

Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2012 - 2013

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council has consulted as required on the proposed admission arrangements and relevant area for 2012-2013. Following consultation, it is proposed that our current admission arrangements, set out on page 11 of the Secondary 'Admissions Handbook 2011-2012 and page 16 of the Primary 'Admissions Handbook 2011-2012, found at www.derby.gov.uk/admissions should be adopted as our arrangements for 2012-2013

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To adopt the admission arrangements for 2012 – 2013 set out in page 11 of the Secondary Admissions Handbook 2011 – 2012 and page 16 of the Primary Admissions Handbook as amended by the following recommendations.
- 2.2 To note the initial position on the co-ordination of admissions to all schools in Derby City, including the Chief Schools Adjudicator's recommendations following his investigation into fraudulent or misleading applications'.
- 2.3 To note the initial decision not to alter the catchment area of Littleover Community School to include Glebe Rise as that would be in breach of Section 2.40 of the School Admissions Code.
- 2.4 To note and support the amendment to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Boulton Primary, an increase to 45 from 30 to reflect the increased demand for primary places in the demographic area for 2012-2013 intake.
- 2.5 To note and support the amended Published Admission Number (PAN) for Ravensdale Infant and Junior Schools, an increase from 75 from 90 to reflect the increased demand for primary places in the demographic area for 2012-2013 intake.
- 2.6 To note and support the increase in the Published Admission Number from 252 to 266 for Derby Moor Community Sports College Trust School. (No objections or comments were received in relation to this).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To agree the proposed admission arrangements and published admission numbers

for 2012-2013 in order to ensure equity and consistency for parents in compliance with the School Admissions Code of Practice.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Code of Practice on School Admissions, which came into force on 10 February 2010, specified that all admissions to both primary and secondary schools are to be co-ordinated by the local authority from September 2010 onwards. This continues to be the case for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- 4.2 The Department for Education supports mandatory closing dates for primary reception intake, junior transfers, and a separate date for secondary transfers. The national closing date for reception and junior intake will be 15 January 2012, and for secondary transfer will be 31 October 2011.
- 4.3 It is not envisioned that the primary and secondary mandatory closing dates will adversely affect current processes.
- 4.4 Exchange of data dates in the attached Admission Schemes have been formulated after consultation with Derbyshire County Council, and ensure that the data can be exchanged with all admission authorities.
- 4.5 On 7 July 2009 the Secretary of State wrote to the Chief Schools Adjudicator (CSA) asking him to undertake an investigation into 'fraudulent or misleading applications' for admission to schools. In the CSA's report on the findings to the investigation he recommends that a parent who obtains a school place by deception, but does not have the place removed due to the local authority or appeals panel considering the best interests of the child, would not be able to gain priority over other applicants by using a 'sibling link' for subsequent children in future years. The local authority accepts the recommendation and has amended the published admission arrangements accordingly.
- 4.6 The Authority has received three letters from residents of Glebe Rise, Littleover Derby requesting that the catchment area of Littleover Community School is changed to include Glebe Rise.
*Section 2.40 of the School Admissions Code states; In drawing up catchments, admission authorities should ensure that they reflect the diversity of the community serviced by the school and **must not** exclude particular housing estates, or addresses in such a way that might disadvantage particular social groups.*
Littleover Community School is an extremely popular and oversubscribed school. Therefore the Authority believes that to alter the catchment area of the school to only include Glebe Rise, without full and proper consultation would be in breach of Section 2.40 of the Code.

- 4.7. Demand for primary school places is expected to be higher in some areas of the City. In light of this anticipated increase; there is an option to consider increasing Boulton Primary, Ravensdale Infant and Ravensdale Junior Schools Published Admission Numbers from September 2012 to allow additional capacity to meet the increased demand.
- 4.8 Council Cabinet has approved that following consultation, from September 2011 Redwood Infant School and Redwood Junior School will merge to form primary school with no amendments to the current admission number of 75.
- 4.9 Following the national review of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme last year, Derby Moor Community Sports College has received approval for a major refurbishment scheme as one of Derby's BSF sample schools. Work started on site in January 2011 and the proposal is for the school to open with its newly refurbished buildings in September 2012. The size of the refurbished school has been planned in line with pupil projections, with an increase in PAN from 252 to 266. Following a period of uncertainty last year over whether the BSF sample school projects would go ahead, both the Local Authority and Derby Moor are in agreement that the school's PAN should increase to 266 now that the project has received approval.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None arising from this report

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Robin Constable
Financial officer	Alison Parkin
Human Resources officer	Linzi Spargo
Service Director(s)	Rita Silvester
Other(s)	Gurmail Nizzer

For more information contact:	Diane Whitehead Tel: 01332 718885 e-mail diane.whitehead@derby.gov.uk
List of appendices:	Letters received by Derby City Council from residents of Glebe Rise, Littleover. Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Co-ordinated Scheme for Admissions to Primary School for the 2012-13 Academic Year. Published Admission Arrangements 2012-13 Derby Scheme for the Admission Arrangements for Pupils to Secondary Schools 2012-2013

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 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 is detailed in the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008

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.

Carbon commitment

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Value for money

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1 CYP1 – 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 CYP3 – To ensure the physical, emotional well-being and safe choices.

