

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
DATE: 26 February 2021

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2022/23
Assistant Director, Education & Learning

1. PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1. To determine the school admission arrangements for the academic year 2022/23.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The report provides details of the consultation on changes to admission arrangements and Published Admission Numbers (PAN) held between 2 November and 14 December 2020.
- 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 reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for two community primary schools, Sandy Lane Primary School (from 90 to 60) and The Pines School (from 60 to 30)**
- 3.3. **Following a public consultation it is recommended to agree the annual admission arrangements for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A following the outcome of the consultation.**

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 2021.

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

Unrestricted

- 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 2 November 2020 and 14 December 2020 in relation to changes to be introduced for the academic year 2022-23:
- To reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for two community primary schools, Sandy Lane Primary School (from 90 to 60) and The Pines School (from 60 to 30)
- 6.2. For the consultation – as requested by the Governors of both schools a reduction in PAN for two primary community schools; Sandy Lane Primary School and The Pines School , 8 responses were received
- a. In summary of the 8 respondents 7 agreed to the Sandy Lane Primary School PAN change and 1 disagreed, and of those 8 five responded to the Pines Primary School PAN change and all of them agreed with it.
- 6.3. The proposed annual admissions arrangements are attached

7. CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 A consultation was held between 2 November and 14 December 2020
- 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 8 responses were made on the online consultation portal. A summary of these is shown at Appendix B.

7.5 No comments were received via email

8. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

8.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the report

Director: Resources

8.2 The Director: Resources is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report. The planned deletion of 60 primary aged school places will reduce the number of surplus places that can contribute to budget difficulties at schools.

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

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