council previously considered the strategic planning of primary school places via a total of 58 planning which had developed over a significant period.

A review of the former planning areas was undertaken during 2025 arising, in part, from criticisms of their relevance during the annual reporting to Area Committees during the 2025 annual reporting round. In January 2026, the DfE approved an application from the council to implement revised planning areas via which the future monitoring and planning of primary school places will be undertaken. The revised planning areas will be used for the purpose of future reporting to the Committee.

The planning areas utilised by the council for the purpose of forecasting secondary school places have not been amended and remain as previously reported.

Appendix 1 shows the planning areas that were in use for the Richmond Committee area as at 31 August 2025, together with: -

- The schools and academies in each planning area
- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments with planning approval (the forecasts in Appendix 1 do not include additional pupils yielded from housing developments that do not yet have planning approval.)

The Council’s pupil number forecasts indicate that the total number of pupils attending schools and academies within North Yorkshire will decline by 3.6% between 2024-2025 and 2029-30. The decline in pupil numbers is not, however, expected to be consistent across the county; arising from higher levels of housing development it is expected that a small number

of areas in the county may experience an increase in the demand for school places whilst in other areas the decline in pupil numbers is forecast to be significantly in excess of the forecast average rate of decline.

The area covered by the Richmond Area Committee has two principal development areas, Northallerton and Catterick Garrison, but is largely characterised by rural villages and sparsely populated areas, which are served by small schools.

The council regularly reviews its forecasts of pupil numbers, taking account of both the birth rate and the additional number of new pupils that are expected to arise from the development of new housing.

The declining birth rate combined with other demographic changes means that several small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. In the committee area, there are examples of schools working innovatively to mitigate these challenges, including in federations.

In those areas where new housing is proposed, and which is forecast to result in there being a shortfall of school places then the council seeks developer contributions (in the form of both Section 106 and CIL) towards the cost of providing those additional places.

### **8.3 School Organisation Issues**

With effect from September 2025, Wensleydale School formerly closed its sixth form. This decision was taken in response to the low numbers who had been on roll at the sixth form which had, in turn, presented challenges in maintaining a viable post-16 provision in terms of quality of experience, subject breadth and financial viability.

### **8.4 Compliance with School Admissions and Registration Regulations**

Arising from legal advice received about the requirements arising from School Admissions and Registration Regulations the council has been working with the federated governing boards of the following federations to support them in the development of proposals to ensure that their organisation arrangements are compliant:

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

Following the receipt of proposals from each of the federated governing boards the council has undertaken statutory processes in respect of the arrangements at each federation.

On 17 March the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from the processes and will determine whether to proceed with 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.

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.

**8.5 Aiskew Leeming Bar CofE VC Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools**

Aiskew Leeming Bar CofE VC Primary and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools form part of the Synergy Federation of Schools.

Arising from the low number of pupils on the rolls of each school the federated governing board of the Synergy Federation submitted proposals to the Council for the amalgamation of the schools. The council has undertaken a statutory process in respect of the proposals, which included a public consultation exercise that was undertaken during the Autumn Term.

On 17 March the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from the processes and will determine whether to proceed with the following proposals:

- 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.

## **9.0 Recommendation**

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

### Authors:

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Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

**Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places as of 31 August 2025**

- School planning areas are groups of schools which are used for assessing current and future pupil demand for school place provision and structured according to DfE guidelines.
- Figures below assume all outstanding housing permissions are built out over a five-year period, but do not include undetermined planning applications or draft Local Plan proposals.
- Pupil yield from housing is based on 25% for primary aged pupils and 13% for secondary aged pupils.

School planning area	Places available as of 2024/2025	Number on Roll 2020/2021	Number on roll 2024/2025	Surplus Capacity 2024/2025	Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2029/30
*School located in a neighbouring committee area							
<b>PRIMARY</b>							
<b>Bedale</b> • Bedale CE	420	350	319	101	318	21	81
<b>Bedale Outer Area</b> • Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE • Burneston CE (VA) • Crakehall CE Primary • Hackforth and Hornby CE (School closed 31 August 2025) • Hunton and Arrathorne CP • Leeming and Londonderry CP • Leeming RAF CP • Snape CP • St. Nicholas CE Primary, West Tanfield • Thornton Watlass CE	963	598	634	329	615	81	267
<b>Total</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>348</b>

