

Meeting of the Decision Session – Cabinet 25 March 2013
Member for Education, Children and Young People

Report of the Director of Adults Children and Education

Coordinated admissions arrangements and admission limits for Primary and Secondary Schools in York from September 2014

Summary

1. This report seeks approval for the City of York Council coordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2014/15 academic year.
2. It also seeks approval of the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2014.

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 or Academy 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).

Consultation

6. The School Admissions Code of Practice requires that consultation takes place and final determination of admission limits and arrangements and should be made by 15 April 2013 for the academic year beginning in September 2014.

Options

7. 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 schools admissions policies.

Analysis

8. The Authority has consulted with relevant admissions authorities on the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2014/15 academic year. The consultation ran from 17 December 2012 until 11 February 2013. The City of York's proposed coordinated 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. Year 12 admissions policies are contained in Annexes P–S.
9. The coordinated schemes are applicable to all maintained schools in York including community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided and academy schools. The City of York admissions policy is applicable to all schools for which the local authority is the admissions authority; this includes all community and voluntary controlled schools. Voluntary aided and academy schools operate their own admissions policies and these have also formed part of the consultation.
10. The following general principles should apply when considering increases in admission limit:
 - a) The school should have enough physical space to accommodate a full compliment of children in each yeargroup, based on the proposed admission limit (or agreement from the local authority to provide additional space).

- b) There should be sufficient demand from within the school's catchment area (if applicable), to limit the risk of drawing increased numbers of pupils away from other schools.
 - c) The requested admission number should enable relatively straightforward organisation of classes, bearing in mind the infant class size limit of 30 children per fully qualified teacher for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils.
11. The following general principles should apply when considering decreases in admission limit:
- a) The school must still be able to accommodate demand from within their local area (catchment area for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, parish or priority zone for Voluntary Aided schools)
 - b) The requested admission number should enable or facilitate relatively straightforward organisation of classes, bearing in mind the infant class size limit of 30 children per fully qualified teacher for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils.
12. Based on these principles, School Planning and Admissions officers propose, following detailed investigation of potential implications, the following changes to school admission limits:

School	Proposal	Recommendation	Reason
Derwent Infant	Decrease from 40 to 30	Approve	To match the admission limit with physical space available
Derwent Junior	Decrease from 40 to 30	Approve	To match the admission limit with the physical space available
Knavesmire Primary	Increase from 50 to 60	Approve	To help accommodate rising pupil numbers
Fishergate Primary	Increase from 30 to 45	Approve	To reflect increased demand and new additional classroom spaces

13. The following requests were received by the governing bodies of community or voluntary controlled schools, and were not initially proposed by school planning and admissions officers.

School	Proposal	Recommendation	Reason
Clifton Green Primary	Increase from 55 to 60	Refuse	Insufficient catchment demand
Carr Junior	Increase from 70 to 90	Refuse	Funding not yet identified for required new build

Council Plan

14. The setting of admission limits forms an integral part of the Local Authority's effective planning of school places. This helps the Authority achieve its priority to "Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects".

Implications

Financial

15. There are no direct financial implications for schools or the Local Authority resulting from determination of admission limits for September 2014.

Legal

16. Section 142 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 requires schools to have an admission limit for each 'relevant age group'.
17. 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.

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. There are no specific Human Resources, Equalities, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, or Property implications arising at this time.

Risk Management

22. No direct implications.

Recommendations

23. The Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People is recommended to approve the:
 - City of York coordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2014/15 academic year, as set out in Annexes B–E and Q – S
 - proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2014, as set out in Annex A

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

Contact Details

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Report **Date** 20 March 2013
Approved

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

- Annex A – list of proposed admission limits for the 2014/15 academic year
- Annex B – Coordinated admissions scheme for secondary schools in the area of City of York Local Authority for the 2014/15 academic year.
- Annex C – Coordinated admissions scheme for primary schools in the area of City of York Local Authority for the 2014/15 academic year.
- Annex D – 2014/15 Admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled secondary schools
- Annex E– 2014/15 admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled primary schools
- Annex F – All Saints RC VA Admissions Policy (2014/15)

- Annex G – Archbishop Holgate’s CE Academy Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex H – Manor CE Academy Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex I – Heworth CE Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex J – Our Lady Queen of Martyrs RC Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex K – St Aelred’s RC Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex L – St George’s RC Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex M -St Lawrence’s CE Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex N – St Wilfrid’s RC Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex O – Wheldrake CE Primary Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex P -Archbishop Holgate’s Year 12 Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex Q – Fulford Year 12 Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex R – Huntington Year 12 Admissions Policy (2014/15)
- Annex S – Joseph Rowntree Year 12 Admissions Policy (2014/15)