

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)

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks approval for the Authority's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for the school year 2019/2020. The arrangements are fully compliant with all legislation and Codes of Practice and there are no recommended changes from the arrangements of the previous year.

2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools be approved for the 2020-2021

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools within the Borough.
- 3.2 The admissions authorities for voluntary aided schools and academies are the individual governing bodies of these schools.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 This fulfils the requirement in Section 89 of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998.
- 3.5 The determination of the admission arrangements must be determined no later than 28 February in the determination year. For the school year 2019/2020, the determination year is 2018-2019. The admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Barnsley therefore need to be determined by 28th February 2019.

4 Consideration of Alternative Approaches

Not applicable to the statutory duty to admission arrangements for admission to school.

5 Proposals and Justification

5.1 For admissions to schools in the 2020-2021 school year, the admissions process takes place in the 2019-2020 school year. Information will be provided to parents and carers by the second week of September 2019; applications for school need to be made by 31 October 2019 (secondary) or 15 January 2020 (primary) and all admissions are notified to parents and carers on 1 March 2020 (secondary) and 16 April 2020 (primary).

5.2 The arrangements are fully compliant with the 2014 Admission Code and Regulations.

5.3 The admission arrangements include oversubscription criteria for admission to community and voluntary controlled schools.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need which names the school are required to be admitted to that school.

The criteria for determining eligibility for a school place for schools which are oversubscribed are:

- first, Looked After Children and Children previously Looked After.
- second, children with brothers and/or sisters attending the school on the proposed date of admission.
- third, children living nearest to the school, the distance to be measured by a straight line between the child's ordinary place of residence and the main entrance to the school building.

5.4 The arrangements fully comply with the requirements of Fair Access, as set out in the School Admissions Code 2014.

The Code refers to statutory requirements which are placed on local authorities which must be complied with. In addition, the Code includes guidelines which admission authorities should follow unless they can demonstrate, if challenged, that they are justified in not doing so.

5.5 In accordance with legislation, there has been no requirement to consult upon the proposed admission arrangements for 2019-2020 as there are no amendments to the arrangements of the previous year.

However, all the usual consultees have been notified of this, as detailed below:

- (a) Community and voluntary controlled schools within the Barnsley borough;

- (b) the Governing Bodies of voluntary aided schools and academies in Barnsley as they are the admission authorities for their respective schools;
- (c) those local education authorities which share a border with Barnsley;
- (d) the Dioceses of Sheffield, Hallam and Leeds
- (e) other interested parties via a notice placed on the Council website

5.7 No objections or comments were received as a result of the above notifications.

5.8 It is therefore recommended that these admission arrangements are approved as the Authority's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools in the 2020-2021 school year.

6 Impact on Local People (Local area implications)

There are no specific area implications arising from this report. The admissions arrangements provide a consistency of approach for community and voluntary controlled schools across Barnsley.

7 Compatibility with European Convention on Human Rights

The admission arrangements 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 arrangements which comply with the School Admissions Code ensure fair access for all children.

9 Risk Management Issues

9.1 The proposed admission to school policy and administrative arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code.

9.2 Failure by the Authority to comply with the mandatory requirements of the new School Admissions Code 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. Failure to follow the guidelines in the new Code, where it cannot be justified, could result in an objection being upheld by the Schools Adjudicator.

10 Financial Implications

There are no implications arising from this report.

11 Employee Implications

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

12 Glossary

None.

13 List of Appendices

None

14 Background Papers

Admission Arrangements for Primary and Secondary Schools 2019-2020

Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended
Schedule 4 to the Education Act 2002

School Admissions Code 2014

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

The Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999.

Admission to School - Advice to Parents Booklets 2019-2020

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.

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