



Proposal for Oatlands Juniors to become a two form 60 intake 5-11 age full through primary school

FAQs

Why do you want to do this?

For the benefit of the children in our community.

There is overwhelming evidence that primary education provided by separate infant and junior schools with a split between Year 2 and Year 3 can put a substantial proportion of the children at a long-term material disadvantage to those attending a full through primary school. That is why split infant and junior schools have been systematically removed from the education sector throughout the country and are now extremely rare. Of those that do remain, many are on the same physical site and federated or otherwise effectively amalgamated. Oatlands Infants and Oatlands Juniors are just about unique in being in different Multi Academy Trusts on different sites with separate headteachers, separate staff and separate governing bodies. Whilst the two schools have always tried to work together to overcome the disadvantages inherent in such a set-up, we have a duty to consider whether or not we can do better.

Why now?

We were approached by the local authority offering to fund and build additional classrooms at Oatlands Juniors to accommodate an expected growth in numbers. That provided us with a 'one off' opportunity to consider whether the centrally funded additional classroom accommodation could and should be used as a platform to enable us to become a full primary school.

I have a child currently at Oatlands Juniors – what will it mean for us?

There will be no change.

Those children who are currently attending the school will progress through it in the same way whether or not we transition to become a full primary school, as the table below shows.

effect of moving to 60 intake from 09/2019 as a full primary

	current	09/2018	09/2019	09/2020	09/2021	09/2022
reception	0	0	60	60	60	60
Y1	0	0	0	60	60	60
Y2	0	0	0	0	60	60
Y3	75	75	60	60	60	60
Y4	75	75	75	60	60	60
Y5	75	75	75	75	60	60
Y6	75	75	75	75	75	60
total capacity	300	300	345	390	435	420



I have a child currently in Year 2 at Oatlands Infants – what will it mean for us?

There will be no change.

The earliest we can consider beginning to transition to become a full primary school is from the September 2019 intake onwards. We understand there are currently 74 children in Year 2 at the Infants and they will already have made their applications to join us in Year 3 as from September 2018 and the application process will continue unchanged.

I have a child currently in Reception or Year 1 at Oatlands Infants – what will it mean for us?

We understand there are currently 81 children in the reception year and 84 in Year 1 at Oatlands Infants. We were strongly advised by the local authority to keep our intake number at 75 because their funding for additional classrooms, whilst 'earmarked', has not been finally committed. Without additional classrooms we currently cannot physically accommodate more than that intake number.

If we stay as we are as a separate junior school

We cannot take all of the children who are currently in the reception year and Year 1 at Oatlands Infants. It is likely that at least 9 of the Year 1 children and 6 of the reception children will not be allocated a place at Oatlands Juniors. We say 'at least' that number because historically, even when the number coming through from the Infants has been at or below 75, each year some of the children are not allocated a place with us because of the allocation criteria applied by the North Yorkshire County Council school admissions process (see Appendix for details of the current criteria).

Parents of children at the Infants should note that we also receive some applications each year to join us in Year 3 from children who are currently in other primary schools, and the same admission criteria is applied to those applications. There has never been any form of priority given to children who are attending Oatlands Infants. By way of example, last year 71 of the 78 children who had been in Year 2 at the Infants were initially allocated a place with us in Year 3, along with 4 children from other primary schools. Of 6 subsequent appeals lodged by Oatlands Infants children who were not allocated a place, only 2 were successful.

Therefore, if we stay as we are as a 75 intake junior school, we anticipate that a material number of the 84 children who are currently in Year 1 at the Infants will not be allocated a place with us in September 2019.

If we transition to become a 60 intake full primary from September 2019 (please note it may possibly be from September 2020)

As you would expect, we have already had various discussions with Oatlands Infants and the Causeway Trust about this proposal. We invited them to work with us to also transition Oatlands Infants into a full primary school at the same time. They informed us that their buildings and grounds could not accommodate more than a one form 30 intake full primary school (i.e. a total of 210 children). If that were to happen in tandem with our transition to a two form 60 primary intake it would provide 90 places each year between the two schools and parents would have a choice between them.



