

**Meeting of Executive Member for Children's Services and
Advisory Panel 16 May 2006**

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

**Admission Limits for Primary and Secondary Schools in York from
September 2007**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval in respect of the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2007.

Background

2. 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).
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. The School Admissions Code of Practice, published in January 2003, requires that consultation takes place and final determination of admission limits and arrangements should be made by 15 April 2006 for the academic year beginning in September 2007.

Consultation with other Local Authorities

6. Both East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire LAs were consulted and had no comments to make on City of York's proposed admission limits.

Consultation with Schools

7. Following last year's successful pilot, the LA undertook an informal round of consultation in the autumn term 2005 in order to enter into early discussions about any proposed changes to admission limits. In

the spring term of 2006, schools have been formally consulted on admission limits and arrangements for admissions in **September 2007**.

8. The results of the consultation are shown in Annex 1. The Annex includes several changes proposed by schools.

Primary Schools Analysis

Acomb Primary School

Proposal

9. Reduce admission limit from 45 to 30.

Analysis

10. Acomb Primary School has requested a reduction in the admission limit due to the steady decline in numbers attending the school in recent years and the financial strain being placed on the school by admissions in the range of 33-38 pupils. Reducing the size of the school to one form of entry will assist school organisation and budget management.
11. There are normally more than 30 children living in the catchment area, but historically over a third of the children attend other schools, with approximately 20 attending Acomb Primary. It is anticipated that reducing the admission limit to 30 will still allow the school to accommodate all children who live in the catchment area who wish to attend the school. If this proves not to be the case, the Admission Authority would still expect the school to provide sufficient places for all children in the school's catchment area.
12. Children who live outside of the catchment area will continue to be entitled to apply for a place at the school in accordance with the admissions policy, although it is possible that fewer of these children will be able to gain a place due to the reduction in admission limit. Several other local schools will continue to have sufficient capacity to provide options for parents.
13. The school currently has 10 rooms suitable for general teaching purposes, which will leave a surplus of spaces, assuming class sizes of 30. The LA will therefore expect the school to designate space no longer needed for curriculum teaching for extended school or community use.

Recommendation

14. Members are asked to approve the request to decrease the admission limit from 45 to 30. The school will be expected to work closely with the admissions authority through the next admissions round in order to monitor the impact of this change. The admission limit will be reviewed again next year.

Tang Hall Primary School

Proposal

15. Reduce admission limit from 60 to 30.

Analysis

16. The majority of children in the catchment area serviced by the school attend neighbouring schools. There has been an average of 30 Reception children living in the catchment area over the last three years. Of these, only about a third seek admission to Tang Hall Primary School, although numbers are increased by up to 15 children who attend the school from outside the catchment area.
17. There are a number of local housing developments that might have a marginal impact on admissions at the school. However, these housing developments are not likely to cause a significant increase in admissions at the school, due to the proximity of other schools and the types of dwelling involved. Some of the developments in question have yet to begin construction, and those that have, are unlikely to start providing pupils until 2008/09 at the earliest.
18. Tang Hall Primary School has been identified as a future Integrated Children's Centre. Reducing the admission limit will also reduce the capacity of the school, improving the levels of surplus space and enabling areas to be redesignated for Children's Centre use.

Recommendation

19. Members are asked to approve a reduction in admission limit as the school will be able to meet the projected demand for places should the admission limit be set at 30. The progress of local housing can be assessed in time for the next round of admission limit determination in 2006/07 (for admissions Sept 2008).

Yearsley Grove Primary School

Proposal

20. Reduce admission limit from 70 to 60.

Analysis

21. There is an average of 50 Reception children living in the catchment. Of these, some 30 have sought and gained admission to the school. The school currently attracts large numbers of children from the Haxby Road School catchment area. Conversely, a significant number of children who live in the Yearsley Grove Primary School catchment area attend Huntington Primary School.

