

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

13 February 2018

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS, ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr M Hart

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 2019/20 as set out in Appendices 1a and 1b; and**
 - (b) approves the scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions for Primary/Middle and Secondary Schools for 2019/20 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 2019/20

3. Since the arrangements were approved by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families in February 2017, 2 additional suggestions for further amendments have come forward. These were:
 1. Giving Sibling higher priority than catchment area;
 2. Removing the Feeder School criterion.
4. Full public consultation took place in line with the requirements of section 1.44 of the Code on School Admissions. This included direct mailing to all schools in Worcestershire, neighbouring local authorities, Diocesan Boards, Trade Unions, Local Admissions Forum and libraries. The information was also published on the School Admissions Website and Edulink. An advertisement was published in all the local papers alerting parents to the information on the website and directing them to locations where hard copies could be

viewed, if required. Consultation took place between 16 October 2017 and 11 December 2017. The consultation document and response form is attached as Appendix 3.

5. In summary 7 schools and 2 parents responded to the consultation, a total of 9 responses. Some responses only commented on one aspect of the consultation and did not respond to all questions asked. Table A below shows the summary of consultation responses:

Table A

Question	Number in Support
Retain Existing Feeder School Links	4
Remove Existing Feeder School Links	3
Amend Existing Feeder School Links	0
Catchment Area to have higher priority than Sibling	3
Sibling to have higher priority than Catchment Area	4
Comments on Co-ordinated Schemes	0
Comments in relation to PAN changes	0

Full copies of the consultation responses are attached as Appendix 4

6. Of those that did respond to the consultation, support was either in favour of retaining existing arrangements or was similar in number to those supporting change. In light of the low level of responses to the consultation and there not being a clear option being supported, it is therefore recommended that no significant changes take place.

7. As there are no significant changes recommended, responsibility for approving the arrangements remains with the Cabinet Member in consultation with the Director.

Co-ordinated Schemes for 2019/20

8. 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."

9. 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 2019	16 April 2019
Secondary	31 October 2018	1 March 2019

Recommendation

10. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families approves the Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary

Controlled Schools 2019/20, attached as Appendices 1a & 1b, and approves the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for primary/middle and secondary schools for 2019/20 set out in Appendices 2a & 2b.

Published Admission Number (PAN) Changes

11. 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.

12. 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

13. 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.

Public Health and Privacy Impact Assessments

14. There are no Public Health and Privacy Impact Assessment implications that will occur as a result of endorsing the recommendations in this report.

Supporting Information

- Appendices 1a and 1b – Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2019/20
- Appendices 2a and 2b – Co-ordinated Schemes for Primary/Middle and Secondary Schools for 2019/20
- Appendix 3 – Consultation Letter and Response Form
- Appendix 4 – Consultation Responses

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763
Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Robert Williams, Manager Universal Provision and Placement 0-19
Tel: 01905 766249
Email: rjwilliams@worcestershire.gov.uk

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 20 January 2017