



**North Tyneside
Council**

Children, Young People and Learning
Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business
Park,
North Tyneside. NE27 0BY

Ref: Launch of statutory consultation
15 November 2024

Dear parents and carers,

This morning a statutory notice was published on the proposal to close Monkseaton High School on 31 August 2026, meaning the Council has entered a four-week statutory consultation period that will run until 5pm on Friday 13 December.

This next stage of consultation is different, as a decision has now been made that following the pre-publication consultation phase, that no viable options have been identified to secure the future of the school.

In this consultation you are invited to make 'formal representations'. In simple terms, it means you can agree or oppose the decision and submit comments on the proposal.

Submissions to this stage of consultation will be considered by North Tyneside Council's Cabinet at a meeting on 19 December 2024. This is when a final decision will be made.

You can read the full proposal documentation and complete the consultation on the [Our North Tyneside Voice website](#) or by post to Education Review, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant East, Cobalt Business Park, The Silverlink North, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY.

I recognise that consultation regarding the school closure proposals leads to uncertainty for a number of parents, carers and child(ren).

Unfortunately, during this stage it is not possible to respond to each individuals' circumstances, but I am able to share more details with you that I hope will provide some reassurances.

Extraordinary admissions process

If a decision is made to close Monkseaton High School, it is proposed that all current Year 9 pupils will be offered an alternative school with a place available for them to start in Year 10.

It is proposed that an extra-ordinary in-year admissions process will open on Thursday 2 January 2025. Over a two-week period, until 17 January 2025, you can apply for an alternative high school or secondary school place for your child. If a decision is made to close Monkseaton High School, we will write to you to share how you can do this.

On 31 January 2025, you will be notified of your child's school place. At the end of this letter, you will find a timetable (table one) which shares more information about these proposed extra-ordinary admissions arrangements.

We want to make sure that schools are allocated in time for pupils to go through the GCSE selection process and have an enhanced transition into their new school before September 2025.

If the Council is undertaking an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment or maintains your child's Education Health Care Plan, [you will find timetables here](#). This includes information about the admissions arrangements for your child. I want to assure you that the Council has not deviated from the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

Spaces available in North Tyneside schools

We know there are sufficient places in North Tyneside schools to accommodate all pupils. We're continuing to try and build in additional choice for you and we're working with school leaders to do this.

The Council does not have the powers to mandate a change in Pupil Admission Numbers, but I recognise it is important for you that you have as much choice as possible for which school your child attends. The required change is at the discretion of each school's Governing Body.

The majority of the schools named below have already agreed to provide an increased number of places while the remaining schools are finalising their decision with their Governing Boards. Looking at current pupil numbers, all current year 9s can be accommodated in the following North Tyneside Schools:

- Burnside College
- Churchill Community College
- George Stephenson High School
- John Spence Community High School
- Longbenton High School
- Marden High School
- Norham High School
- North Gosforth Academy
- St Thomas More Catholic High School
- Whitley Bay High School

If Cabinet approve the proposal to close Monkseaton High School, the number of available places at each school will be published as part of the decision and in advance of the opening of the extraordinary admissions arrangements which is scheduled to open on 2 January 2025.

Catchment areas

I know many questions have been raised around what would happen to the existing catchment for Monkseaton High School and the impact for those pupils who would no longer have a catchment school.

In the future as part of our education review, catchment areas may need to be re-drawn. This will not happen in advance of the upcoming admissions process for Year 9 and Year 8 pupils.

While I am providing this information to ensure that you are aware of the arrangements if the school closure proposal is agreed, I'd like to be clear

that this is very much still in a consultation stage, and no final decisions have been made.

I know that this may be a challenging time for you, and I'd recommend that you take this opportunity to leave your feedback on the consultation site to make sure your voice is heard and considered as part of the final decision in December.

Thank you.

Julie Firth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Director of Children Services

North Tyneside Council

Table one

Timetable of extraordinary in-year admissions arrangements for pupils in current Year 9 on roll at Monkseaton High School.

DATE	EVENT
2 January 2025	<p>The extraordinary in-year admissions arrangements open for Year 9 pupils in Monkseaton High School who want to apply for an alternative high school or secondary school transfer as a preference.</p> <p>If Cabinet approve the proposal to close Monkseaton High School, we will publish as part of the decision and in advance of the opening of the extraordinary in-year admissions arrangements, how parents and carers can complete their application.</p>
17 January 2025	<p>This is the closing date for in-year applications for Year 9 pupils on roll at Monkseaton High</p>
20 January 2025	<p>The Admissions Team will send details of preferences to Trust schools, Voluntary Aided schools, Academy Trusts, and other Local Authorities where preferences stated are for schools other than the home Authority.</p> <p>Where additional preferences are added for schools outside of North Tyneside, the admission arrangements will be dealt with under the published arrangements in that Local Authority area.</p>
27 January 2025	<p>The Admission Authority for each Trust school, Voluntary Aided school and Academy Trust will provide the Authority with a list in rank order in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school and that can be offered a place.</p>

31 January 2025	The Authority will inform parents of Year 9 pupils in Monkseaton High School who applied for North Tyneside schools of the outcome of their application and contact details for the schools. The letter will inform them of the next steps and if the parent /carers preference is refused, it will advise on how to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel against the decision of the Admissions Authority (the school) not to offer their child a place.
7 February 2025	Parents inform School Admissions of acceptance or rejection of place offered.