

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION****DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2017****LEAD OFFICER: ROSE DURBAN, DIRECTOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND COORDINATED SCHEMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Local Authority must consult on any changes it wishes to make to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2019. Consultation must run for at least six weeks between 1 October 2017 and 31 January 2018 and admission arrangements for 2019 must be determined by 28 February 2018.

This report seeks authorisation to proceed to consultation on the following:

1. The Dawnay School - introduction of a feeder link from Polesden Lacey Infant School at Year 3 (page 2)
2. Reigate Priory School – introduction of a tiered feeder link from Holmesdale and Dovers Green infant schools (page 3)
3. William Cobbett Primary School - reduction in published admission number for Reception from 40 to 30

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Cabinet Member for Education authorises the Principal Manager Admissions and Transport (Strategy) to go out to statutory consultation on the proposed changes to admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2019.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is a statutory requirement to consult on admission arrangements every seven years, or sooner if there is a proposal to change any part of a school's admission arrangements. The Local Authority is proposing some changes to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and, as such, there is a statutory duty to consult on these changes. The consultation will also seek views on the admission arrangements for which there is no proposal for change.

DETAILS:

1. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014 require all admission authorities to consult on their admission arrangements every seven years, unless they are proposing any changes to their arrangements, in which case they must consult each year they are proposing a change.

2. Consultation must take place for a minimum of six weeks, between 1 October and 31 January and all admission authorities must then determine their arrangements by 28 February, whether or not they have been subject to consultation.
3. Surrey County Council (SCC) is proposing some changes to its admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and as such is intending to consult on these changes between 1 November and 12 December 2017.

Changes proposed to the admission criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2019

The Dawnay School – Mole Valley

4. The Dawnay has a published admission number of 30 at Reception and a published admission number of 15 at Year 3. The published admission number at Year 3 enables places to be offered to children transferring from other local infant schools, primarily Polesden Lacey Infant School which has a published admission number for Reception of 30.
5. In order to formalise this arrangement, the local authority is proposing to amend the admission criteria for The Dawnay School at Year 3, so that children attending Polesden Lacey Infant School would receive priority, as follows:
 - a) Looked after and previously looked after children
 - b) Exceptional social/medical need
 - c) Siblings
 - d) Children attending Polesden Lacey Infant School
 - e) Children for whom The Dawnay School is the nearest school to their home address
 - f) Any other children
6. This would bring the admission criteria for The Dawnay School in to line with those that now exist for another local school, Eastwick Junior School, which also provides a feeder link from Polesden Lacey, after children attending Eastwick Infant School. However due to an increase in the Reception published admission number at Eastwick Infant School, it is unlikely that all children at Polesden Lacey would be eligible for a place at Eastwick Junior School.
7. As such, the proposed amendment to criteria for The Dawnay would ensure that parents who are considering applying for a place at Polesden Lacey Infant School could see where their children might progress to at Year 3 and that those with children already at Polesden Lacey Infant School would see both The Dawnay and Eastwick Junior schools as potential preferences at Year 3.
8. This proposal is supported by the headteacher and governors of the school.

Reigate Priory School

9. Reigate Priory is a junior school with a published admission number of 150 at Year 3. The admission criteria for this school are **currently** as follows:
 - a) Looked after and previously looked after children
 - b) Exceptional social/medical need

