

**Consultation on New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT)
proposed admission arrangements for 2027/28 entry**

Proposed Admissions Arrangements –Secondary School

Wingfield Academy

Dinnington High School

Brinsworth Academy

You are invited to give your views on the proposed admission arrangements during the consultation period 8th December 2025 to 25th January 2026.

You can give views by emailing us to admissions.arrangements@nclt.ac.uk

Please identify you are referring to the proposed Secondary School policy in your response.

Statutory guidance

[School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Background information

NCLT is the admission authority for the schools identified above and is responsible for setting admission arrangements for these schools.

Admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements when changes are proposed, and at least once every 7 years even if there have been no changes during that period.

This document relates only to the consultation on the admission arrangements for the schools identified above for the admission year 2027-28.

Key principles

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

These must include:

- The Published Admission Number for each relevant age group, this is the number of places that will be offered at each usual point of intake to a school (Year 7 for secondary schools).
- The criteria against which places will be allocated at the school when there are more applications than places and the order in which the criteria will be applied. It is for admission authorities to decide which criteria would be most suitable to the school according to the local circumstances, but they must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation.

In drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear, and objective.

Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually.

The proposals being consulted upon (available on each school's website)

- 1. The removal of two criteria used if there are more applications than places (the admission number) available in a school.** If there are more applications than places available, they will be allocated up to the admission number in the order of priority set out in the proposed admission arrangements policy. The proposal relates to the *specific medical* and *compelling social* criteria which will be removed from the **list of criteria used**.

The proposal will remove the following criteria:-

- ii) Children who, on 15th January 202X, have a specific medical reason, confirmed by a medical practitioner, which the Admission Authority is satisfied makes attendance at this school essential. Parents should ensure that they provide full supporting information to be considered along with their application.*

- iii) *Children who, on 15th January 202X, have a compelling social reason which the Admission Authority is satisfied makes attendance at this school essential. The kind of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the child's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school. Parents should ensure that they provide full supporting information to be considered along with their application.*

It is considered unnecessary to include these criteria for the following reasons:

- The Code does not provide that social and/ or medical reasons must be included.
- any child with such significant medical or social reasons making attendance at a specified school essential is likely to have an Education Health and Care Plan naming the school.
- The Code states that 'Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation'. Decisions based on social and medical evidence are made by Admissions Authority in line with guidance. It could be perceived that these are subjective, the inclusion of these criteria can lead to raising of parental expectations as there is no defined 'benchmark' and a level of disappointment when a place is not allocated. This could lead to a perception amongst applicants that the arrangements are not clear and objective.

Note - The local education authority is intending to remove these criteria in its policy for Rotherham MBC maintained schools.

- 2. The Trust has used the opportunity to combine its approach for its secondary school by producing a single document with similar admission criteria being proposed, other than the change identified in 1. above.**

Copies of each school's 2026-27 arrangements are available on the relevant school's website – accessible from <https://nclt.ac.uk/policies/>