

New notification process for children placed in temporary accommodation

From 1 September 2026 North Yorkshire Council Housing Needs service will be introducing the new notification process for children placed in temporary accommodation, linked to the duties introduced through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

North Yorkshire Council Housing Needs will begin notifying schools when a child is placed in temporary accommodation following a homelessness application, where consent has been provided. The aim is to help schools understand when housing instability may be affecting a pupil's education, attendance, wellbeing or wider support needs. Early information sharing will support a more coordinated approach between housing, education and health services, helping to ensure that children experiencing homelessness receive appropriate support and that disruption to learning is minimised wherever possible.

Why are schools being notified?

Children and young people experiencing homelessness can face significant disruption to their education. Early notification will help schools:

- Understand when housing circumstances may be impacting a child's attendance, behaviour or wellbeing.
- Consider whether any additional pastoral or educational support is required.
- Work collaboratively with families and partner agencies to minimise disruption to learning.
- Ensure vulnerable pupils receive support at an early stage.

What information will schools receive?

Where consent has been provided by the parent, the Council will share:

- The child's name and date of birth.
- Confirmation that temporary accommodation has been secured following a homelessness application.
- The date accommodation was secured.
- Contact details for the relevant Housing Options Officer if further information is required.

The information is being shared solely to support the child's education, health and wellbeing and should be handled in accordance with your usual data protection procedures.

What do schools need to do?

No formal action is required upon receipt of a notification. However, schools may wish to:

- Consider whether any additional pastoral support is appropriate.
- Monitor attendance and engagement.
- Speak with the family where appropriate.

- Contact Housing Needs if there are concerns about a child's wellbeing or ability to access education.
- Follow existing safeguarding procedures where there are any safeguarding concerns.

Information Sharing and Consent

The Council will normally seek consent from the parent, carer or qualifying young person before making a notification. Notifications are intended to support the child and improve partnership working between housing, education and health services.

Who can schools contact for further information?

Schools can contact North Yorkshire Council Housing Needs Services using the details provided within the email notification.

Homelessness and temporary accommodation can have a significant impact on a child's education and wellbeing. By working together and sharing information appropriately, we can help ensure that children and young people receive the support they need at the earliest opportunity.