

Surrey County Council

Proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in September 2020 and Surrey's proposed Relevant Area

Introduction

Surrey County Council is consulting on:

- proposed changes to admission arrangements for some community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2020
- the admission arrangements for all remaining community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2020
- its relevant area – this is the area within which schools must consult on their admission arrangements

Further details of the changes being proposed and Surrey's relevant area 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

Local authorities are also required to consult on their relevant area every two years. As two years have passed since Surrey's last consultation, it is consulting again this year. The proposed Relevant Area is included at **Enclosure 3**.

An equality impact assessment is included as **Enclosure 4**.

What changes are being proposed?

1. Furzefield Primary School – Reigate & Banstead

For September 2020, the local authority proposes to reduce the published admission number at Reception for Furzefield Primary School from 60 to 58.

Furzefield Primary School currently has a Reception PAN of 60 which means that they admit 60 children in to the mainstream school each year. However this school is now operating an infant SEND Learning and Additional Needs centre and it is intended that the two 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 it would not be possible for the two centre children to spend more than 50% of their time in a mainstream class. This is because it 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 58 to ensure that each year group can accommodate two centre children in the mainstream classes and thereby ensure that class sizes do not breach 30.

2. Wallace Fields Junior School – Epsom & Ewell

For September 2020 the local authority proposes to amend the arrangements for Wallace Fields Junior School to provide for the assessment of each child's nearest school to be calculated according to the nearest of either Wallace Fields Infant or Wallace Fields Junior school, as follows (changes highlighted in bold):

- a. Looked after and previously looked after children
- b. Exceptional social/medical need
- c. Children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission and for whom **either Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School** is the nearest school to their home address
- d. Children attending Wallace Fields Infant School for whom **either Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School** is the nearest school to their home address
- e. Children for whom **either Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School** is the nearest to their home address
- f. Other children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission
- g. Other children attending Wallace Fields Infant School
- h. Any other children

In addition, it is proposed to add text to the end of the criteria to clarify that home to school distance will also be calculated to the nearer gate of either school, as follows:

'If the number of children who qualify under any criterion is greater than the number of places remaining available at the school, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet the criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the nearest official school gate at either Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School, with children living nearest receiving the greater priority.'

The effect of these changes will mean that children who gain admission to Wallace Fields Infant School on the basis of it being their nearest school, will also be given the same level of priority for admission to Wallace Fields Junior School when they transfer to Year 3, providing one of these schools remains their nearest school.

Previously a small number of children gained a place at Wallace Fields Infant School on the basis of it being their nearest school with a Reception intake, but were not then eligible for a place at Wallace Fields Junior School at Year 3 because it was not their nearest school with a Year 3 intake. This despite the fact that the family has not moved address and live very close to the junior school.

In other cases, a child may have gained admission to either Wallace Fields Infant or Wallace Fields Junior school on the basis of it being their nearest school, only for a younger/older sibling to not be eligible for admission to the other school because it was not their nearest school.

The impact of these changes is low. For 2018 admission, three children missed out on an offer of a place at Wallace Fields Junior School on the national offer day, because it was not their nearest school with a Year 3 intake, despite them having gained a place at Wallace Fields Infant School as their nearest school. The three children who gained a place at Wallace Fields Junior School in their place all lived further away but had the school as their nearest school.

This change is subject to the governors of Wallace Fields Infant School also making the same change to their admission arrangements for 2020. Combined, these changes will ensure that both schools serve the same community.

3. Criterion 2 for children with an exceptional social/medical need

For September 2020 the local authority proposes to make provision for children previously in state care outside England to be given priority within criterion 2 for children with an exceptional medical/social need.

To achieve this the following wording will be added to Section 10 of Enclosure 1:

‘Children who were previously in state care outside of England, and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, may be considered under this criterion. A child will be regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The parent/carer will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that the child was in state care abroad and left that care as a result of being adopted.’

This responds to a request by Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, and advice issued by the Department for Education in August 2018 to give priority to this group of children within admission arrangements. The Government has set out its commitment to make changes to the School Admissions Code to ensure children who were previously in care outside England but had ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, also receive the highest priority for admission to a school in England.

Any change to the School Admissions Code will be subject to consultation and the will of Parliament. Until such time that the School Admissions Code is changed, it is proposed to include this category of children within the second criterion that exists for community and voluntary controlled schools, namely ‘Exceptional social/medical need’.

Surrey’s Relevant Area

The Relevant Area that Surrey intends to publish for schools for the next two years is set out in **Enclosure 3**.

The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities to establish Relevant Area(s) for admission policy consultations. The Relevant Area is the area in which admission authorities must consult with schools regarding their proposed admission

arrangements before finalising them. **It does not influence which children will be admitted to which schools.** The Education Act 2002 requires the local authority to review and consult on its Relevant Area every 2 years. Surrey is not proposing any change to its Relevant 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 Tuesday 9 October 2018 to Monday 19 November 2018. 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 29 January 2019. 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 5 February 2019. 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.