

Surrey County Council

Proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in September 2019

Introduction

Surrey County Council is consulting on:

- proposed changes to admission arrangements for some community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2019
- the admission arrangements for all remaining community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2019

Further 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 not to be considered in assessment of nearest school
APPENDIX 4	Catchment map for Southfield Park Primary School
APPENDIX 5	Catchment map for Woodmansterne Primary School
Enclosure 2	Primary and secondary coordinated schemes

An equality impact assessment is included as **Enclosure 3**.

What changes are being proposed?

1. Cranmere Primary School – Elmbridge

For September 2019, the local authority proposes to reduce the published admission number at Reception for Cranmere Primary School from 90 to 60.

Cranmere Primary School was expanded to have a published admission number of 90 in September 2016. However since then the school has had vacant places which has led to a budget deficit and difficulties in financial planning due to the uncertainty over how many children will take up their place.

Surrey's projections now indicate a need for a published admission number of 60 at this school.

2. William Cobbett Primary School - Waverley

For September 2019, the local authority proposes to reduce the published admission number at Reception for William Cobbett Primary School from 40 to 30.

This will enable the school 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.

William Cobbett Primary School also has a published admission number of 50 at Year 3 for which no change is currently 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.

3. The Dawnay School – Mole Valley

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.

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:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Siblings
4. Children attending Polesden Lacey Infant School
5. Children for whom The Dawnay School is the nearest school to their home address
6. Any other children

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.

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.

4. Reigate Priory School – Reigate & Banstead

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 from Wednesday 1 November 2017 to Tuesday 12 December 2017. If you would like to take part please complete an online response form available at [Surreysays](http://Surreysays.co.uk) (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 30 January 2018. 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 6 February 2018. 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.