- c) Siblings for whom Reigate Priory School is the nearest to their home address
 - d) Non-siblings for whom Reigate Priory School is the nearest to their home address
 - e) Other siblings for whom Reigate Priory School is not the nearest to their home address
 - f) Any other children
10. Since Reigate Parish CofE Primary School became a primary school in September 2016, the only infant schools in Reigate which do not have a feeder link to another school are Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools.
11. Dovers Green School has a published admission number of 90 and, given the location of this school, some of its children transfer to Sandcross Primary School at Year 3. However Sandcross Primary School has a published admission number of 60 at Year 3 and so cannot accommodate all of the children from Dovers Green School.
12. Holmesdale Community Infant School has a published admission number of 120 and the majority of children at this school apply to transfer to Reigate Priory at Year 3. In 2017, 91 children from Holmesdale Community Infant School were offered and accepted a place at Reigate Priory.
13. However, a number of families with children at local primary schools also apply for a place at Reigate Priory at Year 3. If these children live nearer to the school than other applicants, they may displace children at local infant schools who must then be allocated a place at an alternative school.
14. In 2017, 20 children attending an all through primary school were offered a place at Reigate Priory, thus displacing other children who attended an infant school. Some of these children had to be allocated the places that had been left vacant at a local primary school.
15. The local authority is therefore proposing to amend the admission criteria for Reigate Priory to give priority to children attending either Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community infant schools on a tiered basis, as follows:
- a) Looked after and previously looked after children
 - b) Exceptional social/medical need
 - c) Siblings for whom Reigate Priory School is the nearest to their home address
 - d) Children attending either Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community infant schools for whom Reigate Priory School is the nearest to their home address
 - e) Other siblings
 - f) Other children attending either Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community infant schools
 - g) Any other children
16. This proposal would ensure:
- Siblings and children attending a named feeder school would receive priority ahead of other children, albeit on a tiered basis based on whether or not Reigate Priory was the nearest school. This would

contribute to the continuity and positive transition for children at Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools.

- Children would be less likely to be offered a place from other local primary schools, thus preventing unnecessary movement between schools and creating more stability in the area.

17. This proposal is supported by the headteacher and chair of governors at Reigate Priory as well as by the headteachers at Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools.

Changes proposed to the published admission numbers for schools

18. Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1 sets out the proposed published admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2019 admission.
19. Admission authorities are not required to consult on proposed increases to published admission numbers but are required to consult on any decrease to a published admission number.
20. Surrey is proposing to consult on a decrease in published admission number at the following school for September 2019:

Waverley

William Cobbett Primary School – decrease in Reception published admission number from 40 to 30

21. This reduction in published admission number at Reception is supported by the headteacher and governors of the school as it will enable them to operate with one class of 30 throughout KS1 which will make organisation of the school more effective and appeals easier to defend under Infant Class Size legislation. Although this reduction would mean that 10 fewer children would be offered a Reception place at William Cobbett Primary, the local authority is satisfied that it would be able to meet its duty to offer a place to every child as there is currently undersubscription at another local school and the local authority is forecasting a fall in demand in the local planning area.
22. William Cobbett Primary School also has a published admission number of 50 at Year 3 for which no change is proposed. However, looking ahead, it would be the local authority's intention to increase this published admission number from 50 to 60 for September 2022 admission, when the first cohort of 30 would be due to transfer from Year 2. This would provide consistent class sizes of 30 throughout the school. It would also provide a greater likelihood that all children at Badshot Lea who want a place would be able to secure one at the initial allocation. If the local authority were to proceed with this change, under current legislative requirements, it would be required to determine this increased published admission number for 2022 by 28 February 2021.
23. For information, Surrey is proposing to increase the published admission number at the following school, although the local authority is not required to consult on this change:

Reigate & Banstead

Oakwood School – increase in Year 7 published admission number from 240 to 300

24. This increase follows a recent decision by Surrey's Cabinet Member for Education to expand the school.

Schools that will be considered in the assessment of nearest school

25. Surrey's admission arrangements stipulate that a school will be considered in the assessment of nearest school if it has admitted children without regard to faith or boarding in the previous three admissions years.
26. For information, for 2019 admission, this rule means that the following schools are no longer listed in Appendix 3 as schools which will **not** be included in the assessment of nearest school when the admission criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools are applied:
- St Alban's Catholic Primary School in East Molesey
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Dorking
St Ignatius Catholic Primary School in Sunbury-on-Thames
27. This is because each of these schools has admitted children without regard to faith in the last three years.
28. In addition, for 2019 admission, the Bishop Wand School has been added to Appendix 3 as a school that will **not** be considered in the assessment of nearest school, because this school has not admitted children without regard to faith in the last three years.