<b>Catterick Garrison</b> • Carnagill CP • Le Cateau CP • Wavell Community Primary • Cambrai Primary Academy	1346	1178	964	382	886	8	452
<b>Catterick Outer Area</b> • Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's CE • Colburn CP • Hipswell CE Primary • Michael Syddall CE (Aided)	818	705	647	171	504	86	228
<b>Total</b>	<b>2164</b>	<b>1883</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>1390</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>680</b>

<b>School planning area</b>							
*School located in a neighbouring committee area	Places available as of 2024/2025	Number on Roll 2020/2021	Number on roll 2024/2025	Surplus Capacity 2024/2025	Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030	Forecast/Surplus capacity 2029/30
<b>Northallerton</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alverton CP</li> <li>• Applegarth Primary</li> <li>• Broomfield School</li> <li>• Mill Hill CP</li> <li>• Romanby Primary</li> <li>• Sacred Heart RC</li> <li>• Oakbridge CE Primary</li> </ul>	1534	1229	1205	329	1039	56	439
<b>Northallerton Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ainderby Steeple CE</li> <li>• Appleton Wiske CP</li> <li>• Brompton CP</li> <li>• East Cowton CE</li> <li>• Great Smeaton Academy</li> <li>• Kirkby Fleetham CE (school closed 31 August 2025)</li> <li>• Osmotherley Primary</li> <li>• South Otterington CE *</li> </ul>	813	577	549	264	468	98	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>2347</b>	<b>1806</b>	<b>1754</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>1507</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>686</b>

<b>Stokesley Primary Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stokesley Primary</li> </ul>	359	204	213	146	192	31	136
<b>Stokesley Primary Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilsdale Midcable Chop Gate CE</li> <li>• Carlton &amp; Faceby CE VA</li> <li>• Hutton Rudby</li> <li>• Ingleby Greenhow CE VA</li> <li>• Kirkby &amp; Great Broughton CE VA</li> <li>• Marwood CE VC Infant</li> <li>• Roseberry Academy</li> </ul>	856	717	677	179	659	22	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>311</b>

<b>Thirsk Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alanbrooke School*</li> <li>• Carlton Miniott Primary Academy*</li> <li>• Knayton CE Academy*</li> <li>• Sessay CE VC Primary*</li> <li>• South Kilvington CE Academy*</li> <li>• Topcliffe CE Academy*</li> <li>• Dishforth CE*</li> <li>• Pickhill CE</li> </ul>	912	819	756	156	689	30	193
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<b>School planning area</b>	Places available as of 2024/2025	Number on Roll 2020/2021	Number on roll 2024/2025	Surplus Capacity 2024/2025	Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030	Forecast/Surplus capacity 2029/30
*School located in a neighbouring committee area							
<b>Swaledale Primary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary</li> <li>• Middleton Tyas CE</li> <li>• Richmond Methodist</li> <li>• St Mary's RC Primary</li> <li>• Trinity Academy Richmond</li> </ul>	1196	960	840	356	724	25	447
<b>Swaledale Primary Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barton CE Primary</li> <li>• Croft CE Primary</li> <li>• Eppleby Forcett CE</li> <li>• Gunnerside Methodist</li> <li>• Melsonby Methodist</li> <li>• North &amp; South Cowton CP</li> <li>• Ravensworth CE Primary</li> <li>• Reeth CP</li> </ul>	525	356	342	183	329	26	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>1721</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>617</b>

<b>Wensleydale Primary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leyburn Primary</li> </ul>	210	181	169	41	153	27	30
<b>Wensleydale Primary Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Askrigg VC Primary</li> <li>• Bainbridge CE Primary &amp; Nursery</li> <li>• Hawes Primary</li> <li>• Middleham CE</li> <li>• Spennithorne CE Primary</li> <li>• West Burton CE Primary</li> </ul>	480	254	228	252	205	24	251
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>281</b>

<b>School planning area</b> *School located in a neighbouring committee area	Places available as of 2024/2025	Number on Roll 2020/2021	Number on roll 2024/2025	Surplus Capacity 2024/2025	Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2029/30
<b>SECONDARY</b>							
<b>Bedale</b> • Bedale High School	842	488	575	267	499	24	319
<b>Catterick</b> • Risedale School	953	576	537	416	393	24	536
<b>Northallerton</b> • Northallerton School & 6 <sup>th</sup> F	1250	1039	1051	199	1127	52	71
<b>Stokesley</b> • Stokesley School	1269	1142	1059	210	1113	16	140
<b>Swaledale</b> • Richmond School • St Francis Xavier School	2260	1891	1898	362	2047	24	189
<b>Wensleydale</b> • The Wensleydale School	492	306	389	103	410	16	66