

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
28 FEBRUARY 2019**

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21
Assistant Director, Education & Learning**

1. PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1. To determine the school admission arrangements for the academic year 2020/21.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The report provides details of the consultation on changes to admission arrangements and Published Admission Numbers (PAN) held between 16 October 2018 and 7 December 2018.
- 2.2. The recommendations describe the key changes to be made to admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. **To note the outcomes of the consultation into admission arrangements.**
- 3.2. **Following a public consultation it is recommended to agree to add children of staff to the oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools.**
- 3.3. **Following recent guidance from the Department for Education a public consultation was held and the recommendation is to agree to add an oversubscription criterion that includes children adopted from outside of England.**
- 3.4. **Following discussions with the Oxford Diocese and the Governors of the school, followed by a public consultation, the recommendation is to agree to remove the denominational criterion from the admission arrangements for Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School.**
- 3.5. **Following a public consultation it is recommended to agree the annual admission arrangements for 2020/21 as set out in Appendices A to D.**

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. If admission arrangements are required to change there is a statutory duty to consult widely and take views that are expressed into account. This therefore ensures that the admission arrangements for Bracknell Forest Council comply with the statutory School Admissions Code.
- 4.2. To ensure that admission arrangements are fit for purpose for the Bracknell Forest community.
- 4.3. All admission arrangements must be determined by the Executive Member on or before 28 February 2019.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1. None. There is a statutory process to consult should the admission arrangements need to be changed.

6. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1. The School Admissions Code requires local authorities to consult on admissions arrangements if they are making changes to them. A consultation was held between 16 October 2018 and 7 December 2018 in relation to changes to be introduced for the academic year 2020-21:
- To agree a change to add children of staff to the oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools.
 - To agree to add an oversubscription criterion that includes children adopted from outside of England.
 - To agree to remove the denominational criterion from the admission arrangements for Ascot Heath CE Junior School.
 - To agree to remove the denominational criterion from the admission arrangements for Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School.
- 6.2. For the first two aspects of the consultation – children of staff and adding to the criterion for previously looked after children to include children adopted from outside England – over 50% of respondees agreed with the proposal.
- 6.3. Part of the consultation was to remove the denomination criterion from the admission arrangements for Ascot Heath CE Junior School. The Executive Member agreed on 2 January 2019 that, with effect from 1 September 2019, the Junior School will close and the Infant School will expand its age range to become a Primary School.
- 6.4. For changes like this there is a statutory 4 week appeal period following a local authority's decision. This period has expired, no appeal was received, so the admission arrangements for the Junior school are no longer relevant and therefore this change is no longer required.
- 6.4. The decision to amalgamate the Holly Spring Infant and Junior schools was taken by the Executive Member on 25 January 2019; the appeal period for this change will run until 22 February. Should the Holly Spring amalgamation decision be appealed and the amalgamation does not proceed to the envisaged timescale, the exact wording of Holly Spring admission arrangements will need to be changed accordingly following publication and prior to the Executive Member's approval.
- 6.5. The proposed annual admissions arrangements are set out in Appendices A to D.
- APPENDIX A – Primary School Admission Arrangements 2020/21
- APPENDIX B – Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2020/21
- APPENDIX C – 6th Form Admission Arrangements 2020/21
- APPENDIX D – In year School Admission Arrangements 2020/21

7. CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

Unrestricted

- 7.1 A consultation was held between 16 October and 7 December 2018
- 7.2 The consultation had to ensure by statute that the following list of people are consulted. Failure to consult effectively may be grounds for subsequent complaints and appeals.
- a) 'parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
 - d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority;
 - e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
 - f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination'.

Method of Consultation

- 7.3 These included:
- Information and a questionnaire were made available on the Council's consultation portal, website and on paper.
 - Comments were also invited via email.

Representations Received

- 7.4 74 responses were made on the online consultation portal. A summary of these is shown at Appendix E.
- 7.5 5 people commented via, or followed up their submission, with an email. A summary of these is shown in Appendix F

8. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 8.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the report

Director of Finance

- 8.2 The Director of Finance is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise on the council from this report

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Bracknell Forest Council has an inclusive education policy and children will not be discriminated against as laid down by the Human Rights Act 1998, Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and Equality Act 2010.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 Significant Risks include:

ISSUE	RISK	COMMENT
If the annual admissions arrangements are not determined, the Local Authority would be in breach of the School Admissions Code.	M	The Local Authority could be reported to the Schools Adjudicator for failure to comply with the School Admissions Code.

Background Papers

School Admissions Code 2014, DfE

Contact for further information

Lesley Adams
01344 354143

School Admissions Manager
lesley.adams@bracknell-forest.gov.uk