



Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2008 - 2009

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 To note and support the Authorities stance on the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Derby City and to note the admission arrangements for Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools in the City.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The new Code of Practice on School Admissions came into force on 27 February 2007 and requires all admission authorities to 'act in accordance' with the code rather than merely 'have regard to' the Code. The admission arrangements for all schools in the city fully comply with the new requirements.
- 2.2 Consultation documents were issued to all Community and Voluntary controlled schools in December 2006, with a full pack of all schools admission arrangements issued to all schools in January 2007. Comments were invited on the Council's admission arrangements and Parkview Primary school submitted the following points for consideration.
 - Parkview to be given a copy of the waiting list
 - Deadline set for offering places on the waiting list
- 2.3 Consideration was given to the points raised by Parkview School, but as this was the only school to raise such points, it was felt that it would be impractical to alter the agreed co-ordinated admission scheme. The Council operates and offers places from waiting lists for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, and there is no need for schools to be given a copy of the list, as schools are automatically given a copy of any refusal letters. It is not possible to put a deadline on when places can be offered from the waiting lists, as parents are not always contactable by telephone, and a written offer is sent with a deadline by which the parent should contact the Council. Should this parent not want the place, then the next person on the list is contacted. This was the scenario experienced by the school, and it was the third person on the list who accepted the place. This legal process will extend the time needed to fill the vacancy. The number of applications referred to by the school amounts to four applications since September 2006. It is felt that it would be too labour intensive to operate a separate system for such applications.
- 2.4 No other comments were received regarding the Council's Admission Arrangements for 2008-09.

- 2.5 All Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools were informed of the new requirements of the new Code of Practice on School Admissions, and their oversubscription criteria were assessed using the new regulations. It is not felt that any of the schools fails to comply with the new Code, and therefore the Council is not looking to submit any objections to the Schools Adjudicator.

For more information contact:	Cathy.Ford@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Letters and Responses from Parkview Primary School Appendix 3 – Consultation Document on Admission Arrangements 08/09

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. None arising from this report.