

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a key decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director for
People to Cabinet
(20th February 2019)

CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Following consultation, this report seeks approval for the co-ordinated scheme for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed scheme for co-ordinating the admission arrangements for primary and secondary schools be approved for the 2020-2021 school year.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools within the Borough.
- 3.2 The admission authorities for voluntary aided schools and academies are the individual governing bodies of these schools.
- 3.3 The admission authorities for maintained community and voluntary controlled schools outside Barnsley in neighbouring areas are the relevant local authorities for those areas.
- 3.4 Admission authorities determine the admission arrangements for the school(s) for which they have responsibility.
- 3.5 Co-ordination of admission schemes between different admission authorities is a statutory requirement on the local authority and is a mechanism for ensuring the single offer of a school place on the same day where a parent has completed a common application form.
- 3.5 A report is submitted to Cabinet on an annual basis to approve the coordination of admission arrangements for the admission year.

4 Consideration of Alternative Approaches

- 4.1 The consideration of alternative approaches is not applicable to this report because of the statutory duty to have a co-ordinated scheme and the proposed schemes comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

5 Proposals and Justification

- 5.2 The schemes fully comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and Regulations of 2014. The Code refers to statutory requirements that are placed on local authorities and which must be complied with. In addition, the Code includes guidelines that admission authorities should follow unless they can demonstrate, if challenged, that they are justified in not doing so.
- 5.3 The proposed schemes for the coordination of admission arrangements for 2020-2021 were consulted upon from 2nd November 2018 to 14th December 2018 in accordance with statutory timescales.

Consultation is a statutory requirement and the regulations prescribe who is to be consulted, including those other admission authorities within Barnsley who have to adopt the Authority's schemes, these being:

- a) Community and voluntary controlled schools within the Barnsley borough
 - b) Voluntary aided schools and academies within Barnsley
 - c) Those Local Authorities that share a border with Barnsley
 - d) The Dioceses of Sheffield, Hallam and West Yorkshire and the Dales
 - e) Other interested parties via a notice on the Council website.
- 5.4 No objections or comments were received during the consultation and all admission authorities within Barnsley have confirmed their adoption of the proposed schemes
- 5.5 As the proposed schemes for the coordination of admission arrangements for 2020-2021 are fully compliant with legislation and the Admission Code of Practice and no objections or proposed amendments have been received, it is recommended that these schemes are approved as the Authority's schemes for co-ordinating admission arrangements for the 2020-2021 school year.

6 Impact on Local People (Local area implications)

The co-ordination of admission arrangements ensures consistency of approach across the schools in all areas of Barnsley and with neighbouring authorities. There are no specific area implications arising from this report.

7 Compatibility with European Convention on Human Rights

The co-ordinated schemes are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and help fulfil the right to education within the Convention.

8 Promoting Equalities, Diversity and Social Inclusion

The proposed schemes for the coordination of admissions to schools, which comply with the School Admissions Code, will help ensure fair access for all children.

9 Risk Management Issues

The Authority has already implemented co-ordination of admission arrangements for both primary and secondary schools. By virtue of there being no objections to the proposed co-ordinated schemes no risk management considerations have been identified as arising from this report. Failure to determine schemes for the coordination of admission arrangements would be a breach of a statutory duty.

10 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

11 Employee Implications

There are no implications arising from this report.

12 Glossary

None.

13 List of Appendices

None

14 Background Papers

Co-ordinated Scheme for Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools 2019-2020

Education Act 2002, Section 48

The school Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.

School Admissions Code 2014.

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please e-mail governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Report Author: Margaret Libreri (Service Director: Education, Early Start and Prevention)