



Derby City Council

**School Admissions Forum
12 March 2012**

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and
Young People

ITEM 5

Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2013 - 2014

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The local authority must consult on by 01 March 2012 and then determine its admission arrangements by 15 April 2012.

The Council has consulted as required on the proposed admission arrangements and relevant area for 2013-2014. Following consultation, it is proposed that our admission arrangements as set out in Appendix 2 be adopted for school entry in 2013-2014.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note and comply with the revised regulations relating to School Admissions which came into force on 01 February 2012 for school entry in September 2013.
- 2.2 To agree the retention of the Admissions Forum as the Council's consultative body to advise on the admission arrangements for all admission authorities in the Derby area, and to help ensure that they are fair, equitable and extend choice to parents.
- 2.3 To agree revised arrangements required by the Council to determine residency within a school's catchment area in order to prevent school places being gained by fraudulent or intentionally misleading applications.
- 2.4 To agree the withdrawal of Derby City's Protocol relating to infant class size and looked after children to reflect legislative changes to the School Admissions Code.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code, School Admission Appeals Code, relevant legislation and regulations.
- 3.2 To ensure that fairness, equity and transparency is retained for parents/carers when applying for all school places in all year groups.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Revised School Admissions Code and Regulations came into force on 01 February 2012. The Codes require that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted into a school, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places available at the school. In drawing up admission arrangements, admissions authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.
- 4.2 Admissions Forums are no longer a compulsory requirement. The new requirements allows for local authorities to determine whether or not they wish to retain Admissions Forums in their relevant area. The proposal is to retain an Admissions Forum to ensure that admission arrangements continue to remain fair, equitable and transparent.
- 4.3 A review of the current requirements placed on applicants to determine residency within a catchment area found that these alone are no longer as effective as they were when first introduced, and that more robust requirements are required. The additional requirements detailed at point 10 of Appendix 2 - Primary and Secondary Admissions Schemes, are those currently used by other local authorities and are sanctioned by the Schools Adjudicator, and have therefore been included in Derby's Admissions Schemes.
- 4.4 In relation to Derby City's previous protocol on infant class size and looked after children, it has been necessary to withdraw this as a direct result of the requirements of the new School Admissions and School Admission Appeals Codes. This is also to reflect the legal advice received which concluded that the protocol fettered the discretion of a local authority to admit a looked after child into an infant class above the legal limit of 30 as an 'excepted' pupil, and no longer served any useful purpose. This change will improve the position in relation looked after children being admitted, and previous infant class size issues.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None arising from this report

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Robin Constable Alison Parkin Linzi Spargo Rita Silvester Gurmail Nizzer
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<p>For more information contact:</p> <p>List of appendices:</p>	<p>Diane Whitehead, Admissions Manager, Children and Young People's Directorate, Tel: 01332 718885 e-mail diane.whitehead@derby.gov.uk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Implications • Appendix 2 – Primary Admissions Scheme 2013-14 • Appendix 3 -- Secondary Admissions Scheme 2013-14
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 As school budgets are largely determined by pupil numbers, there will be a financial impact for those schools where changes in admission limits result in changes to actual numbers.

Legal

- 2.1 The procedure for consulting upon and determining admission arrangements, notification, publication, variation and alteration of them was detailed in the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008. These were revoked by the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations, which came into force on 1 February 2012. Until that date the 2008 regulations applied.

Personnel

- 3.1 There is no direct impact upon personnel issues arising from this report

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 There is no direct impact upon equality issues arising from this report. The Code of Practice requires that all applications are dealt with fairly and equitably in accordance with the relevant legislation

Health and Safety

- 5.1 The Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme is aimed at ensuring every child receives a single offer of a school place.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Asset Management

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| 7.1 | None arising from this report. |
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Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1 To ensure that all parents who need support know where to turn to and benefit from a range of appropriate and accessible services
- 8.2 To ensure the physical, emotional well-being and safe choices.