

Proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Surrey County Council's Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and Coordinated Schemes 2014

Introduction

Surrey County Council is proposing some changes to its admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. Full details of the proposed admission arrangements are set out in Appendix 1 and its Annexes, as follows:

Appendix 1	Admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
ANNEX 1	Proposed Published Admission Numbers
ANNEX 2	Schools to be considered as adjoining/shared sites for sibling priority
ANNEX 3	Schools to be considered to admit local children for assessing nearest school
ANNEX 4	Coordinated Schemes
ANNEX 5	Catchment map for Esher High
ANNEX 6	Catchment map for Southfield Park Primary
ANNEX 7	Catchment map for Woodmansterne Primary
ANNEX 8	Catchment map for Oxted
ANNEX 9	Catchment map for Tatsfield Primary

Where changes are proposed text is highlighted in bold.

Local Authorities are also required to consult on their Relevant Area every two years. Surrey last consulted on its Relevant Area between November 2010 and January 2011. As two years has now passed, it is consulting again this year. The proposed Relevant Area is included at Appendix 2 but no changes are proposed to the Relevant Area that was determined in March 2011.

What are the changes?

This document sets out the changes that are proposed as part of the consultation on admission arrangements for Surrey's Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and coordinated schemes for September 2014 and for which comments are sought. Responses to the consultation must be received by 21 January 2013 and can be submitted online at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/schooladmissionconsultation2014.

1. Banstead Community Junior School – Reigate and Banstead

Banstead Community Junior School currently has a reciprocal sibling link with Banstead Infant School but there is no feeder link from the infant school to the junior school.

From September 2014 it is proposed to introduce a feeder link to Banstead Community Junior School for children at Banstead Infant School so that the admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 e) i) of Appendix 1**, as follows:

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

Whilst there is still no guarantee that all children at Banstead Infants 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**.

2. Reigate Priory School – Reigate and Banstead

Reigate Priory is an oversubscribed junior school in Reigate. Whilst historically most children who want to have been able to transfer to Reigate Priory from Holmesdale Community Infant School and Reigate Parish Church Infant School, with the increased pressure on school places in Reigate, increasingly, there are children who have found it difficult to access a local junior place.

It is therefore proposed to introduce a feeder link for children from Holmesdale and Reigate Parish. However it is intended to introduce this on a tiered basis so that priority would be given to children for whom it is the nearest school ahead of children for whom it is not. The admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 e) iii) of Appendix 1**, as follows:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children with a sibling attending Reigate Priory School at the time of the child's admission
4. Children attending Holmesdale Infant or Reigate Parish for whom Reigate Priory is the nearest school with a Junior PAN
5. Other children for whom Reigate Priory is the nearest school with a Junior PAN
6. Children attending Holmesdale Infant or Reigate Parish for whom Reigate Priory is **not** the nearest school with a Junior PAN
7. Any other children

This proposal ensures that both feeder schools would be considered equally in the admission criteria for Reigate Priory and as such, should not have a negative impact on applications for these schools. Whilst not offering a straight feeder link, this proposal offers some parents more certainty in the admissions process but should not disadvantage local children who have Reigate Priory as their nearest school but who do not attend one of these named feeder schools.

3. Southfield Park Primary School – Epsom and Ewell

For Southfield Park Primary School it is proposed to change the criteria so that after providing for children within the catchment, priority would be given to children for whom the school was their nearest ahead of those for whom it was not. 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. Siblings

4. Children living in the defined catchment of the school with priority being given to children living furthest away from the school
5. Other children for whom the school is their nearest school
6. Any other children

The catchment for Southfield Park Primary School (**ANNEX 6 of Appendix 1**) was developed to ensure that children who lived very close to the school and those who could not easily access another school would be given priority for a place. Historically, Southfield Park Primary School has not been oversubscribed by applicants from within catchment and each year the school has admitted some children from outside the catchment area. However, places outside the catchment have been allocated according to straight line distance and this has meant that some children have been allocated a place when they actually have another school that is nearer. This proposed change would ensure that, once places had been allocated within catchment, next priority would be given to children who had Southfield Park as their nearest school.

4. St Ann's Heath Junior School - Runnymede

For St Ann's Heath Junior School it is proposed to introduce a feeder link from Trumps Green Infant School. 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
5. Children for whom St Ann's Heath Junior School is the nearest school with a Junior PAN
6. Any other children

Subject to the number of siblings, the establishment of a feeder link is likely to mean that all children who want to would be able to transfer to the junior school from Trumps Green Infant School. In this way these criteria would provide continuity and a clearer transition for children and would reduce anxiety for parents.

