

**Meeting of Executive Member for Children and Young
People's Services and Advisory Panel**

12 March 2009

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**Admission Arrangements and Limits for Primary and Secondary
Schools in York from September 2010**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek the approval of the City of York coordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2010/11 academic year.
2. To seek the approval of the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2010.

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).

Options

6. The recommendations in this report have been prepared following consultation with the Local Admissions Forum. The Executive Member can modify the recommendations of the Forum.

Consultation

7. The School Admissions Code of Practice requires that consultation takes place and final determination of admission limits and arrangements should be made by 15 April 2009 for the academic year beginning in September 2010.

Analysis

8. The Authority has consulted with relevant admissions authorities on the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2010/11 academic year. The consultation ran from 5 January until 27 February 2009. The arrangements were considered by the Local Admissions Forum on 25 February. The City of York's proposed coordinated schemes and admissions policies for primary and secondary schools are set out in Annexes C – F.
9. The coordinated 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 local authority 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.
10. During the consultation, one school raised concerns around the issue of January starters and the difficulty created by allocating the places in the preceding March/April. For some schools this has meant that pupils who are expected in January fail to turn up and this leaves the school with fewer pupils than expected, having possibly refused places to other pupils previously. The proposed admissions arrangements for 2010-11 provide for the waiting list to be held open until the end of the Autumn term. This is in line with the requirements in the new Admissions Code of Practice which came into force in February 2009. This should go some way in alleviating this issue, in that places will be able to be offered from the waiting list up until 17 December, rather than 30 September.
11. The LA undertook an informal round of consultation with schools in the autumn term of 2008 in order to enter into early discussions about any proposed changes to admission limits. In the spring term of 2009, schools were formally consulted on admission limits and arrangements for admissions in September 2010.
12. Two schools requested changes to their admission limits: Rufforth and Stockton on the Forest primary schools requested an increase, and decrease respectively.
13. A detailed discussion of the technical arguments for and against each requested admission limit change is shown in Annexe A.

14. The Local Admissions Forum has considered these issues and recommends:
- Rejecting the requested increase at Rufforth Primary, recognising the potential impact that an increase would have on neighbouring schools. The school is able to meet the current level of demand that comes from within its own catchment area.
 - Accepting the requested reduction of admission limit at Stockton on the Forest Primary school in order to set the admission limit at a level that matches the current working capacity of the school.

Corporate Priorities

15. 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 priorities to "Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects" and to "Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city".

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

16. There are no direct financial implications for schools or the Local Authority resulting from determination of admission limits for September 2010.

Human Resources (HR)

17. There are no HR implications.

Equalities

18. There are no implications relating to equalities.

Legal

19. Section 142 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 requires schools to have an admission limit for each relevant age group.
20. The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/126) as amended by SI 2002/2896 and SI 2007/194, states that admissions authorities must have regard to the capacity assessment of the school when setting admission limits.

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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 and SI 2007/194.

Crime and Disorder

24. There are no issues relating to crime and disorder.

Information Technology (IT)

25. There are no issues relating to IT.

Property

26. There are no direct issues relating to property

Other

27. There are no other known issues

Risk Management

28. Non-compliance with statutory regulation will have a detrimental effect on the Council's reputation.

Recommendations

The Executive Member for Children's Services is recommended

- to approve the City of York coordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2010/11 academic year, as set out in Annexes C-F.
- to approve proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2010, as set out in Annexe B.

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

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Chief Officer's name

Pete Dwyer
Director LCCS

Report Approved *yes* Date *Insert Date*

tick Date

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

All relevant background papers must be listed here.

ANNEX A – Discussion of issues relating to each admission limit change request

ANNEX B – list of proposed admission limits

ANNEX C – Coordinated admissions scheme for secondary schools in the area of City of York Local Authority for the 2010/11 academic year.

ANNEX D – Coordinated admissions scheme for primary schools for September 2010 and January 2011 entry in the area of City of York Local Authority

ANNEX E – 2010/2011 Admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled primary schools

ANNEX F – 2010/2011 admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled secondary schools