

Proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Surrey County Council's community and voluntary controlled schools September 2015

(Please see separate consultation regarding the admission arrangements for Esher CofE High School and St Andrew's CofE (Controlled) Infant School in Farnham)

Introduction

Surrey County Council is consulting on the changes which it has proposed to the admission arrangements for some community and voluntary controlled schools from September 2015. Full details of the changes are set out below.

A copy of the proposed admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools are set out in Appendix 1 and its annexes, with changes highlighted in bold. An equality impact assessment is set out in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1	Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools
ANNEX 1	Proposed published admission numbers
ANNEX 2	Schools to be considered to be on adjoining/shared sites for sibling priority
ANNEX 3	Schools to be considered to admit local children for assessing nearest school
ANNEX 4	Primary and secondary coordinated schemes
ANNEX 5	Catchment map for Esher C of E High School (expected to convert to an academy during consultation period)
ANNEX 6	Catchment map for Southfield Park Primary School
ANNEX 7	Catchment map for Woodmansterne Primary School
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ANNEX 9	Catchment map for Tatsfield Primary School
Appendix 2	Equality impact assessment

What changes are being proposed?

(Please see separate consultation regarding the admission arrangements for Esher CofE High School and St Andrew's CofE (Controlled) Infant School)

1. Auriol Junior School – Epsom and Ewell

From September 2015 it is proposed to introduce a feeder link to Auriol Junior School for children at The Mead Infant School so that the admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 b) i) of Appendix 1**, as follows:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children attending The Mead Infant School
4. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
5. Any other children

Whilst Auriol Junior School currently has a reciprocal sibling link with The Mead Infant School there is no feeder link from the infant school to the junior school. However, most children attending The Mead Infant School do transfer to Auriol Junior. For 2013 admission,

81 of the 90 children attending The Mead Infant School applied and were offered a place at Auriol Junior School.

Whilst there is still no guarantee that all children at The Mead Infant School who apply would be given a place at the junior school it is likely that in most years those who want to transfer would be able to. In this way these criteria would provide continuity and a clearer transition for children and would reduce anxiety for parents.

Although siblings would be given a lower priority after the feeder link, for 2013 admission there were only three children who were allocated a place under the sibling criterion who did not attend The Mead Infant School. As not all children attending the Mead Infant School are likely to apply for a place at Auriol Junior, it is likely that all siblings would still be offered a place, although there would be no guarantee.

In line with Surrey County Council policy, due to the reciprocal sibling link between the infant and the junior schools, the introduction of a feeder link would also enable sibling priority to be given to a child who is applying to start at the infant school in Reception even if they have a sibling who would have left the infant school by the time the younger child starts. This is because the admission criteria provides for them to be admitted to the junior school thereby retaining their sibling priority. This is reflected in **section 11 of Appendix 1**.

2. Reigate Priory – Reigate and Banstead

From September 2015 it is proposed to introduce tiered sibling criteria so that the admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 e) iii) of Appendix 1**, as follows:

- a. Looked after and previously looked after children
- b. Exceptional social/medical need
- c. Siblings for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- d. Non-siblings for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- e. Other siblings for whom the school is not the nearest to their home address
- f. Any other children

Reigate Priory is an oversubscribed junior school in Reigate and increasingly there are children who have found it difficult to access a place even though it is their nearest junior. This change in admission criteria would mean that places would be offered to children for whom the school was nearest ahead of other children for whom it was not, with siblings being prioritised in this way as well as applicants on distance. It is anticipated that this will help ensure that a school within a reasonable distance can be offered to all children living in the area.

It is anticipated that the impact of this change would be comparatively low. In the past three years, the number of children who have been admitted to Reigate Priory under the sibling criterion who did not have it as their nearest junior provision was as follows:

2011	13
2012	6
2013	6

Whilst there is no guarantee that Reigate Priory would be able to allocate a place to every child who has it as their nearest school, this proposal lessens the disadvantage that might be caused to children living further away to the north of Reigate. These children may still have Reigate Priory as their nearest school but are currently displaced if children with siblings at the school apply, even if those children have another nearer junior provision. For

2012 admission there were five children who had Reigate Priory as their nearest school who were not offered a place but all would have been offered if these criteria had applied.

Reigate Priory has a published admission number of 150 but admitted an extra class in 2013. With this extra class, all children who had the school as their nearest were offered a place, as well as eight children who did not have the school as their nearest. However the proposed published admission number for Reigate Priory currently remains at 150 for 2015.

Whilst there are currently discussions on increasing the published admission number to 180 no decision has yet been made. If it is agreed for the school to admit 180 children in 2015 and thereafter for it to increase its PAN permanently, there may not be a need to vary the admission arrangements for the school as this should provide for all children to be offered a place if they have it as their nearest school. This will form part of the deliberations after consultation.

3. St Ann's Heath Junior School – Runnymede

From September 2015 it is proposed to introduce a feeder link to St Ann's Heath Junior School for children at Meadowcroft Infant School, in addition to the existing feeder link with Trumps Green Infants, so that the admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 f) iii) of Appendix 1**, as follows:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Siblings
4. Children attending Trumps Green Infant School or Meadowcroft Infant School
5. Children for whom St Ann's Heath Junior School is the nearest school with a Junior PAN
6. Any other children

In addition to the feeder link it is also proposed to establish a reciprocal sibling link between Meadowcroft Infant and St Ann's Heath Junior so that the sibling link would work across both schools (**see Annex 2 of Appendix 1**).

