



The Education (Admission Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the provisions of these new regulations, which state that “school members” should be admitted to the Forum, and expand its powers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 These new regulations were made on 29 January 2007 and come into force on 27 February 2007.
- 2.2 As a result of them, the Council must appoint new members of the Forum, to be known as “school members”. There should be one member from every maintained school (other than special schools) in the area covered by the Forum. That member should be either the head teacher of the school or a governor (but not an LEA governor). Those schools who are already represented by a core member of the Forum are not entitled to a school member.
- 2.3 The tenure of school members is the same as core members (four years). However school members cease to be eligible as such if they cease to be the head teacher or governor for the school that they represent.
- 2.4 Core members retain the responsibility for regulating the procedure of the Forum.
- 2.5 School members can nominate an alternate to attend the Forum in their absence, but they have to be the head teacher or a governor of the school that they represent.
- 2.6 The regulations give admission forums new powers. They may prepare and publish reports on matters connected with the admission of pupils of maintained schools in the area. This can include matters such as
- The number and percentages of first, second and third parental preferences which were met and the main factors that affected whether such preferences were met.
 - The number of appeals made to the appeal panel within the area of the Council.
 - The ethnic and social mix of pupils attending schools in the area, and the factors that affect this.

- The extent to which existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs.
- How well the admission forum protocol has worked and how many children have been admitted to each school under the protocol.
- Whether primary schools are meeting their statutory duties in relation to infant class sizes.
- Details of other matters that might affect how fairly admission arrangements serve the interest of children and parents within the authority and
- Any recommendations the Forum wishes to improve parental choice and access to education in the area.

2.7 In preparing such reports admission forums can request the LEA for the area it serves, any LEA for an adjoining area and the governing body of any maintained schools in its area for information held by them relating to

- The number of appeals made to appeal panels
- Whether primary schools are meeting their statutory duties in relation to infant class sizes
- The admissions process and the extent to which it operates fairly and promotes parental choice and access to education
- The number and percentages of parental preferences that were met and the main factors that affected this. (LEAS only).
- How well the admission forum protocol has worked and how many children have been admitted to each school under it. (LEAs only)
- The ethnic and social mix of pupils attending schools and the factors that might affect this. (Governing bodies only).

2.8 It is unclear when these new powers will come into force.

2.9 The Forum will also have the power to refer objections to admission arrangements to the schools adjudicator. It can decide to do so by simple majority. If the vote is tied the Chair or, in their absence, the Vice- Chair, has a second and casting vote.

2.10 Finally, the regulations state that members of the Forum should be given one week's notice of the time and place of a meeting.

For more information contact:	robin.constable@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. Please see supporting information above.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. None.