

30 November 2017

Consultation on a proposed reduction in the published admission number (PAN) for Outwood Academy Bydales, Marske-by-the-Sea, with effect from September 2019

Length of consultation: 6 weeks, ending on 11 January 2018

Preface

Admission authorities must have determined their admissions arrangements for entry in September 2019 by 28 February 2018. They must publish them on their website and have sent a copy to their local authority before 15 March 2018.

As an academy, we are our own admissions authority and as such must ensure that:

1. consultation lasts for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October 2017 and 31 January 2018.
2. we consult with:
 - a. parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - b. other persons in the relevant area who may have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - c. all other admission authorities within the relevant area;
 - d. the local authority
3. for the duration of the consultation period, a copy of our full proposed admission arrangements (including the proposed PAN) is published on our website together with details of the person within the admission authority to whom comments may be sent and the areas on which comments are not sought.
4. send upon request a copy of the proposed admission arrangements to any of the persons or bodies listed above inviting comment.

Proposal

To decrease the published admission number from 160 students to 150 students.

Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce a PAN. Outwood Academy Bydales, as the admissions authority, is seeking comments on this proposed change.

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for Outwood Academy Bydales is 160. This means that the number of children admitted into the school at Year 7 each year is limited to 160. Due to the necessary changes to the building, to make it fit for purpose, we believe the current PAN exceeds the physical capacity of the academy to accommodate this number of pupils. Reducing the PAN will ensure that the current building is suitable and fit for purpose.

The building was originally designed and built under a PFI contract, when the school was deemed a Technology College under the Specialist Schools Programme, and was opened in November 2006. The Specialist Schools Programme ended in May 2010. The requirement for all students to study a Technology subject to GCSE formally ended when the predecessor Bydales School closed, and became Outwood Academy Bydales on 1 February 2014. In recent years, there has been a national focus on increasing the number of students studying history, geography

and modern foreign languages through to GCSE. This includes recognising students who complete the EBacc, ie achieving a 'pass' grade in English, math, science, a humanity and a modern foreign language. As a result, the school is in the process of converting surplus technology classrooms into more general purpose classrooms where any academic subject can be studied.

In addition to the above, the area set aside for dining in the academy is not large enough, particularly as it is simply the intersection of several corridors. The academy has attempted to address this lack of enough space by introducing a split lunch, that takes place over a longer period of time of 90 minutes. This involves staggering lunch, so around a third of students have a 30 minute lunch within their allocated time, whilst the remaining students are still in lessons. Lunch rolls through in this way, to ensure that all students are served promptly and can be seated, and eat in a calm, civilised manner for the remainder of the lunchtime, and we have ensured the purchase of additional tables to facilitate this. The academy is ever more popular, such that most year groups have now filled up with mid-year admissions. As a result of increased numbers, in the Spring of 2017 we moved to a split break/VMG tutor time so only half the school are on break at a given time, and therefore more are able to access the break-time catering arrangements and be sheltered in wet weather. This is still not ideal as the dining space is limited, and the size of the existing changing rooms is also a limiting factor to the capacity of the building. Our circulation space is limited from the original building design, because doors at the end of the two ground corridors struggle with the wind conditions, and therefore are not used to allow students access between the two ground floor 'wings' of the school. We note that the neighbouring PFI school, Sacred Heart in Redcar, which has the same building design, has a PAN of 150 per year group. In short, there is simply not enough space in the academy to accommodate the total PAN at 800 (160 per year) at Outwood Academy Bydales.

Specifics of the Proposal

Outwood Academy Bydales proposes to reduce the published admission number of the academy from 160 to 150 with effect from September 2019.

This means that the number of places available for children in Year 7 in 2019 – and all subsequent Year 7 cohorts – will be 150. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change; the admission number for all other years remains at 160.

The capacity of the school building is the sole factor in deciding to consult on this proposal.

Comments are sought only in relation to the proposed change of published admission number and not any other aspect of the admissions arrangements.

Outwood Academy Bydales follows the Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Local Authority Agreed School Admissions Arrangements and will continue to do so. The latest copy of this document is available on the academy website. We will follow any dates published by the local authority for 2019-2020.

How to Respond

This consultation will run from 30 November 2017 to 11 January 2018 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to: Ms Stephanie Nicholas, Executive Assistant, Outwood Academy Bydales, Coast Road, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar TS11 6AR. Please send any comments by 11 January 2018.

Following the consultation period the Academy Council will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admission arrangements for 2019 will be determined by 28 February 2018 and any subsequent objections would need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

Andrew Wappat
Executive Principal
Outwood Grange Academies Trust