Meadowcroft Infant School currently has no feeder link to Year 3 provision. This can make parents anxious about Year 3 transition and has resulted in them taking their children out of the school at Year 2 or earlier, as soon as a place becomes available in a primary school or another infant school with clearer links to Year 3 provision. This can be disruptive for the school and for the children.

This proposal is linked with the decision to expand St Ann's Heath Junior School from a published admission number of 64 to 90 and a proposal to expand Lyne and Longcross from a one form entry infant school to a one form entry primary school. Currently, children at Lyne and Longcross predominantly transfer to St Ann's Heath Junior School, but if Lyne and Longcross becomes a primary school then some places at St Ann's Heath will be freed up.

Surrey County Council accepts that Meadowcroft Infant School is some distance from St Ann's Heath Junior School. However, as there is little local Year 3 provision, children in this area are increasingly likely to have to travel longer distances to access a school place. As such, the local authority believes this to be a positive development as it improves on the current arrangements.

Whilst there is no guarantee that all children at Meadowcroft Infant School who apply would be given a place at the junior school it is likely that in most years those who want to transfer would be able to. In this way these criteria would provide continuity and a clearer transition for children and would reduce anxiety for parents.

In line with Surrey County Council policy, due to the reciprocal sibling link between the infant and the junior schools, the introduction of a feeder link would also enable sibling priority to be given to a child who is applying to start at the infant school in Reception even if they have a sibling who would have left the infant school by the time the younger child starts. This is because the admission criteria provides for them to be admitted to the junior school thereby retaining their sibling priority. This is reflected in **section 11 of Appendix 1**.

4. Thames Ditton Infant and Thames Ditton Junior schools – Elmbridge

From September 2015 it is proposed to introduce a reciprocal sibling link between Thames Ditton Infant and Thames Ditton Junior schools, as set out in **Annex 2 of Appendix 1**.

This means that sibling priority would be applied across these schools and this will maximise the opportunity for families to keep their children in schools that are close to each other.

In line with Surrey County Council policy, the introduction of a reciprocal sibling link would enable sibling priority to be given to a child who is applying to start at the infant school in Reception even if they have a sibling who would have left the infant school by the time the younger child starts. This is because the admission criteria provides for them to be admitted to the junior school thereby retaining their sibling priority. This is reflected in **section 11 of Appendix 1**.

5. Nursery criteria - introduction of criteria for two year olds

From September 2015 it is proposed to introduce criteria for admission to nursery for two year olds who are eligible for the free extended provision, as set out in **paragraph 18 of Appendix 1** and as follows:

- a) Looked after and previously looked after children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Children who are expected to have a sibling attending the nursery or the main school at the time of admission
- d) Any other children

These criteria are principally in line with the criteria that apply for three year olds and would only apply to community or voluntary controlled schools or nurseries which decided to admit children at two years old.

Once two year olds are placed on roll at a nursery, they would be automatically entitled to take up a three year old place and the number of places available for three year olds would reduce.

6. Changes proposed to published admission numbers

ANNEX 1 of Appendix 1 sets out the proposed published admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2015. Any changes to the published admission number which was set for 2014 are highlighted in bold.

The local authority is only required to consult if it proposes to decrease a published admission number for a school. As it is proposed to decrease the published admission numbers for the schools listed below, the local authority is consulting on these changes:

The Dawnay – decrease to Junior PAN from 30 to 15

This decrease is proposed to provide for a better use of resources within the school and to reduce the impact of in year admissions.

North Downs Primary – decrease to Reception PAN from 64 to 60

As a result of a change to the use of its three sites, this decrease in published admission number is necessary to ensure that the school can comply with infant class size legislation.

7. Nearest schools

Annex 3 of Appendix 1 sets out a list of academies and foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools which will be considered to admit local children as well as a list of some out of County school which are close to the Surrey border but which will not be considered to admit local children. Where a community or voluntary controlled school gives priority to children attending their nearest school, these lists will be used to assess which school is considered to be each child's nearest school.

For September 2015 admission it is proposed to add the following schools to the list of own admission authority schools that are considered to admit local children for the purpose of applying the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools:

Mole Valley

St Andrew's Catholic Secondary School

Spelthorne

Bishop Wand Church of England School

Saint Ignatius Roman Catholic Primary School

As part of the intake for the last three years (2011, 2012 and 2013), each of these schools has admitted children from the local area without regard to faith and as such can be considered to admit local children.

In addition, it is proposed to add Camelsdale Primary School in West Sussex as an out of county school which will **not** be taken in to account for the purpose of applying the admission arrangements for any community or voluntary controlled school which gives priority to children according to whether or not the school is their nearest school.

Camelsdale Primary School operates a catchment area which does not extend in to Surrey. In the past five years only one Surrey child has been allocated a place at the initial allocation. However, there are a small number of Surrey families who live closer to Camelsdale than their nearest Surrey community school and who, as a direct result, fail to be eligible for a place at their nearest Surrey community school. As they have little chance

of gaining a place at Camelsdale and as Camelsdale is an out of County school, it is proposed to .

How can you respond to the consultation?

The consultation on these proposed changes will run from Monday 25 November 2013 to Monday 20 January 2014. If you would like to take part please complete an online response form at www.surreysays.co.uk. Alternatively if you would prefer to respond on a paper form, please telephone the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004 to request a copy. Please note that only response forms which are fully completed with the respondents name and address will be accepted.

What happens next?

After the closing date responses will be collated and presented to the County Council's decision making Cabinet on 25 February 2014. It will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposed changes as well as determining the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for which no changes are proposed. Cabinet's decision will then need to be ratified by the full County Council on 18 March 2014. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools will be placed on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.