

Surrey County Council Proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in September 2021

Introduction

Surrey County Council is consulting on proposed changes to admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2021. Details of the changes being proposed are set out in this document.

A copy of the proposed admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools and Surrey’s coordinated schemes are set out in the following documents, with changes highlighted in bold in each document:

Enclosure 1	Admission arrangements for community & voluntary controlled schools
APPENDIX 1	Published admission numbers
APPENDIX 2	Schools to operate shared sibling priority
APPENDIX 3	Schools to be excluded when assessing nearest school
APPENDIX 4	Catchment map for Southfield Park Primary School
APPENDIX 5	Proposed supplementary form for staff applicants
Enclosure 2	Primary and secondary coordinated schemes
Enclosure 3	Equality impact assessment

What changes are being proposed?

1. Priority for children of staff – all community and voluntary controlled schools

The School Admissions Code permits admission authorities to give priority to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:

- where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or
- the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

In a survey of the 100 community and voluntary controlled schools in June 2019, 49 schools responded that they were in favour of Surrey introducing priority for children of staff within the admission arrangements. Two schools were not in support and one had no opinion. 48 schools did not respond.

Community and voluntary controlled schools which responded in favour indicated that giving priority to children of staff would help with staff recruitment and retention.

It is therefore proposed to introduce priority for children of staff within the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 admission. The definition of children of staff is proposed to be in line with the School Admissions Code and has been added as a new criterion after criterion 2 for exceptional social/medical need. This change is reflected in Enclosure 1 and is highlighted in bold within sections 7, 8 and 11.

2. Worplesdon Primary School – Guildford

For September 2021, the local authority is proposing to reduce the published admission number (PAN) at Reception for Worplesdon Primary School from 60 to 57.

Worplesdon Primary School currently has a Reception PAN of 60 which means that the school admits 60 children in to the mainstream school each year. However there is a proposal to create a new specialist centre at the school which would create places for primary pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and who have Communication and Interaction Needs (COIN) in Surrey. This specialist centre will be based at Worplesdon Primary School and operated in partnership with Freemantles School.

It is intended that the three children being admitted to the centre each year will spend more than 50% of their time in the mainstream class. However with a PAN of 60 this would put the school in breach of infant class size legislation which only permits 30 children in a class to one teacher.

As such it is proposed to reduce the PAN from 60 to 57 to ensure that each year group can accommodate three centre children in the mainstream classes and thereby ensure that class sizes do not breach 30. This reduction in PAN would therefore reduce the likelihood of the school having to take qualifying measures to comply with Infant Class Size legislation.

It is anticipated that there would still be sufficient places in the area if the PAN is decreased and this decrease would have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school.

This reduction in PAN is subject to a statutory notice being agreed.

3. Schools to be included in the assessment of nearest school

Section 13 of Enclosure 1 sets out that a school will be considered in the assessment of nearest school if it has admitted children without regard to faith in each of the previous three admissions years. Whilst no change is proposed to this policy, each year a review of the previous three years' intakes must take place to ensure that the schools to be considered in the assessment of nearest school are in line with this policy.

For 2021 admission, this policy means that the following schools will be **removed** from the list in Appendix 3 as schools which will be **excluded** when assessing nearest school:

- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Epsom & Ewell
- St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School – Guildford
- St Anne's Catholic Primary School – Reigate & Banstead
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Reigate & Banstead
- St Francis Catholic Primary School – Tandridge
- St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School - Waverley
- St Edmund's Catholic Primary School - Waverley
- St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School – Waverley

This is because in each of the admission years 2017, 2018 and 2019, these schools admitted children without regard to faith.

In addition, Section 13 of Enclosure 1 sets out that an out of County school might be excluded from the assessment of nearest school if it would not have offered places to Surrey applicants in the initial allocation of places in 2017, 2018 and 2019, where that school's inclusion in the assessment of nearest school would lead to difficulty in identifying a school for a Surrey resident. A review of the schools currently excluded under this

provision means that the following schools will be **removed** from the list in Appendix 3 as schools which will be **excluded** when assessing nearest school:

- Charters School – Windsor & Maidenhead: This school has admitted children from beyond its designated area in each of the years 2017, 2018 and 2019
- The Wavell – Hampshire: It is no longer believed that the inclusion of this school as nearest would lead to a difficulty in identifying a school for a Surrey resident because Ash Manor is increasing its PAN to 240 for 2021 entry.

The consequence of these changes will be that each of these schools will be included in the nearest school assessment and this may change a child's nearest school when comparing 2021 with previous admissions' intakes. This may in turn affect the priority a child may receive for some community and voluntary controlled schools.

How can you respond to the consultation?

The consultation on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and these proposed changes will run until Wednesday 11 December 2019. If you would like to take part please complete an online response form available at Surreysays (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 respondent's 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 28 January 2020. It will decide whether 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 4 February 2020. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 will be placed on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

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