

## **Proposal to amend the oversubscription criteria in the Admissions Policy of Benfield School from 2025-26**

### **Why are we making these proposals?**

The context of the proposal is that Benfield School currently has oversubscription criteria which prioritise applicants from Byker Primary School and Walkergate Community School as the designated feeder schools (once applicants with Education Health Care Plans or who are Looked After Children have been admitted.)

Pupils from the remaining NEAT primary schools (Central Walker, Tyneview and West Walker) have no more priority than any other applicants for admission to Benfield. This has led to frustration previously when parents have applied to Benfield and have not been offered a place as it has been oversubscribed.

### **Why is this consultation taking place?**

Traditionally the local authority's approach to ensure that all primary school pupils had a similar opportunity to be admitted to a secondary school in their locality was for each secondary school to have designated feeder primary schools, although parents may apply to any school of their choice.

In the East End of Newcastle, the feeder primary schools were:

- Byker Primary School and Walkergate Community School for Benfield School
- Central Walker, Tyneview and West Walker Primary Schools for Walker Riverside Academy

Walker Riverside Academy has already changed its admissions criteria to remove any oversubscription criteria based on the pupil's current school.

This will enable the trust to place all Newcastle NEAT primary schools on an equal footing, alongside those from Byker Primary School.

### **What will happen next?**

This is the first step of the consultation. Comments on this consultation will be considered by the school and Trust, who will then decide whether to proceed further with the formal process of updating the Benfield School Admission policy oversubscription criteria.

### **How do I make my views known?**

Please find details of the consultation arrangements below:

**Commencing:** Wednesday 8 November 2023 15:00

**Ending:** Wednesday 20 December 2023 15:00

Responses: Comments/opinions on this proposal will be submitted to the Trust Board of NEAT Academy Trust via online submission (using the link below):

<https://forms.gle/wk2LtyZktEp8WQDeA>

Alternatively, you may submit your response in writing using the form overleaf and submit this to either the school office or directly to the Trust Head Office at:

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

NEAT Academy Trust  
1 Hedley Court  
Orion Business Park  
North Shields  
Tyne & Wear  
NE29 7ST

## **Response to the proposal to amend the oversubscription criteria in the Admissions Policy of Benfield School from 2025-26**

**Your views are important and we would value your opinions.**

Please provide an online response at: <https://forms.gle/wk2LtyZktEp8WQDeA>

or write any comments you wish to be considered below and return this page to the school or by posting this to the NEAT Academy Trust address details above.

Responses must be received by Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 15:00.