

Meeting of the Decision Session – Cabinet 13 March 2012
Member for Education, Children and Young People

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

Co-ordinated admissions arrangements and admission limits for primary and secondary schools in York from September 2013

Summary

1. To seek approval for the City of York Council co-ordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2013/14 academic year.
2. To seek the approval of the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2013.

Background

3. It is the duty of the admissions authority to carry out a consultation each year on admission limits and arrangements. In the case of maintained schools, the admission authority is the local authority (LA), whilst in Voluntary Aided schools it is the governing body of the school in question.
4. In their role as admissions authorities, LAs must also consult other LAs with whom they share a border. For City of York LA, these are East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire County Council.
5. Admission limits are important because they relate to the maximum number of children who are able to enter schools (reception in primary and infant schools, Year 3 in junior schools, and Years 7 and 12 in secondary schools).

6. A number of changes to national admissions policy means that the requirement to convene a Local Admissions Forum and obtain their view on proposed admissions arrangements is no longer required. The Local Admissions Forum met for the last time during last year's consultation. During next year's consultation the views of the York Education Partnership will be presented to the Cabinet Member.

National Policy changes

7. Provisions made within the Education Act 2011, which received royal assent in November 2011, will have a substantial impact on admissions processes. A number of these provisions are reflected in changes to the School Admissions Code that came into force on 1 February 2012.
8. The following changes affect the admission arrangements of all maintained schools (whether community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided or academies):
 - a) The highest priority of looked after children in the oversubscription criteria has been extended to include 'previously looked after' children where children ceased to be looked after as a result of an adoption, residence order or special guardianship order. Admissions authorities of faith schools can continue to prioritise children of faith in their oversubscription criteria, but must prioritise looked after or previously looked after children of faith above other children of faith, and looked after or previously looked after children not of that faith above other children not of that faith.
 - b) A National Offer Day for primary schools has been set at 16 April from 2014. Previously CYC allocated places on 1 April, some weeks before neighbouring authorities.
 - c) Schools that wish to increase their admission limits may do so more freely. Schools which are their own admission authorities (voluntary aided and academy trust schools) do not have to consult either to increase or maintain their current Published Admission Number (PAN). The new draft School Admissions Code notes that "There is a strong presumption in favour of an increase to the PAN" (Section 1.3), and that "admission authorities may also admit above their PAN in-year" (Section 1.4). Furthermore, governing bodies of community and controlled schools "have the right to object to the Schools

Adjudicator if the PAN set for them is lower than they would wish” (Section 1.3).

- d) Infant Class Size limits now have exceptions for children of multiple birth, and children of UK service personnel who move into the LA area outside the normal admissions rounds (‘in-year’ applications). A school that runs an infant class size of above 30 children per fully qualified teacher as a result of in-year admissions no longer have to reorganise classes back down to 30 from the following September.
- e) From 2013/14, LAs no longer have to coordinate in-year applications for a school place from parents and carers. However, The York Education Partnership has requested that CYC continue to provide this service to all schools, parents and carers.

Options

- 9. The recommendations in this report have been prepared following consultation with schools. The Cabinet Member can approve, reject or modify the proposals relating to community and voluntary controlled schools contained in this report and attached Annexes. The Cabinet Member may also choose to raise a statutory objection to voluntary aided and academy admissions policies.

Consultation

- 10. The School Admissions Code of Practice requires that consultation takes place and final determination of admission limits and arrangements and should be made by 16 April 2012 for the academic year beginning in September 2013.

Analysis

- 11. The LA has consulted with relevant admissions authorities on the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2013/14 academic year. The consultation ran from 9 December 2011 until 14 February 2012. The City of York’s proposed co-ordinated schemes and admissions policies for primary and secondary schools are set out in Annexes B–E. Policies for voluntary aided schools are contained in Annexes F–O. 6th form admissions policies are contained in Annexes P–T.

