

CABINET MEMBER DECISION 24 FEBRUARY 2016

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS, ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr J P Campion

Relevant Officer

Director of Children, Families and Communities

Recommendation

- 1. The Director of Children, Families and Communities recommends that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:**
 - (a) approves the School Admissions Policy for 2017/18 as set out in Appendices 1a and 1b; and**
 - (b) approves the scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions for Primary/Middle and Secondary Schools for 2017/18 as set out in Appendices 2a and 2b.**

Background Information

2. In March 2014, Cabinet agreed that where no significant changes are proposed to the admission arrangements, the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families has delegated authority for approving the Schools Admissions Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and schemes for Co-ordinated Admissions in consultation with the Director of Children, Families and Communities.

Admissions Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2017/18

3. Since the arrangements were approved by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families in March 2015, no additional suggestions for further amendments have come forward. Therefore, no significant changes have been proposed.

4. The School Admissions Code of Practice, Section 1.42 states:

"Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year, there is no requirement to consult."

5. However, the School Admission Code, Section 1.46 goes on to state:

"All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements..., even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required."

School Admissions Code

6. The Code on School Admissions currently in effect, received its approval in Parliament on 19 December 2014.

Co-ordinated Schemes for 2017/18

7. The Code of Practice Section 2.20 states:

"Each year Local Authorities must formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area. Where the scheme is not substantially different from that adopted in previous years there is no requirement to consult."

8. It is proposed to adopt the same scheme for 2017/18 as was approved for 2016 and therefore consultation was not required. There are no changes to the closing and offer dates (see table below), with only minor amendments to the exchange of information dates with other admission authorities.

	Closing Date	Offer Date
Primary/Middle	15 January 2017	16 April 2017
Secondary	31 October 2016	1 March 2017

Recommendation

9. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families approves the Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2017/18, attached as Appendices 1a & 1b, and approves the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for primary/middle and secondary schools for 2017/18 set out in Appendices 2a & 2b.

Published Admission Number (PAN) Changes

10. The Council keeps under review the PAN of all community and voluntary controlled schools. The Council has to ensure sufficient places in an area for the number of pupils seeking to attend their local school.

11. Admission Authorities need no longer consult on an increase to the PAN if the school has the accommodation. Any increases in PAN that do require additional accommodation will be subject to a separate report.

Legal, Financial, HR and Equality Implications

12. The Equality Impact Assessment relevance screening, completed when consulting and determining the Admission Policy for 2014/15, showed that the proposal did not have an adverse impact on rural children, the Gypsy, Roma Traveller community or any of the protected groups. There have not been any relevant demographic changes that require the assessment to be repeated. The assessment carries forward as no changes have been made to the Policy.

Supporting Information

- Appendices 1a and 1b – Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2017/18
- Appendices 2a and 2b – Co-ordinated Schemes for Primary/Middle and Secondary Schools for 2017/18

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

School Admissions Code of Practice

Agenda papers and background papers for the Cabinet Member Decision on 18 March 2015