CONSULTATION:

29. A paper setting out the proposed changes was passed to the School Admissions Forum on 29 September 2017.
30. The Director for Children, Schools and Families and the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning have been made aware of the proposed changes.
31. The School Commissioning team has been involved in considering the proposals for change.
32. All schools directly affected by the proposed changes have been consulted.
33. Parents, schools and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed admission arrangements, including any changes being proposed, throughout the six week consultation.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

34. The risks of consulting on these changes are low. There may be some local opposition to some of the proposals from those cohorts or groups that may be disadvantaged by the proposals but it is important to identify those concerns as part of the consultation.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

35. The admission criteria for the majority of community and voluntary controlled schools in Surrey conform to Surrey's standard criteria. The more schools that have the same admission criteria, the more the processes can be streamlined

and thus present better value for money. However, where required, the admission criteria for some schools vary from Surrey's standard but these can currently be managed within existing resources.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

36. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the proposed changes to admission arrangements will be met within existing resources.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

37. The proposed admission arrangements comply with legislation on School Admissions and the requirements of the School Admissions Code.
38. The Local Authority will carry out a consultation on all changes for a period of six weeks between 1 November and 12 December 2017, which is in accordance with statutory requirements.
39. The consultation will be carried out with all persons required under the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014.
40. The Local Authority will give due regard to the responses to the consultation before considering the recommendations to put before Cabinet.
41. The public sector equality duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) applies to the decision to be made by the Cabinet Member in this report. There is a requirement when deciding upon the recommendations to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, foster good relations between such groups and eliminate any unlawful discrimination. These matters are dealt with in the equalities paragraphs of the report and in the attached equalities impact assessment (EIA).

Equalities and Diversity

42. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is attached as ENCLOSURE 4. The adoption of determined admission criteria is a mandatory requirement supported by primary legislation. The policy as it relates to community and voluntary controlled schools does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, faith, disability or sexual orientation.
43. Measures have been taken to reference vulnerable groups both in terms of exceptional arrangements within admissions, the Special Educational Needs (SEN) process and the Fair Access Protocol. In addition, a right of appeal exists for all applicants who are refused a place at a particular school.

Other Implications:

44. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After	Set out below.

Children	
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report
Climate change	No significant implications arising from this report
Carbon emissions	Set out below.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

45. As required by the School Admissions Code, the proposed admission arrangements give top priority to children who are Looked After by a local authority and to those children who have left care through adoption, a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

46. The efficient and timely administration of the schools admission process coupled with the equitable distribution of school places in accordance with the School Admission Code and parental preference contribute to the County Council's priority for safeguarding vulnerable children.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

47. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
48. The admission arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest school and in doing so reduces travel and supports policies on cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- If approval is given to consult, the Local Authority will consult on the proposed admission arrangements for six weeks between 1 November and 12 December 2017.
- Details will be distributed to:
 - all schools and nurseries in the county including a form of wording that they may wish to display on their website, in newsletters or on notice boards.
 - out of County schools which are close to the border of Surrey
 - each of Surrey's neighbouring local authorities
 - each Diocesan Body representing schools in the county
 - all Surrey County Council Members and Borough/District Members, asking them to share the details with local community and resident groups as appropriate
 - Parish Councils within the area of Surrey County Council
 - Surrey MPs
- A paper summarising the outcome of the consultation and making recommendations will then be passed to Cabinet on 30 January 2018 for decision and then to Full Council on 6 February 2018 to ratify the decision so

that the admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools and the coordinated schemes for 2019 can be determined before the statutory deadline of 28 February 2018.

- The admission arrangements for September 2019 will then be published by 15 March 2018 on Surrey's website and a notice will be sent to all those consulted.

Contact Officer:

Claire Potier – Principal Manager Admissions and Transport – 01483 517689.

Consulted:

School Admissions Forum
School Commissioning Team
Schools affected by the proposals
Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families
Assistant Director - Schools and Learning

Annexes:

ENCLOSURE 1	Draft admission arrangements for community and VC schools
APPENDIX 1	Draft published admission numbers
APPENDIX 2	Draft schools to be considered as on adjoining/shared sites
APPENDIX 3	Draft schools to be considered in assessment of nearest school
APPENDIX 4	Catchment map for Southfield Park
APPENDIX 5	Catchment map for Woodmansterne Primary
ENCLOSURE 2	Draft coordinated schemes
ENCLOSURE 3	Equality Impact Assessment

Sources/background papers:

- School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- School Admissions Code
- Equality Act 2002