

Local Authority FAQ's latest document December 2016

Do Clifford families still have the option of applying for places at another school for the junior phase?

Yes, any parent of a child at school in Sheffield can apply for their child to move schools at any point. The proposals around Ecclesall and Clifford do not alter this. If a parent wanted to apply for their child to move to a different school they could still do so and places at those schools would be allocated using the normal published oversubscription criteria.

What will the new secondary school feeder arrangements be for both the new Clifford Primary School and Ecclesall Primary School?

Although feeder arrangements are formally a matter for the secondary school and their admissions arrangements, we are anticipating that children in Y6 at either of the schools would retain feeder status for both High Storrs and Silverdale.

Why are the pupils already on roll at Ecclesall Junior School guaranteed a place at Ecclesall Primary School when the pupils making the transition from infant to junior at Clifford in 2018 cannot be guaranteed a place?

The transfer of Y4, Y5 and Y6 pupils to Ecclesall Primary is tied into the process of bringing together Clifford Infants and Ecclesall Junior. This is the proposal that Governors across the three schools have put forward following the recent consultation. The proposal is for 60 places at Ecclesall Primary in Year 3 and those children moving up from Year 2 at Ecclesall Primary would simply move through as any other year group in a 'through' primary school. With the equivalent process at Clifford for those children moving up from Year 2.

Could the you not simply divert our (Clifford's) feeder status for the Y1 year group to Ecclesall Primary School? We believe there is no reason why moving our children directly to the new school could not be achieved.'

After the recent consultation, the Governing Bodies and senior leaders across all three schools took the decision to work towards a bulk transfer of pupils in September 2018 with Clifford retaining the Y2 to Y3 cohort. Had the proposal been for Clifford not to retain the Y3's in 2018 and Ecclesall Primary expanded to 90 places in Y3, governors could have sought to consult on a one-off amendment to the primary school's admission arrangements to offer feeder status for that year group only. However, having listened to the views of all concerned and considered the best way forward across the three schools, this is not the option that is being pursued.

Can Clifford not retain their current Year 2 class meaning that these children have the opportunity to stay on at Clifford and form the new first year group of the new Junior phase in September 2017?

The proposal to implement the bulk transition in September 2018 is the considered decision of all three Governing Bodies and the Diocese. We are advocating this approach because it allows time for thorough and effective planning to take place to best support the transition of pupils and staff to the new arrangements. Creating a Y3 class at Clifford in 2017 would lead to too many junior places across Clifford and Ecclesall Junior Schools leading to the splitting of the class and would likely lead to awkward year groups at both schools, this would lead to less clarity for parents and increased pressure on resources.