12. The co-ordinated schemes are applicable to all maintained schools in York including community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools. The City of York admissions policy is applicable to all schools for which the LA is the admissions authority; this includes all community and voluntary controlled schools. Voluntary aided schools operate their own admissions policies and these have also formed part of the consultation.
13. Changes to school admission limits are shown in Annex A. Following consultation, the LA is now proposing to:
- a) increase admission limit at Acomb Primary from 30 to 45
 - b) increase admission limit at Clifton Green Primary from 50 to 55
 - c) increase admission limit at Knavesmire Primary from 30 to 50
 - d) reduce admission limit at Woodthorpe Primary from 70 to 60
 - e) increase admission limit at Rufforth Primary from 10 to 12
 - f) increase Year 12 admission limit at Joseph Rowntree School from 40 to 60
14. In addition, the following proposal was received from St Aelred's RC VA Primary, and is supported by the LA:
- a) Reduce admission limit at St Aelred's VA Primary from 40 to 30.
15. Following a detailed investigation of the implications of these proposals, officers recommend the following:

School	Proposal	Recommendation	Reason
Clifton Green Primary	Increase from 50 to 55	Approve	To match the admission limit with physical space available
Knavesmire Primary	Increase from 30 to 50	Approve	To help accommodate rising pupil numbers
Rufforth Primary	Increase from 10 to 12	Approve	To assist with class organisation

School	Proposal	Recommendation	Reason
Woodthorpe Primary	Reduce from 70 to 60	Approve	To assist with class organisation
Acomb Primary	Increase from 30 to 45	Approve	To accommodate rising pupil numbers
St Aelred's VA Primary	Reduce from 40 to 30	Support	To support the ethos of the school
Joseph Rowntree Secondary	Increase Year 12 limit from 40 to 60	Approve	To support 6 th form expansion at the school.

Implications

Financial

16. Changes in admission limits can have potential financial implications due to the fact that school funding includes per pupil funding arrangements. .

Legal

17. Section 142 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 requires schools to have an admission limit for each 'relevant age group.
18. The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/126) as amended by SI 2002/2896, SI 2007/194 and SI 2012/8 states that admissions authorities must have regard to the capacity assessment of the school when setting admission limits.
19. Section 1 of the SSFA 1998 requires that any admission number set must be compatible with the duty to comply with the infant class size limit.
20. Sections 89 and 89A of the SSFA 1998 state that the admission authorities for schools with a sixth form must consult on and determine the arrangements they propose to use to allocate

places in Year 12 at the same time as other admission arrangements.

21. Section 89(2) of the SSFA 1998 requires that admissions authorities are required to complete consultation on admission arrangements by 1 March, and determine their arrangements by 15 April in each calendar year for the following school year. These dates are prescribed in The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/126) as amended by SI 2002/ 2896, SI 2007/194 and SI2012/8.

Other

22. There are no implications relating to equalities, crime and disorder, ITT, property or HR issues arising from this report.

Risk Management

23. No direct implications.

Recommendations

24. The Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People is recommended to approve the City of York co-ordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2013/14 academic year, as set out in Annexes B-E and R-T.
25. The Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People is recommended to approve proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2013, as set out in Annex A.

Reason: to meet the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code of Practice.

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Report Approved **Date** 27/2/12

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – list of proposed admission limits

Annex B – Coordinated admissions scheme for secondary schools in the area of City of York Local Authority for the 2013/14 academic year.

Annex C – Coordinated admissions scheme for primary schools for September 2013 and January 2014 entry in the area of City of York Local Authority

Annex D – 2013/2014 Admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled primary schools

Annex E – 2013/2014 admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled secondary schools

Annex F – All Saints RC VA Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex G – Archbishop Holgate's CE Academy Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex H – Manor CE Academy Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex I – Heworth CE Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex J – Our Lady Queen of Martyrs RC Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex K – St Aelred's RC Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex L – St George's RC Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex M – St Lawrence’s CE Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex N – St Wilfrid’s RC Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex O – Wheldrake CE Primary Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex P – All Saints 6th Form Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex Q - Archbishop Holgate’s 6th Form Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex R – Fulford 6th Form Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex S – Huntington 6th Form Admissions Policy (2013/14)

Annex T – Joseph Rowntree 6th Form Admissions Policy (2013/14)