However, the Infants have informed us that they do not wish to do this and intend to remain as a separate standalone Infants school. We must and do respect their decision, but, if that remains their intention, we would have only 60 places available in Year 3 from September 2019 onwards.

I have a pre-school age child who had intended to go to Oatlands Infants and then Oatlands Juniors – what will it mean for us?

If our proposal goes ahead, as mentioned above, if the Infants also transitioned to become a one form 30 intake primary school that would provide a choice between the two through full primary schools (and of course other primary schools in the area).

If Oatlands Infants remain as they are, parents will have the choice when their child is reaching reception age of applying to us for their child to join our school from age 5 through to 11 i.e. from reception to Year 6, or they could apply to attend Oatlands Infants from age 5 to 7 and then seek a transfer to another primary school after Year 2.

Will it have any effect on subsequent transition to secondary school?

No.

Whether we become a full primary or remain as a junior school it will make no difference to the ability of Year 6 children to choose which secondary school they wish to apply to.

Why don't the Infant and Junior schools amalgamate as one through primary school on split sites?

Being in two different Multi Academy Trusts makes that impossible because one school cannot be part of two separate trusts.

Why don't we just stay as a junior school and move to a 90 intake to match the Infants?

That isn't an option without additional classrooms.

The Local Authority has made it clear that our funding for additional classrooms has not been finally committed and is being re-assessed. That is because, since the Infants moved to a 90 intake two years ago, they have not filled their intake (84 in the first year and 81 the next). In addition, the Authority's demographic data shows that the birth rate in Harrogate has dropped over the last five years and, based solely on that, they are predicting the Infants numbers to drop further. That then has a direct impact on our school's predicted numbers. It is a blunt tool but it is one the Authority is using to inform its decisions on where its capital funding for additional school classrooms needs to go.

Even if we do get additional classrooms, school budgets are getting tighter and our income funding depends very largely on the actual number of children attending the school each year. Basically, if we didn't have the extra children we couldn't afford to continue to employ the extra teachers that a three form 90 intake would require.



Every year, some parents who are considering to which school to apply for their reception age children contact us to ask about the process of transition from the Infants and whether or not a subsequent place with us would be guaranteed. When the admissions process and criteria is explained and that a subsequent place with us cannot be guaranteed, some of those parents decide not to take the risk and apply to an alternative school rather than the Infants.

We are already an amazing school. But we believe that we would be even more popular and sustainable as a full through primary school and that would make our case for funding for additional classrooms even stronger. As a through primary school we would become our own feeder school and have much better clarity on the predicted numbers progressing through the school to enable us better to plan ahead.

We believe both the Juniors and Infants would be stronger and more sustainable as separate through primary schools but the position of the Infants school is entirely a matter for them and the Causeway Trust to decide. We are absolutely committed to working with the Infants as best we can whatever decision they ultimately make.

What further steps and approvals are needed before it can happen?

This is still very much a proposal that we are consulting parents and the wider community about. No final decision has been made. We also need to consult with the Local Authority (not least to secure the funding for the additional classrooms needed) and seek approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education.

What Next?

We will hold a public consultation meeting on Monday 16th April at 6.30pm in the school hall at Oatlands Juniors as part of the consultation process, which will run until May 7th. We will then decide whether or not to proceed with a formal application to convert to a full primary school. That would involve submitting a business case to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and seeking their approval for the plan. That approval process may take anything from a few weeks to a few months depending upon the RSC's workload at the time.

If there was a decision to go ahead with the plan and it received approval from the RSC the intention would be to begin admitting children into reception at a re-named Oatlands Junior School in September 2019. However, that might have to be delayed until September 2020 dependent on the time taken to gain approval and the completion of any alterations and additions to facilities on site to accommodate the extra children.