22. Reducing the admission limit to 60 will assist the school in organising infant classes.
23. The capacity of the school has reduced from 471 to 360 due to recent decommissioning of classrooms and further changes of use. Due to the use of space at the school, a reduction in the admission limit will not affect the capacity of the school.

Recommendation

24. The request from the school is in line with local demographic trends and infant class-size legislation. Members are therefore asked to approve the decrease in admission limit from 70 to 60.

Bishopthorpe Infant/Archbishop of York's CE Junior Schools

Proposal

25. Increase both admission limits from 50 to 60.

Analysis

26. During last year's consultation round, Bishopthorpe Infant School requested an increase in the admission limit. At that time it was felt that further analysis and discussion was needed between the Infant and Junior Schools and the LA before any firm decisions could be taken. This extra work has now taken place and both the Infant and Junior Schools have submitted requests.
27. Bishopthorpe Infant and Archbishop of York's CE Junior Schools reside in a catchment area which usually contains between 45 and 55 Reception age children. The Infant School normally admits 95% of these, but also attracts children from the Dringhouses, Copmanthorpe and Woodthorpe Primary Schools catchment areas.
28. In increasing their admission limits to 60, both schools have indicated their wish to become 2 FE schools. The Infant School has recently built a new library/ICT resource extension (where there was none previously) which will enable it to accommodate above 50 children more comfortably.
29. Increasing the admission limit will increase the Net Capacity of the infants from 153 to 170, and the capacity of the Junior School will rise from 200 to 210.

Recommendation

30. Members are asked to approve the increase in admission limit at both the Infant and Junior Schools so that the schools can admit up to 60 pupils each.

Carr Junior School

Proposal

31. Reduce admission limit from 90 to 70.

Analysis

32. Carr Infant School, which occupies a site adjacent to the Junior School, has an admission limit of 70, and admits 50-60 Reception children every year. These intakes are reflected at the Junior School, which also admits between 50 and 60 children.
33. The schools admit around 60% of the total number of children living in the catchment area, with a significant number of catchment children entering Poppleton Road Primary School.
34. There are a number of new housing developments in the catchment area. These are unlikely to put the school under pressure if the admission limit is decreased, mainly due to their proximity to other schools and the types of accommodation involved.
35. Reducing the admission limit will decrease the Net Capacity from 321 to 288.

Recommendation

36. Members are asked to approve the reduction in admission limit. Forecast numbers at the Infant school suggest that reception classes will not exceed 60 for the foreseeable future.

Clifton Without Junior School

Proposal

37. Increase admission limit from 70 to 90.

Analysis

38. The catchment infant school (Rawcliffe Infant) has an admission limit of 90 with over 80 Reception age children living in the catchment. Large numbers of in-catchment Reception children are lost to Lakeside and St Wilfrid's RC Primary Schools each year, but additional family-based housing in the catchment is likely to increase admissions at both the Infant and the Junior Schools. Increasing the admission limit at the Junior School will enable the school to admit additional pupils more easily.
39. Clifton Without Junior has the physical infrastructure available to support intakes of 90 children. Increasing the admission limit of the Junior school will increase the Net Capacity from 280 to 287.

Recommendation

40. Given that Clifton Without Junior has the physical space to support an intake of 90 children, members are asked to recommend an increase so that the school can accommodate all children transferring from Rawcliffe Infant School.

Financial Implications

41. There are likely to be no direct financial implications for the LA resulting from determination of admission arrangements for September 2007. Some of the proposed changes will, however, assist schools with classroom organisation and budget management.

Legal Implications

42. Under the Education Act 2002, Admission Authorities are required to consult annually as appropriate on the admission limit, and on admission arrangements for admission to school. Admission authorities must then publish details of both. City of York Council publishes these annually in the Guide for Parents.
43. The School Admissions Code of Practice sets out guidance regarding school admission arrangements and came into force on 31 January 2003.

Recommendation

44. Members are advised to approve the proposed admission limits for the academic year beginning September 2007 as detailed in Annex 1.

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Annex 1: Proposed Admission Limits 2007.