

4 November – 15 December 2019

# Consultation on King Edward VII Catchment Area 2021/22

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## Frequently Asked Questions

Consultation website:

[www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolcatchment](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolcatchment)

for more information, events, and to fill in the survey



## General

### **“Why is the Local Authority consulting on the Admission Arrangements?”**

The Local Authority has to set or “determine” its admission arrangements every year. This is a legal requirement. If the Authority is proposing any changes to its admission arrangements such as the extension of the King Edward VII catchment area, it is required to consult on the changes.

### **“I am concerned that children in other schools such as Westways will lose their place due to these new possible changes. Can we have clarity as to whether Westways students feeder school will still be King Edwards?”**

The following schools will retain feeder school status for King Edward VII:

- Lydgate Junior
- Nether Green Junior School
- St. Mary’s CE Primary
- Walkley Primary School
- Westways Primary School

The proposed change would add Hallam Primary to the list of feeder schools.

### **“Why can't areas in the North West of the city have a similar choice of 3 schools? Why do the parents of children in the South West of the city that they get so much choice?”**

There are areas of the North West that also have catchment area status for more than one school. The reason for *this* proposal is that there is a significant increase in the local population. The Authority’s priority is to ensure that all families have access to a good local school.

**“What are the repercussions for the other feeder schools, i.e. for Walkley Primary, St Mary's and Westways?”**

Historically children who attend a feeder primary school to King Edward VII but do not live in the catchment area, have been offered places at King Edward VII. Extending the catchment area to include Hallam Primary will increase the potential number of catchment area children. If significant numbers apply as “catchment” from Hallam, this might displace non-catchment children attending the current feeder primary schools but in recent years any King Edward VII has been able to accommodate all children from its feeder schools whose parents apply for a place there.

**“It is really difficult to find out catchment areas.”**

A postcode search is available at this link. It can tell you the primary and catchment area school for your address:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/school-catchment-checker>

**“It would be helpful to know which schools are oversubscribed.”**

We publish details on oversubscribed schools following each allocation round. Details of oversubscribed primary and secondary schools for September 2019 can be accessed at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/catchment-areas-over-subscribed-schools>

**“The school is already large. There needs to be another secondary school to meet demand.”**

The proposal is to extend the King Edward VII catchment area. There is no proposal to increase the physical capacity of the school.

**“It is unclear what other additional measures you are proposing to manage short-term oversubscription.”**

The Local Authority has already been working closely with all schools in the South/South West and having discussions about strategies to ensure that school places are available for the local population as numbers increase over the next 4 or 5 years. These discussions are ongoing.

**“It feels like you are taking pressures resulting from Tapton being oversubscribed and moving those pressure to King Edward VII.”**

It is the case that increasing catchment numbers at King Edward indicate ongoing pressure at Tapton for the foreseeable future. Tapton cannot expand. Without catchment status for King Edward VII, residents of the Hallam catchment area may not have access to a local school. King Edward VII is an oversubscribed school but it is not oversubscribed from within its own catchment area.

**“Children already at Lydgate should be given first refusal to place at King Edward, Tapton and Mercia Academies.”**

Residents of Lydgate catchment area already have catchment status for King Edward VII, Tapton and Mercia.

**“The addition of the new schools does not seem to have been integrated into the school catchment regime in any meaningful way.”**

The Governing Body of Mercia Academy decided to overlay the entire South West of the city rather than carve out a distinct catchment area of its own. This has meant that parental preference options have been enhanced as all residents have catchment status for Mercia in addition to their existing catchment school(s).

**There is no map attached to the proposal**

The proposed King Edward VII catchment area map can be accessed at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/admissions-consultation.html>