Appendix

Oatlands Junior School Admission Arrangements

Published Admission Number = 75

The Red Kite Learning Trust is required by section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the school a child with a statement of special needs that names the school. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final statement of special educational needs (SEN) has been issued. If the number of applications exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN), after the admission of children where the school is named in the statement of special educational needs (SEN) the following oversubscription criteria will apply:

ORDER OF PRIORITY:

Priority 1	Children and young people in Public Care for whom the school has been expressed as a preference and previously looked after children, that is children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after. This applies to all looked-after children, including those who are in the care of another local authority. In the case of previously looked after children, a copy of the relevant documentation will be required in support of the application.
Priority 2	Children the RKLTL believes have special social or medical reasons for admission. We will only consider applications on social or medical grounds if they are supported by a professional recommendation from a doctor, social worker, or other appropriate professional. The supporting evidence should set out the particular social or medical reason(s) why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Panels of professionally qualified people will consider all applications made under priority group 2.
Priority 3	Children living within the normal area of the school
Priority 4	Children living outside the normal area of the school. Children in higher numbered priority groups will be offered places ahead of those in lower numbered priority groups.
All applications within each priority group will be considered equally (i.e. all applications, regardless of order of preference).	
Tie break	Tie break: If there are not enough places for all the children in one of these priority groups, we will give priority first to those with a sibling at the school in September 2019 (in all cases sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent / carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling) and then to those living nearest the school. If within a priority group there are not enough places for all those with a sibling at the school in September 2019, we will give priority to those children with a sibling living nearest the school.
Random Allocation	Random allocations are necessary where:



1. There is more than one applicant ranked equally according to the published admission rules and there are insufficient places available to allocate all of the equally ranked applicants.

2. This occurs where applicants are equidistant from a school because the usual method of measuring distance to the school results in two unrelated applicants having the same distance measurement.

All distance measurements are based on the nearest route recognised by the County Councils electronic mapping system from a child's home address to school. The measurement is made from a fixed point within the dwelling, as identified by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school entrance using footpaths and roads. The routes measured to determine the allocation of school places will be those recognised by the electronic mapping system used by the school admissions team.

Each random allocation event only holds for the allocation of the currently available school place. On any waiting list the remaining applicants remain equally ranked and any further place is offered as the result of a further random exercise.

In making a random allocation it is important that there is scrutiny from a person who is not involved in the allocation process.

DEFINITION OF ROLES

Independent Scrutineer (IS) – this is a person who ensures the process is carried out in a correct and transparent way. The IS must be independent of the school for which the allocation is to be made and also must be independent of the Council's Admissions and Transport team.

Admissions Officer (AO) – this is an officer from the Council's Admissions and Transport team who is responsible for carrying out the administration of the random allocation procedure and recording the results, under the scrutiny of the IS.

Person who makes the draw (P) – this must be a person independent of the school for which the allocation is to be made and must be a person who is not part of the Council's Admissions and Transport team.

PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED – N.B. This entire process is to be carried out in sight of, and under the scrutiny of the IS.

1. The AO allocates each pupil to be included in the draw a number and records it on the 'Random Allocation Cross Reference Sheet'. This is placed in a sealed envelope.
2. The AO prepares as many equal sized pieces of white paper as are necessary, which are numbered consecutively.
3. The AO folds each numbered sheet and seals them in identical envelopes, i.e. envelopes with no visibly identifiable differences.



4. The AO shuffles the envelopes and hands them to P who shuffles the envelopes again, picks one envelope and opens it.
5. The AO records the first number drawn on the 'Random Allocation Record sheet'.
6. If more than one place can be offered they continue to draw envelopes and record numbers until all of the available places are allocated.
7. The AO then opens the previously sealed envelope containing the 'Random Allocation cross reference sheet' and records the numbers drawn on the 'Random Allocation cross reference sheet', marking clearly which child(ren) has(have) been allocated a place and which have not.
8. Once the process has been completed, the AO, IS and P should sign and date both the 'Random Allocation Record sheet' and the 'Random Allocation cross reference sheet' in order to certify that the procedure has been carried out correctly.