

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT OF THE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

**TITLE: Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2025-2026 School Year**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>7 February 2024</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Public or Private</b>	<b>Public</b>

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek Cabinet's approval for the policy for the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for the 2025-2026 school year. There are two minor changes to the arrangements of the previous year. Cabinet must also biannually approve the relevant area for admission to schools.

#### **Council Plan priority**

The proposed arrangements primarily support the Council Plan's priority for a ***Learning Barnsley*** through which children and young people achieve the best outcomes, including improved educational attainment, by admission and attendance at schools' which are judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

#### **Recommendations**

##### **That Cabinet:**

- 1. Approve the proposed policy of admission to community and voluntary primary and secondary schools in the Borough to ensure compliance with school admissions legislation during the 2025-26 school year.**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools within the Borough.
- 1.2 Admission authorities determine the admission arrangements for the school(s) for which they have responsibility. A report is submitted to Cabinet on an annual basis to approve the admission arrangements for maintained community and voluntary controlled schools within the Borough for the admission year. Local Authorities must determine the admission arrangements each year even if no consultation has been required.
- 1.3 This fulfils the requirement in Section 89 of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998.
- 1.4 The determination of the admission arrangements must be finalised no later than 28<sup>th</sup> February in the determination year, namely by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. A copy of the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary primary and secondary schools in the Borough is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 The draft policy is fully compliant with the requirements of the School Admissions legislation which sets out the statutory duties of the Local Authority.
- 2.2 The admission arrangements have been updated to clarify the residency rule for children whose parents have shared custody. Previously Child Benefit was used to determine the applicant address, this has been changed to the address where the child is registered at the GP due to the increased number of families not receiving Child Benefit.
- 2.3 Due to the increased number of parental disputes, further clarification on how the local authority will handle these issues has been included in the arrangements for 2025-26.
- 2.4 Cabinet must also biannually approve the relevant area for admissions, this is proposed to remain unchanged as the geographical area covered by Barnsley MBC.

## **3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

The proposed policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code and legislation.

Failure by the Authority to comply with the requirements of the legislation would be a breach of the Authority's statutory duty. Failure to comply may result in an objection being made to the Schools Adjudicator or a complaint to the Secretary of State.

### **3.2 Legal**

There are no specific implications arising from this report and the scheme is fully compliant with legislation, ensuring that the Council is meeting obligations in relation to statutory requirements.

### **3.3 Equality**

The proposed policy complies with all relevant legislation and is fair and transparent across the Borough for all service users. An equality impact assessment has been compiled and is appended to this report.

### **3.4 Sustainability**

There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough directly arising through consideration of the proposed admission arrangements for the 2025-26 school year.

### **3.5 Employee**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

### **3.6 Communications**

There are no implications arising from this report.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 Formal consultation has been undertaken in accordance with legislation and Codes of Practice. Two minor changes to previous arrangements have been made to the arrangements which were highlighted to consultees.

4.2 As per the Admissions Code 2021 requirements, consultation was made with; parents of children between the ages of 2 and 18, all adjoining or neighbouring local authorities, and all other admissions authorities within Barnsley including Dioceses where applicable. The consultation was also displayed on BMBC website and social media channels.

4.3 The consultation lasted for 6 weeks between 13<sup>th</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. No comments were shared by consultees.

4.4 The two minor changes to the admission arrangements 2025-26 are;  
- Where residency is shared 50:50, the address where the child is registered at the GP will be used  
- Clarification on how parental disputes on school preferences are managed

## 5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not applicable to the statutory duty to admission arrangements for admission to school

## 6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To ensure compliance with the Council's statutory obligation to determine admission arrangements each year.

## 7. GLOSSARY

None

## 8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools (2025-2026)

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment - Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools (2025-2026)

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

## 10. REPORT SIGN OFF

<b>Financial consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <b>Joshua Amahwe (12/01/2024)</b>
<b>Legal consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Legal Services officer consulted and date <b>Sajeda Khalifa</b> <b>12 January 2024</b>

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**Post: School Admissions and Access Manager**