5. St Ann's Heath Junior School and Trumps Green Infant School - Runnymede

Subject to the establishment of a feeder link from Trumps Green Infant School to St Ann's Heath Junior School, it is also proposed to introduce a reciprocal sibling link between these two schools. In this way Trumps Green Infant School and St Ann's Heath Junior School would be described as being on a shared or adjoining site for applying sibling criteria (see **ANNEX 2 of Appendix 1**).

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**.

The introduction of a reciprocal sibling link between the two schools would provide a greater chance of families keeping their children together or at schools in close proximity.

6. Tatsfield Primary School - Tandridge

For Tatsfield Primary School it is proposed to introduce a catchment and to give priority to siblings and other children who live within the catchment before other children who live outside the catchment. However in order to protect those families with children already at the school it is proposed to phase in these criteria. The admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 h) ii) of Appendix 1** as follows:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children who will have a sibling on roll at the school at the end of the 2013/14 academic year and that sibling will still be expected to be on roll at the school on the date of the child's admission
4. Siblings who live within the catchment area
5. Other children who live within the catchment area
6. Siblings who live outside the catchment area
7. Other children who live outside the catchment area

It is proposed that the Tatsfield parish boundary will form the catchment for the school, as set out in **ANNEX 9 to Appendix 1**.

Historically, all children living in Tatsfield have been offered a place at Tatsfield Primary School, even if other children from outside the village have been offered a place under a higher priority, e.g. if they had a sibling attending the school. However in both the 2011 and 2012 intakes there has been difficulty in providing a place for all Tatsfield residents at Tatsfield Primary School. As even a small increase in numbers is likely to lead to places being unavailable for children living within Tatsfield and as the consequence of this is that Surrey will have difficulty in identifying alternative places for these children, it is proposed to amend the criteria so that children living within the catchment for the school are given priority for a school place.

7. Thames Ditton Junior School - Elmbridge

For Thames Ditton Junior School it is proposed to align the admission criteria with those for Thames Ditton Infant School. The admission criteria would be as set out in **paragraph 8 a) iv) of Appendix 1** as follows:

1. Looked After and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children with a sibling attending Thames Ditton Junior School at the time of the child's admission for whom the school is the nearest school to their home address
4. Children attending Thames Ditton Infant School for whom the school is the nearest school to their home address
5. Other children for whom the school is the nearest school to their home address
6. Other children with a sibling attending Thames Ditton Junior School at the time of the child's admission for whom the school is not the nearest school to their home address
7. Other children attending Thames Ditton Infant School for whom the school is not the nearest school to their home address
8. Any other children

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, thus helping to

ensure that a school within a reasonable distance could be offered to all children living in the area. These criteria would also ensure that families living locally to Thames Ditton Junior School are not disadvantaged if they were unable to gain a place at Thames Ditton Infant School or if they chose alternative infant provision.

8. Changes proposed to the Published Admission Number

ANNEX 1 of Appendix 1 sets out the proposed Published Admission Number (PAN) for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2014 admission. Any changes to the PAN which was set for 2013 admission are highlighted in bold.

The Local Authority is only required to consult if it proposes to decrease a PAN for a school. The PAN for Thames Ditton Junior School was increased for one year only for September 2013 to accommodate a 'bulge' class moving through from the Infant school. However the school cannot sustain the admission of 120 pupils each year and as such it is proposed to decrease the PAN from 120 back to 90 from September 2014.

9. Changes proposed to the Coordinated Schemes

ANNEX 4 of Appendix 1 sets out the proposed primary and secondary coordinated schemes.

Within the primary coordinated scheme it is proposed to increase the number of school preferences that a parent might name on their application form, from three to four.

With the current pressure on primary school places, parents are faced with a difficult choice when making their preferences if they expect their local schools to be oversubscribed. An increase in the number of primary preferences to four would increase a parent's opportunity to get a school of their preference at the initial allocation and may reduce the number of parents wishing to add additional preferences after the allocation date or appeal for other schools.

Parents would not be obliged to name four preferences and many would not wish to do so, but it would give those parents who wish to the opportunity to apply for an extra school. This in turn is also likely to support undersubscribed schools, as parents might be more willing to name those schools lower down in their preference list without the fear of having to give up one of their more preferred schools.

How can you respond to the consultation?

The consultation on these proposals will run from Wednesday 28 November 2012 to Tuesday 22 January 2013. If you would like to take part please complete an online response form at www.surreycc.gov.uk/schooladmissionconsultation2014. 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 Council's decision-making Cabinet on 26 February 2013. Its decision will then need to be ratified by the full County Council on 19 March 2013. Once determined the final admission arrangements will be placed on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

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